



Serving the Lord in Santiago, Chile

News from Bo and Barb Brink

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

April 7, 2021

Dear Family and Friends,

We are happy to be writing to you from Santiago, Chile! The Lord kept the “doors” open just long enough for us to enter and the Tinos to leave the country before Chile again closed its borders. We have been here nearly three weeks, having the first ten days with Jim and Liisa learning about life and ministry here. We live in their comfy house in a quiet



neighborhood of tree-lined streets, and we have a view of the foothills of the Andes from an upstairs window. Walking 15 minutes gets us to a beautiful

biking/walking path

and a half hour drive would take us to some great hiking. Unfortunately, right now the city is in quarantine and movement is limited. Our house is a 10 minute drive from church (we have use of the

Tinos' car) and we are fortunate to have a permit to go to and from church at any time. Unfortunately, the members and friends of the church can't get there AND services are limited to five people! Oh, how frustrating this can be, and thus the words of 1 Thessalonians 5 written above have become very special to us. We are thankful for our reality knowing the Lord hears our prayers and



can work miracles in all circumstances as His Word is proclaimed through technology and in person when possible.

And yes, we DO get to meet with some folks in person because we have ten people living at our church! Here's why: Many Venezuelan refugees have come to Chile in the last five years. Due to hyperinflation in Venezuela average wages are about \$1 per month and many people have no job at all. Food, medicines, and gas for vehicles are scarce. Venezuelans continue to leave their country seeking a new start elsewhere.

Back in September 2017, Jim and Liisa started a new church planting ministry, reaching out to these immigrants in the Providencia neighborhood of Santiago. The Tinos lived in a rented home, which also became the sanctuary for their church AND a "house of refuge" for immigrants. As the ministry grew,



they needed more space, so in September 2019, they moved the church and the house of refuge to its current location and rented a separate house to live in themselves. The church is on a corner

lot near several main streets and easily reached by public transportation. The property includes a house with four bedrooms, three bathrooms, kitchen, small living room, church office space, a small "resale" shop, and a Sunday school classroom. Also, on the property is a small building with a studio

apartment on the second floor and storage area and restrooms for the church on the first floor.

Finally, there is a temporary movable "chapel" which can seat up to 50 people. Because the property is rented, a permanent chapel cannot be built, so we currently worship under a zinc roof with curtain walls. For now, this is where the service is recorded.





The house is used for immigrants or Chileans in need, allowing them to rent a room at a very reasonable price while looking for work. The residents help with the cleaning and maintenance of the house. They enjoy security and receive hope as they hear God's Word and experience His Love. As residents find work and other housing, their rooms are open for others in need. Domenico and Corali, Venezuelan immigrants who first lived in the house, are now renting the studio apartment and serve as the on-site administrators of the immigrant ministry.

Bo is preparing weekly sermons and worship services and an introductory Bible study for friends of the church who may eventually want to become members. He is leading a Bible study on Exodus for members and friends every Thursday evening (by Zoom, of course.) Barb is working on preparations for a Zoom Sunday school teacher workshop and a Bible course on prayer. When the government lifts the quarantine, she also hopes to offer ESL classes.

Thanks so much for making it possible for us to be here and for continuing to lift us up in prayer. Here are some prayer points.

- Thank the Lord for bringing us here safely and helping us as we adjust to life in Santiago.
- Thank Him for the faithful work of Jim and Liisa and for the small core group of about 30 people who love the Lord and want to see His Kingdom expand here in this place.
- Pray for Milagros, expecting her first baby in April and for Corali, expecting her first baby in May!
- Pray for Chile, its people and its leaders as they deal with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Pray for the Lord's blessing on our work and for open doors to reach out to the folks around us who are so in need of the gospel.
- Pray for the immigrants who are seeking a better life, that they would see the life-changing blessing of knowing Jesus.

Partners in the gospel,

Bo and Barb