

JUNTOS

“Together”

**MARK AND LORI BERRY
QUILLOTA, CHILE
APRIL-MAY 2018**

Serge Grace at the Fray



IGLESIA EN TU CIUDAD (ITC) “CHURCH IN YOUR CITY”

On May 5, 2018 our church here in Quillota, ITC, starts a 40-day prayer campaign church-wide. We’re structuring sermons, small groups, and Bible studies around the Lord’s Prayer for these days. This is a picture of our planning meeting mapping out the details of the campaign.

We are encouraged by the friendships God is giving to each of us through our involvement with this local church. The girls are making friends in Sunday school



*Thank you for your prayers and support of
our ministry in Chile and across Latin
America! Please stay in touch and let us
know how we can be praying for you too.
All our love in Jesus,
Mark and Lori, Taylor, Abigail and Hadassah*

and youth small groups, and Lori and I are getting to know many of the members of the church through our small group. Most of our time is spent with Pastor Franklin (pictured) and his wife Pilar, and we are also getting to know the other pastor on staff, Cristian, and his wife Romina.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS IN THE REGION WITH PASTORS AND CHURCH PLANTERS

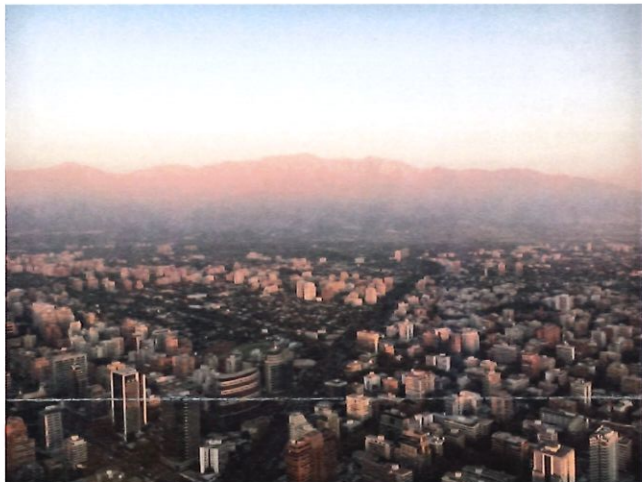


Mark has begun meeting with Guillermo Pereira, pastor of a Presbyterian church in Limache, about 15 km. south of Quillota.



In April we hosted a vision team from The Bridge Church Spring Hill/Columbia (Tennessee). We introduced them to leaders in Santiago and Quillota, and also visited Valparaíso/Viña del Mar on the coast. In Santiago we spent the day with Pancho Calderón, training coordinator for City to City Latin America, who gave us a tour of the city and an overview of the church planting networks they are resourcing in Chile and throughout the region.

Pancho is pictured above, on the right, talking with Pastor Matt Svoboda from the Bridge.



Sunset view of Santiago from 62 stories above the city in the Gran Torre, the continent's tallest building that reaches to 300 meters (984 feet)

“One of the hardest parts of a *hesed* love is that you can love others, but there may be no one to love you. The very act of loving can make you lonely...George Orwell wrote, ‘One is prepared in the end to be defeated and broken up by life, which is the inevitable price of fastening one’s love upon other human individuals.’”

“But that loneliness, that dying, instead of being the end of you, can display Jesus’ beauty in you. The moment you think everything has gone wrong is exactly the moment when the beauty of God is shining through you. True glory is almost always hidden—when you are enduring quietly with no cheering crowd. When old soldiers gather to reflect on their wartime experience, they don’t think of the medal ceremony when the world honors their valor. They think of the battle, the sacrifice, and the endurance—that is their glory.”

“We are not trapped in a cycle of despair but are on a journey of hope...This isn’t the same old story; it is new news, in fact, it is good news. That’s what the New Testament writers called it—good news, or the Greek word translated “gospel”. Scholars call the biblical view a linear view of history, but it is actually shaped like a *J*, beginning with life and then going down into death and then upward to resurrection, a *J*-curve. Jesus lives a *J*-curve. He describes his life as a seed dying and rising again (John 12:24). Gospel stories are possible only because God actively shapes history, bringing life where there is death. Because God has come to help us in the

incarnation, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the cycle has been broken! If Christ is risen, then Orwell is wrong.”

Paul E. Miller—*A Loving Life*, pp. 55, 68

This is the gospel we want to live and make known here in Chile and throughout Latin America. Your prayers strengthen us in the loneliness we feel often when our language is inadequate, when we make errors because of cultural misunderstanding, when we long for fellowship in our own heart language, or when we just miss you, our lifelong friends and precious family. Your prayers help us in the downward curve of the *J*, where there is death, so we can persevere into the upward curve of resurrection, and see Jesus’ glory made known, in us, and through us.

As you remember us in prayer:

- **Praise God:** For His provision of a welcoming and loving church home for our family
- **Ask:** For God to use us to strengthen these pastors, leaders, and their wives in the grace of Jesus. (2 Tim. 2:1)
- **Seek:** For God’s blessing on Franklin, Mark and Cristian as they translate and teach material on the Lord’s Prayer to the church in May and June
- **Knock:** That the Lord would show us how we can help the church show Jesus’ love to Haitian and Venezuelan immigrants in the community

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