

UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS

You Can Lead a Horse to Water...

In Chile there's a proverb about "**starting out like an English horse**" (that is, with vim, vigor, and style) and "**ending up like a Chilean horse**" (that is—ahem—lame and sluggish. I didn't make it up!) We even philosophize about how our national soccer team "*played better than ever, but lost the same as always.*" SIGH... That is **not** how we hope to finish 2019, but Punta Mira Bible Center folks are out of the gate of the year at a brisk canter, at least.

By mid-March most of our regular ministry activities are well underway, including Sunday school with a full complement of classes, the women's group, men's classes, the couples' club, and Counter Current (kids' club) soon to follow. Honestly, we aren't sure how we could accommodate more ministries in the building or within the time slots available. With 12 ladies at this morning's Bible study, some were sitting on the stairs. Sunday morning attendance is hanging around 65-70 people.

However, we're convinced the Christian life isn't all about numbers or activities, for any of us. We don't just want to **start** the year well, we want to **finish** well—and we want to model godly lives, habits, and thought patterns in the meantime. Some of the mistaken attitudes we see and hear convince us of the crucial importance of communicating to our people how to think critically and biblically in this world. Please pray for growth, maturity, faithfulness, and thirst for the Word. Isn't there an English saying that "**you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him think—oops, drink!**"

Summer Ministry Update:

We left immediately following our Dec. 30 Thanksgiving service to drive to the 14 hours (over 2 days) from Coquimbo to Camp Licán Ray. Our annual mission conference was as always profitable and encouraging, with 2 great speakers from Northern Ireland this time.

Following the conference, we were personally blessed to host General Director *Tom Gibbons* and his wife *Debbie* in our home (off and on) for a couple of weeks.

In the late evening of January 19, the Region of Coquimbo experienced a 6.8 tremor which, while not quite an earthquake according to Chilean standards, shook our house up more than the big one of 2010. With the extremes of fires and floods at opposite ends of the country, Chile has had a challenging summer.

Later on, in February, we traveled back to Licán to speak again at Family Camp 3—"**More than Conquerors.**" This was for us a wonderful opportunity to serve by teaching, sharing, and counseling. We enjoyed the Medieval Faire too! Many thanks to *Dan & Liz Thompson* who head up this important ongoing ministry and are going on furlough soon.

March 2019

Curtis & Diane Steward

Home in Chile:

Los Copihues 801, Sindempart
Coquimbo, Chile
csteward@gmsa.org
011-56-98-527-1931 (Phone Curtis)
011-56-96-375-4670 (Phone Diane)

Mission:

Gospel Mission of South America
1401 SW 21st Ave.
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312
P.O. Box 150
St. Charles, ON P0M 2W0



Church leaders' supper at our house

Prayer Requests:

- The church's goal is to save enough for a down-payment on land or a house by end of 2020. Many consider our present location on Portugal Avenue, one of the main streets in the Punta Mira area of the city, as ideal. We need wisdom and direction.
- New youth group starting up for older teens, led by *Eloy Pizarro*.
- Happy Copy of Eden—this year's ladies' studies. More on that later.
- Men's classes on preaching.
- Our girls in Greenville, SC. *Emily* has just begun at new job with the local TD bank. *Christina* is in need of a summer home and work as the school year ends.