

UNDER THE SOUTHERN CROSS



March 2012

Chilling statistics tell us that only 4% of the upcoming generation of Chileans will be Bible-believing Christians! There is a crying need for well-taught church leaders who are able and willing to faithfully proclaim and practice their faith. In December the board of our national fellowship of churches here in Chile asked Curtis to consider the job of Director of the Santiago Bible Institute as well as Rector (sort of a Coordinator/Administrator for our three Bible institutes in the country). After prayer and consultation with our Field Council over the summer, he has decided to accept the challenge for a time, with the eventual goal of training some Chileans to take over the responsibilities. We both enjoy teaching and have a burden for the shortage of spiritual leadership we see on all sides. The Santiago institute has been without a director for over a year now; and promotion, organization, and committed students, especially men, are needed. Curtis is starting to gather a committee to work with him. Please pray for us in this new ministry. It is a marvelous opportunity to have a positive influence and hopefully a powerful impact on the next generation of the Chilean Church.

On Tuesday, March 13, classes began for the school year at our Santiago ICAT (Instituto de Capacitación Teológica). A student welcome reception was held on Monday evening the 26th with special saxophone music, testimonies, an audio-visual presentation, a devotional-- and of course food!



With student group at reception

The "Joy of Serving" women's B.I. course that Diane has been involved with for about 5 years now opened again on Friday night, March 23. I am really excited to be teaching the book of Ruth this semester. Personal supporters of ours made possible the purchase of a flat screen for the ladies' classroom, and the metropolitan churches also kicked in and provided one for the main classroom. (Notice it in the background of the photo. They are a great teaching aid!)

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Quick Notes 101

√ Recently our missionaries in the booming mining center of Antofagasta, David and Kristi Flinck, have been able to locate affordable housing. We may travel the 1000 km north over Easter weekend to help them with the legal paperwork and see their church planting ministry firsthand.

√ Some have asked about the situation with Diane's Canadian Permanent Resident card. Unfortunately it didn't arrive before we left and we feel we shouldn't let it go a second time. So Diane will be making a brief trip to NS the week of April 15. Not my preference, but God knows what He's doing!

√ Christina is still looking for a job here in Santiago. Thank you for praying for the right open door for her. Emily is coming to the end of her 3rd year at BJU and also looking to the Lord for summer work/ministry.

√ Praise the Lord for those faithful servants who continue to minister weekly at the Pudahuel jail and for the salvation of Héctor this past weekend.

Faster Blessings,
Curtis & Diane Steward