



Chile

The Church in Chile From Law to Gospel

by Mario Gálvez, Pastor and Missionary

- **LAW** "My people were destroyed, because they lacked knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will cast you out of the priesthood; and because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children. The more they multiplied, the more they sinned against me; I too will change their honor into shame" (Hos 4:6, 7).
- **GOSPEL** "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished for every good work" (2 Tim 3:16, 17).

The "Family of God" congregation in Santiago, Chile marches steadfastly forward today with our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, (Heb 12:2) praying that our faith may also be preserved until the time when we finish the race (2 Tim 4:7-8).

In the past, as a faithful observer of the history of the church in Chile, I see the application of Hosea 4:6-7 to us. It is a fair narrative of our past, reflected in sin and personal egos. These verses accuse us. Knowledge was lacking

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Something New

July 2025 Mission News

Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Board for World Outreach
Sharing the Gospel in
South America and Asia



From the Editor

Rev. Thomas Heyn
Board for World Outreach
Administrator



As we find ourselves here at home in a slower time for the church in these summer months, world mission outreach continues in what are busy months of summer elsewhere. We hope you enjoy the article by Pastor Gálvez from Chile as he describes the challenges and the joys that he sees in the Santiago congregation, Familia de Dios (Family of God) Lutheran Church. We thank you for your interest in our ELS world mission outreach and your prayers and support that make it possible.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations ..." (Matt 28:19).

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Chile continued

But where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more (Rom 5:20). Today, our members have learned the joy and happiness that comes from studying God's Word.



▲ Family of God congregation



▲ communion



▲ benediction

and discarded. God could have forgotten and discarded us. He could have changed our honor into shame. Some misguided leaders, without instruction, marched with their eyes fixed on the world and on its false treasures. Deceived by the prince of this world, they sowed winds of doubt and reaped hurricanes of anger, hatred, and rancor. As the situation worsened, from members to vicars, some lost their ability and privilege to serve Christ's church.

But where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more (Rom 5:20). Today, our members have learned the joy and happiness that comes from studying God's Word. Guided by 2 Timothy 3:16-17, they appreciate every lesson, every teaching that convicts them, corrects them, and instructs them in righteousness. And they experience being clothed in Christ Jesus, guided to their perfection and prepared for the good work of teaching others. They show this joy by bearing witness to their families, friends, colleagues and close ones, about God's love. God's love in Christ Jesus our Lord overflows us.

Moved by the Holy Spirit and this divine love, today they study constantly in seminary and evangelism classes twice a week, studying in person and online. There are students like Pedro, Emmanuel, Mitch, Maximiliano, George, Nelly, Aurea, Kathy, and Juana. These studies, being recorded, are offered to many other members, to my wife Mildred, my daughters Fernanda and Javiera, Adelina, María, Cristian, Matías, Luisa, Mary, Ángel, Matusalén, Patricio and to many others. God's love has been shared by them with new members confirmed in recent months, including Emmanuel, Mitch, Maximiliano and Kathy and to others that we are preparing to become communicant members, Erick and Martha. The Holy Spirit continues to pour out His love on new prospects nearby.

In addition, God willing, this year we will have a committed vicar in Pedro,

who is already serving faithfully week after week, without fail, officiating our services, attending classes with our members, as well as seminary classes. In our seminary, we study the Bible, prepare ourselves in Dogmatics, Church history and pastoral service. Pedro lovingly serves every week, from supporting the worship to willingly taking the broom to help in the cleaning of the chapel. He is a living example of Christian service and humility.

The Word of God is being heard with great joy in our "Family of God" congregation in Chile, where the voice of the Savior resounds and tells us: "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:11).

I ask for your prayers, brothers, so that the work continues to grow and the number of workers might increase in Chile. I thank God for each one of you, who in the same love that motivates us, moves you to support our work. And this love comes from Christ Jesus our Savior. Blessings to every reader; may your joy abound like ours. ■

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▲ Pedro Soto and Pastor Mario Gálvez



Mario Gálvez



Pedro Soto

▲ online worker training class

NEWS From Other Mission Fields

- **Peru** Our brothers and sisters in Peru are facing some very difficult challenges. Attempts (unsuccessful) have been made to undermine and supplant the Peru leadership. Gangs have threatened the work at Martin Luther School with mafia-like "protection" schemes. Pray for the Lord's guidance, protection and mercy.
- **Korea** Seoul Lutheran Church is strategizing to reach new members and reverse a loss in membership as the congregation ages. Pastor David Choi at Great Light Lutheran Church is gaining new members. He is also working with some non-Lutheran pastors who want to learn more about Lutheran doctrine and may be interested in further advanced studies.
- **India** Seminary training continues. Plans are being made for outreach through health fairs and VBS.
- **Australia** Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Brisbane, Australia, will be welcoming their new pastor, Skyler Hepler, in August.
- **Latvia** Seminary teaching continues with two men enrolled in seminary studies. New outreach opportunities are being explored. A 100-year-old building continues being renovated as the church home of a mission congregation in Jelgava.
- **Czech Republic** The BWO continues to evaluate the status of St. Paul's congregation and Martin Luther School in Pilzen. Pastor Martin Vrsecky serves the congregation part-time while he manages and teaches religion at Martin Luther School.
- **Ukraine (Gift of Life)** Administrator Dmytro Maksymenko continues developing and promoting new ways of Gospel outreach through the pregnancy counseling centers and mobile clinics. Although the war with Russia is a challenge for the work of Gift of Life, the Lord continues to bless this work for his glory and the blessing of many. Dmytro and his daughter Mariya were recently confirmed as members of Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Mankato, Minnesota.

HOW You Can Help



- Pray for each of the mission fields, for the national pastors of these churches as well as for the members of their congregations who live where the Gospel of Jesus Christ is not always welcome. May God work all these challenges for the good of his people, as he has promised.
- Please—prayerfully consider a gift or regular donation for the work in the various fields. Every field, and some more than others, has 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. Or scan the QR code to be taken to the donations page.



- For more information, please contact us in the following ways:

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