



September
2020

Mission News Helping Hands

Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Board for World Outreach

Sharing the Gospel in South America and Asia



Pray the Lord of
the harvest to send
workers into his
harvest.

By Pastor Mario Gálvez, President of the Chilean national synod.

Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he was moved with compassion for them, because they were troubled and downcast, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray that the Lord of the harvest will send out workers into his harvest." Matthew 9:35-38

So great is the love of our Lord and Savior, that he gave us a great commission in Matthew 28 in order to make his saving work known to the sinful world. As we well know, he does everything for us. Through the Holy Spirit, he moves the hearts of those who are, or will be, his workers. He moves the hearts of those who will give their gifts and their time to reverently prepare those noble workers as ambassadors of Jesus Christ.

Jesus wants trained workers for his churches. We need them in Chile.

Between 2006 and 2014, our church in Chile had a seminary with two pastors/professors in charge. **This program produced three Chilean vicars: Guillermo, Víctor and Mario who flourished in the word.** Later, from 2014 to 2018, this seminary continued with only one pastor, **Missionary Timothy Erickson.** Of the three vicars, by the grace of God, one graduated to become a pastor. Today, **Pastor Mario Gálvez** is in charge of our Chilean national synod.

continued on the next page

From the Editor—

Rev. Thomas Heyn
Board for World Outreach
Administrator

Coronavirus restrictions continue around the world. Places where restrictions had eased are, in some cases, seeing new surges in cases. Who would have thought that 2020 would be this kind of year. In all our fields, Chile has had some of the tightest restrictions. The people cannot leave their homes without a written permission document (usually issued for two excursions per week). Our main story comes from Chile, showing how God is at work in the midst of difficult times. We also have updates from other fields where we continue to see our Lord in control as he blesses and guides his Church.

As always, we appreciate your prayers for the work in our world fields and your financial support that makes this work possible.



Pastor Mario and vicars Victor (left) and Guillermo (right)



Jon Gross

Jon Gross, a North American, came to Chile with his wife Elise to work with Kingdom Workers.

About a year ago, he decided to leave Kingdom Workers and begin seminary training to eventually become a pastor in our Chilean national synod.

He has been studying online with Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary in Mankato and has completed his first year of study.

He will soon become a vicar in our Chilean national synod and eventually become the pastor of the congregation in Linares.

Confirmation for Patricio and Isabel



Let me tell you about our newest workers, Patricio and Alejandro.

Patricio

- Patricio is from Santiago, 49 years old, father of Nicolas and husband to Isabel, a mechanical technician, who works in the steel industry.

- For five years he studied theology and received a bachelor's degree in "Pastoral Theology" from a pentecostal Methodist church body and a diploma in "Community and Uniformed Chaplaincy".

- He was a pastor for four years in the community of La Pintana and a seminary teacher.

- For the past six years he has been Chaplain of the Fire Department of Chile for the communities of La Granja, San Ramón and La Pintana.

- He started coming to our church, has been confirmed, and is now supporting the leadership of our Familia de Dios (Family of God) church in La Cisterna, Santiago.



Alejandro

Alejandro

- Alejandro is 26 years old, single and worked in a company that exports agricultural products.

- He was a member of the "Jehovah's Witnesses" where he served as an evangelist.

- He visited our church in Linares, took instruction classes, became a confirmed member and today is a member who works tirelessly in our Unidos por la Fe (United by Faith) church in Linares.

Both of these men, although coming from different backgrounds, have something in common. Having studied our confessional Lutheran doctrine, today they enjoy being free from the legalism and oppression of the law they experienced in their previous churches. They clearly understand salvation comes only by the grace and mercy of God in Jesus Christ, our substitute, who made satisfaction for all the sin of the world in his redeeming work. He washed us with his precious blood, declared us "not guilty" and made us a fragrant aroma to God the Father, so that through Jesus and with him, we will one day dwell with our triune God in eternal life.

These are blessings that they want to proclaim to others. So, they are currently studying the leadership classes in the "Academia Cristo" program, an online program to train lay leaders for the church. When they complete these classes, they have declared their intention and desire to begin seminary studies, so that one day, by God's grace, they can become pastors and ambassadors of Jesus Christ our Lord.

God will provide workers, but their training will be in our hands. We need teachers for the seminary work. We need Spanish-speaking teachers, perhaps retired pastors, who have so much knowledge and experience to share, who can, with time and

Alejandro's Baptism



Christian love, help prepare these future workers for the church in Chile through online seminary instruction.

We hope that with the prayers of the saints in the ELS, and your help, we may obtain financial and educational support to teach sound biblical doctrine to our brothers in the faith,

Patricio and Alejandro. God willing, we pray they become pastors in our Chilean national synod so that in Chile, we too have new workers for the harvest. This is our prayer: that the Lord of the harvest may provide harvest workers here in Chile.

"This is our prayer: that the Lord of the harvest may provide harvest workers here in Chile."

News from Other Mission Fields

Peru

The country is still under coronavirus restrictions, although some movement and activity is slowly resuming. They are thankful for all the support that was recently received to help with economic hardships that have resulted from the virus.

Special Request for Jungle Work

Two pastors of congregations in the jungle area have requested help with purchasing guitars for leading the worship music in their congregations. The guitars cost \$100.00 each for a total of \$200.00. If you wish to help, you may send your offering as instructed below.

India

The country is still recovering from the coronavirus. Pastor Solomon Mamidi, the president of the Hyderabad district of the LMSI was hospitalized with the coronavirus. He is recovering at home and thanks our ELS pastors and congregations for their prayers and support.

South Korea

There are still some travel restrictions and quarantine requirements. The seminary student who was going to vicar at Seoul Lutheran Church has begun his vicar year at Reformation Lutheran Church (WELS) in San Diego.

Latvia

The pastors recently met and are looking at the possibility of starting a new mission congregation in a growing community outside of Riga.

Czech Republic

Martin Luther School in Pilsen is open. Life seems to be returning to normal for which we are very thankful.

Ukraine

The counseling centers and mobile medical and dental clinics are beginning to reopen.

In Other News

Kenya

This group has taken the new name of the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of Kenya. They have resumed their seminary classes which had been on hold during the pandemic.

What Can You Do to Help?

● Pray for each of the mission fields in this newsletter.

● Pray for the national pastors of these churches as well as for the members of their congregations, that they might remain faithful in their homelands that often do not welcome the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

● Pray for these Christian brothers and sisters who often do not have the kind of medical care and government help that is available to most of us in the United States. May the Lord continue to care for them and strengthen their faith.

● Your offerings in support of these fields is appreciated so much. Every field, and some more than others, have many needs where God's people can provide much needed assistance. You may designate a gift to a particular field or project on the memo line of a check. You may also go to els.org and click on "Donate" in the top banner on the right-hand side.

● If you have questions, please contact us in the following ways:

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