



# Alf and Hilary Cooper

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**Location:** Chile



**What we do:** Working to see churches planted and multiplied in Chile and beyond through pastoring La Trinidad de Las Condes church.

Very beloved praying friends,

We have held back a little this last link letter for three reasons:

First, we found that on arrival back in Chile in mid July, we were immediately and wonderfully overwhelmed with the great amount of ministry and team work that is going on here in La Trinidad. It is wonderful to see how the Marriage Encounter and Cursillo Ministries are taking off again! Last night Hilary and I came out of the last one where many couples received Christ and want to come to church.

Secondly, we wanted to wait for the news about how I did on my doctoral viva. I can today tell you that on 19 October (just before going into the Marriage Encounter) I successfully finalised, submitted and have NOW PASSED! The full verdict from the Examination Board (after the two-hour exam) with two major experts in Pentecostalism, Chile's Dr Juan Sepúlveda and Britain's Dr Allan Anderson, was "a successful pass with very minor corrections". The funny thing is that I couldn't avoid shouting Aleluya! Someone in Oxford overheard the shout on the screen in my college where one examiner was sitting. He put on the Whatsapp that he had heard me shout and that no doubt I had passed! It was a great blessing to be able to share with such eminent professors around my thesis, which they had read very well, and later receive their wise comments and corrections, which I will now put into the main thesis, as is the Oxford way, and that will be that!

Many of you have asked about the nature and content of my study. The title of my thesis is: 'A Gem in the Water': A Contribution to contemporary Pentecostal Theology on Baptism of the Holy Spirit from a study of Willis Hoover's Chilean Methodist Pentecostalism. My research covered the theology of Willis Hoover, who arrived in Chile in 1895 and saw a revival begin under his pastorate in Valparaíso in 1909. I explored his journey through different theological approaches to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, which had not been fully considered before. Hoover was key in the development of uniquely Chilean Pentecostalism, developing a uniquely Chilean theology. In the study I considered some solutions to problems related to Hoover's subsequentialist Pentecostal teaching. Overall, through the research I hope to contribute to a missional and ecumenical conversation around the Pentecostal phenomenon in Chile and beyond. Do get in touch if you would like to read the abstract or hear more detail!

Third, we wanted you to be participants of two central and important celebrations:



Alf at his viva.

**Support Alf and Hilary Cooper:**  
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**With Jesus  
With each other  
To the edges**

## Acción de Gracias 2023

Praise God for our yearly Thanksgiving Service held on Saturday 23 September: This yearly event, organised by the local churches and the municipality of Las Condes, provides a wonderful opportunity to share Christ and his Kingdom. The Lord Mayor and authorities attend the service held in La Trinidad. We bring together pastors of all the churches in this sector of the city called “el Sector Oriente”. A live stream was sent out and it was a great blessing to be followed for some minutes by the CMS Adelante Conference meeting concurrently. The organising fellowship of Las Condes Pastors meet regularly the first Friday of every month for breakfast, to share our plans and dreams, to pray for each other and to invite each other to our main events. The year culminates in this service that is one of scores of similar ones held up and down Chile in the festive month of September when we celebrate Liberation Day on the 18th.

Chile has been on a political rollercoaster over the last four years. After the social uprising in 2019, a constitution was proposed and rejected on 4 September 2022. Chile has changed. The mood is swinging to a conservative preservation of Chile’s republican values and now a further attempt at a constitution is under way that enshrines these. We go to plebiscite on 17 December. Please pray that the outcome will be the best result for Chile.

## 40 Años La Trinidad

1 October was our 40-year anniversary of La Trinidad! It has passed like a wonderful long film narrative but with clear and undeniable fruit. What was first conceived as a small seed planted in the sector where there was least non-Catholic presence is now blossoming, with six Anglican churches planted from La Trinidad and another forty from other denominations who have come to settle here. We invited folk from our historic early plant who have either become part of other church plants or have lost contact for one reason or another. Saturday was a day of fun and games in the park, Saturday night a half vigil of prayer and then the celebration in the local school (we wouldn’t fit in the church building any more) on the Sunday at 10:30 am. We had a live stream, which we will also sent to CMS. It was a huge and very moving success. The images will show the way we shared so happily with the earliest disciples and remembered many testimonies of God’s grace along the way.

Enough for now!

Love to you, Alf and Hilary Cooper



**Photos from top to bottom:** The Lord Mayor speaking to us at the Thanksgiving Service, and with her team after the event; Alf preaching at the 40 year anniversary of La Trinidad; Hilary being honoured the same event with Pastor Juan Luis.



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**[churchmissionsociety.org/explore](https://churchmissionsociety.org/explore)**