

# THE SANCHEZ FAMILY MISSIONS REPORT

5 April 2023

July/August 2023

## *Hola From Chile!*

Hi Everyone! Hope you all are blessed and enjoying the good and the challenges that God blesses us with as we await our amazing Jesus's return! These last two months have been action packed for our family with travel to La Serena a city 6 hours north of Santiago working with mission Chile to help support our brothers and sisters in the La Serena Church of Christ and a short term mission campaign they held with one of their supporting congregations as well as my trip to Ecuador and Columbia which I got back from last week.

First of all we are so humbled and grateful to be able to witness and be a part of how God is moving in His church in various parts of South America but it is sweeter still seeing beautiful moments in our home congregation. I don't know if some of you remember from our February report us talking about a new baptism, Victor, he had struggled with drug addiction most of his youth and adult life and it was his grandmother a faithful member of ours before she went home to be with the lord who would go and seek him out, often living under bridges and in dumps and bring him home, shower him, clothe him and talk to him about the saving grace of God. His wife, son, and mother had all given up on him, but the faithfulness of his Grandmother reached him. I believe we told you about how that started his journey into rehabilitation and now since his baptism in February, Victor continues to show what a beautifully redeemed life looks like through the power of the cross. This last month he led the Lord's supper and from his changed life has reconnected with his adorable son Martín, who not only is now regularly staying with his father on weekly visits but attends and loves our kids class on Sundays! Victor lives for his son and is an incredible father, since regaining his sobriety and his new life in Christ and is dedicated to making up for lost time. We love seeing Victor share his faith with Martín and in our small groups called "casa de refugio" as he openly shares his testimony of how his life was saved from slavery to drugs and despair in order to encourage others. He shines Jesus to all of us and we just thought we would share with you all the amazing redemption journey of our beloved brother!



Another brother we want to highlight in our congregation is Jean. Jean is a refugee from Haiti and has been part of our church over the last 5 years, Haitian refugees apart from language barriers confront xenophobic and racist attitudes a lot here in Chile, but in our Church, he is a super star. Jean dedicates his spare time to serving our children's ministry. He is one of our teachers on rotation in our Kid's ministry and hands down is the favorite of our littles. His bright and positive personality lights up where he is and Sunday's aren't the same without Jean there, His prayers during the lord's supper or offering will bring you to tears and is a young man with incredible faith and integrity. Our church could not be more blessed with this young man as part of us and he continues to shine his light at his work and in his community. Please keep Jean in your prayers as we are hoping to appeal his Visa rejection as since Chile has been inundated with immigrants from all over since 2018, it is very hard to obtain permanent residence. We are walking with him through this process and ask Lord for a favorable response to our petitions for Jean to be able to remain in Chile<sup>1</sup> with us.

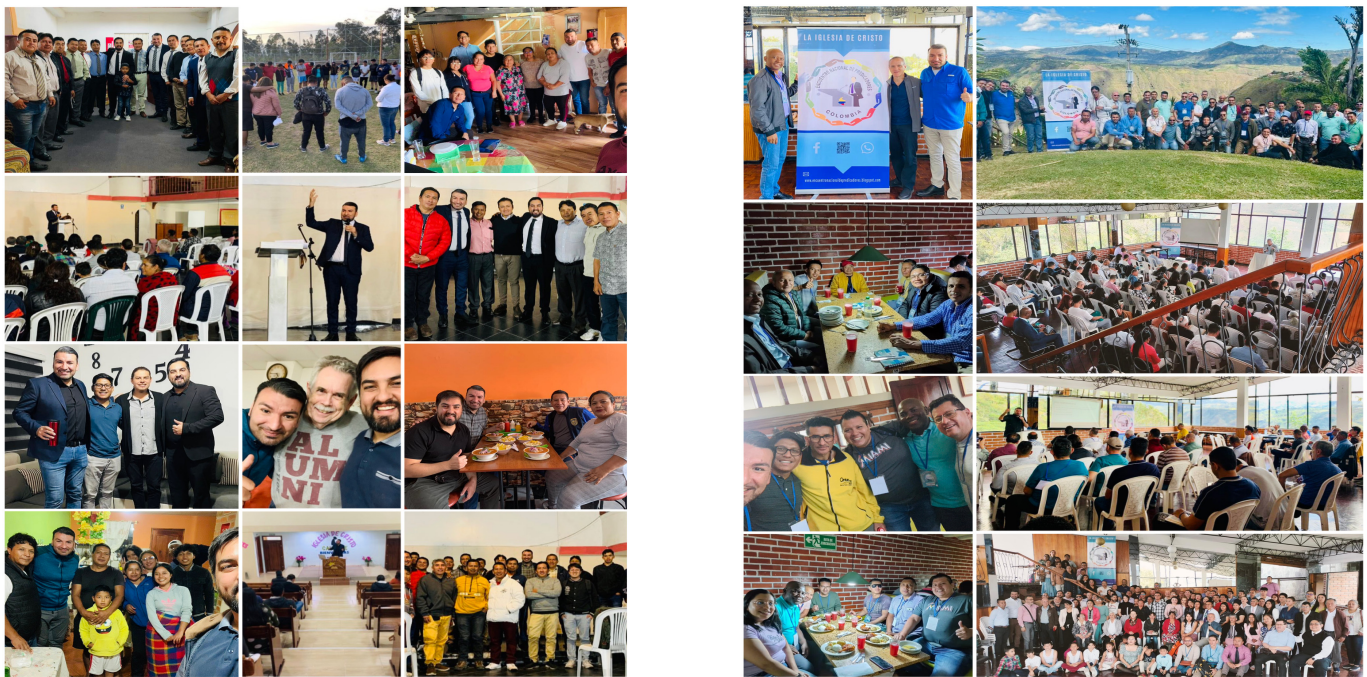


This last month, in our mission efforts with Mission Chile, our family had the huge privilege of going to support the La Serena Church of Christ, which is a small but growing congregation 6 hours north of Santiago. They had a group from Canadian Church of Christ in Canadian Texas, come and do a short term missions outreach in several evangelistic outreach communities that the Church in La Serena serve. Laura, both our two girls and I were able to support these outreaches and this mission trip by serving as translators, and helping in whatever servicial manner needed for 10 days in La Serena. The Canadian COC support the Toro family who are the full time missionaries there who planted the church in La Serena. Both groups spent the week doing an outreach event for the kids in a campamento community in La Serena, a children's home for seriously ill or abused Children run by the government and a drug rehabilitation center. We were able to connect with the fulltime workers in those areas, bring sox and other supplies to those children, play with them, pray over them and spend time knowing how best to serve them long term. Marcelo and Matraca with Canadian have built a building on the campamento land and provide dinners called onces with a bible study three days a week on that site. Campamentos are shanty towns which are unrecognized by the government as they are illegally built. They are formed by immigrants and Chileans who are in absolute destitute situations or the poor working class whose incomes don't cover the high housing costs in La Serena, which is a huge tourist area and most of the housing is seasonal vacation rentals. It was incredible to see God work in so many lives over those 10 days and the Sunday morning worship which invited those communities reached almost 200 people (only 60 were expected to attend). It was so amazing to see our two little girls also learning to serve, to appreciate the blessings they have and to be able to use their bilingual abilities to honor the lord and love on the kids served in these trips and helping translate for the group visiting from the states along side us. Laura and I were also encouraged by the spiritual times spent in the nightly biblestudies, reflection and worship times with the La Serena and Canadian groups and the love and encouragement they showered on our family. We had a celebratory dinner the last night to honor those working in the campamento, the orphanage and rehabilitation centers to honor the work they do and pray over them. It was a beautiful time seeing God move in the community and the culture of service that the La Serena church have.





Our last trip to tell you about was the one I took in service with E.V.O, along with a dear brother from the La Villa church of Christ, Daniel Albarran. We first traveled to Ecuador and served 5 congregations there in total, but the main focus of my time was spent with the Church of Christ in Natabuela a church of 100 members that were eager to establish elders and deacons but having some trouble navigating that process. I was invited to give a teaching series on the heart of elders in the Church and what healthy and safe spiritual leadership looks like in the christian family and for the greater church. The other churches I was with Daniel helping give devotionals and encouraging various church leaders in Cayambe and Pilanqui as well. Daniel went onto Otavalo and Tulca to serve the congregations there while I continued onto Pasto, Columbia. The trip to Columbia was because I was invited by the Pasto Church of Christ, to be one of 4 guest speakers for their 5th National Preachers Encounter for the Churches of Christ in Columbia. The weekend was based on the book of Jeremiah looking at the heart of a servant and the need of humbled renewal with God. I don't think I am able to describe what a truly holy and healing time it was for all of us. There was so much growth and encouragement for all of us and the atmosphere was electric. There were about 60 preachers who participated from various congregations who traveled great distances to be a part of this Encounter. I had the great privilege of working with our dear brother Vince Miranda from the North West Church of Christ, our overseeing congregation for our ministry here in Chile. Our dear brother Bob Young from Ford Gibson Church of Christ in Oklahoma, is an incredible bible teacher, was also set to be one of the speakers but unfortunately became very ill and had to return back to Tulsa where he found out in transit that his granddaughter passed away due to an automobile accident. Please keep Bob and his family in your prayers. Our hearts and prayers are over that family as they navigate such a sudden and tragic loss.



Now we are back in Santiago, serving our local church again and getting ready to start the second semester of the girls homeschool year. Please pray for us to continue to serve passionately and faithfully where ever God calls us and also to help our church as we sell our building to go towards a bigger future space. Another Church of Christ in the city center has kindly offered to share their building with us as we walk in faith towards a bigger physical meeting space. Please contact us directly if you are interested in knowing more details about this journey Nogales is taking and if you would like to help be a part of that process that we believe God is leading us through.

We want to close with a huge thank you to all of you for your faithful dedication to serving the work of God's church through our family here in Chile, we are partners with you in this and could not do it without you and the strength and wisdom the Lord gives.

Many Blessings in Christ,

*Pablo, Laura, Daisy & Lili*