

THE SANCHEZ FAMILY MISSIONS REPORT

February / March 2023

Hola From Chile!



We hope that each of you is well enjoying each of the blessings that God gives us every day. These last two months have been a lot of work but it has also been a great opportunity to witness the hand of God in the midst of so many lives in so many ways. For the glory of God, we have been able to be part and witnesses of 4 new births in Christ.

Our new siblings are: *Ines, Victor, Carola and Jhan,p*

Ines is the mother of a sister from our congregation. For many years, *Ines* and her husband were against Christianity to the point that they did not allow their daughter to pray or even think about reading the Bible in their home. But something changed, *Ines* a couple of months ago was diagnosed with cancer, she found out that the Church began to pray for her at her daughter's request. So touched, that strangers would care enough to be praying about her, she spoke with her daughter and asked if someone from the church would go to her house to pray with her in person. So her daughter called me and we began praying at their home and also was able share something from the word of God. Those visits continued over the next 2 months and God began the work in her life. She began seeing a peace in the Bible that she desperately wanted and through studying decided that she wanted to give her life to Jesus for her salvation even with her husband's disapproval. Today our sister *Ines* continues her fight against cancer but now with the peace and confidence that her life is and will forever remain God's hands. We continue to pray for their family, for *Ines's* complete healing and that God may open the heart of her husband in time.



Carola and her son *Victor* attended in our congregation around 15 years ago with *Carola's* mother *Maria*, but during a rough time in their life fell away. *Maria*, however was always a dedicated and faithful woman of God. While *Maria* was alive, she took her entire family to church and constantly encouraged them to seek the Lord. She went on to be with the Lord a few years ago before her death, almost 1 year ago in February, *Carola* began to congregate again occasionally, being welcomed back and encouraged every time she visited helped her to continue seeking God, and she started attending service more regularly. Due to her example, her son *Victor*, who lived in despair battling drug addiction for many years, wanted to seek God's help. So we began doing home studies with their family and after 4 months studying, *Carola* and her son *Victor* decided to give their lives to Jesus in baptism this February. Now they volunteer in serving our Church in our events and cleaning committees. Their service, smiles and love are a huge blessing and encouragement to so many. We are continuing to study and support *Victor* in his healing and journey of sobriety.



Jhan's story reminds me of the story of Felipe and the Ethiopian, one day Jhan's uncle who is a minister in Venezuela and I had connected on different occasions due to the zoom bible studies that have been happening between various churches of Christ since the pandemic hit. At the start of February Jhan's had gotten in touch with me via Facebook, and called me to tell me about his nephew who lives here in Santiago and ask for some help. His uncle shared that Jhan was in a low place due to many mistakes he had made in his life and was seeking someone from the church who could reach out to him. So I got Jhan's number that same day I called him up.

We talked for about 1 hour on the phone and over that conversation Jhan tells me that in a couple of hours he must take a bus to travel to the city of Arica about 24 hours north of Santiago for a job opportunity, but that he has a 2 hour window to meet with me before taking the bus. So I said let's meet up at our church building. So I went to pick him up with a fellow evangelist Raul and another brother from the Church, Christian, took him to our church building. We all began talking and sharing and the conversation got much deeper and God opened the door to preach the gospel to him. I can only say that God doesn't waste time when he is working in people's lives because Jhan decided right at the end of our conversation to be baptized right then and there. So we baptized Jhan in a neighbors pool since there wasn't time to fill the baptistry. We then got him something to eat and made arrangements for him to meet up with some members of the church in Arica. I met a dead man on the phone and got to see a new man alive in Christ being put on a bus in just a day! How amazing is our God. You can just imagine how the phone call I had was with Jhan's uncle after we got him on the bus. We were all so overcome with joy and awe of the power of The Gospel. Jhan went to Arica with joy and continues meeting with the church there.



February blurred into March with a lot of preaching opportunities at our Church in Nogales and we have had more home bible studies then ever, so my apologies we didn't send a report at the end of February. As March rolled in, our girls Daisy and Lili started back in classes, we are in year three of homeschool with a wonderful christian homeschool community where my wife is serving as a tutor for the group. In our Nogales congregation, all the ministries started back up again as Dec-Feb is a summer break and a lot of people travel so many of our ministries wind down for the year during that time. So here we have our own version 'March madness' with a lot of organizing. Laura is continuing in serving and discipling new leaders in our children's ministry and we now have 53 kids on our attendance sheet the year ended with 49. She has also started a new initiative with another faithful sister named Gabriela Nole, a sister from Peru, who has such an amazing servant heart and they have started a bi-weekly young mother's outreach ministry, to help encourage and nurture new moms in that difficult season, spiritually and physically.



Children's Ministry Team



Also this last month in March, we had a dear friend of ours from Ecuador who serves in the church at Pilanqui, come and visit us. Laura and I had long wanted to go to visit the church plant in Antofagasta and so my Mom watched the kids and we took Bryan with us. Together we were able to visit the Church in Antofagasta for 4 days, 820 miles north of Santiago. (A 2 hour flight) We had such an amazing time, we spent a a lot time encouraging and the minister and his wife there as they have worked tirelessly growing and building up that baby church made up of mostly foreigners from all parts of latin America. Antofagasta is very near Chile's northern border and has a big mining industry so many people cross the border hoping to start a new life in Chile because of Chile's political and economic stability.

We were able to have a Bible study with the Church, as well as study for men, and Laura led a women's bible study with the sisters there. We were

very encouraged to see the great work God is doing through Wilson and his wife Camila. They have poured out and have grown such a healthy culture of sincere love, affection and grace in that group. That church is now around 3 years old, starting with 3 members and the Sunday we were there had 55 in attendance and is highly evangelistic. We are seeing the fruit of Mission Chile and Wilson and Camila, in our commitment to church plant and we are excited to see what more God has in store for this amazing church and us his servants. Bryan was also so encouraged by our trip and was more enthusiastic than ever to keep evangelizing in his home town of Pilanqui. We love Bryan and his wife, they have such an amazing heart for God and His church and are huge blessing to the congregation in Pilanqui.

At the end of March was the best blessing of all, my older brother Pedro Israel tied the knot to my new sister in law Andrea Toledo. They are so perfect for each other and we are so happy for both of them and excited that our family is growing. Their wedding was so beautiful and much anticipated, there wasn't a dry eye during the ceremony, groom included. I was so happy to stand beside him on his big day. Daisy and lili got to be the flower girl and ring carrier so they were super excited! Well dear brothers again our apologies in our delay in getting this report to you but time got away from us! We will keep up our monthly reports Lord willing and we thank you all for your continued prayers and partnership with us in the work here in Chile and latin America.

Many Blessings in Christ,

Pablo, Laura, Daisy and Lili Sanchez

