

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER
2022

HANSENS IN CHILE



"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:"

We hope our letter finds you well and ready to serve our Lord faithfully in the coming year. Lisa and I thank all of you for your prayers and financial sacrifices for keeping us on the field in Chile.

At the beginning of 2022, we held our first public church services after the country had eased back on health mandates that kept us in our homes away from each other. What resonates as a constant reminder of a whole year of scratching out a new church plant is the people and those individuals who make up the body of Christ and his church. Jesus provided a central priority for life, a love for God, and a love for our neighbor.

These two elements should form an unbreakable bond, one to be public as much as our love for God is private. Sadly, too often, people think they can love God without loving their neighbor or keep God a secret without anyone finding out, but secret love seldom lasts. Genuine love for God leads to loving those whom God loves, and that order is essential because it keeps us going through trials of loneliness or when people leave us and pride gets in the way of the relationship.

Atilio, just before Christmas, had been talking to his young nephew about hell, and the child cried; we speculate, for now, that his brother reprimanded him, forcing Atilio to withdraw from his shared devotion to God and question the reality of His Word. At the same time, we lost Jose because he had a hard time with some people in the church due to their way of thinking. It was hard for him to love the brethren, but this is nothing that we haven't experienced before.

While those are just a few of the most unfortunate events this year, we had a visit from Ronaldo Padre from San Jose, California, and he brought down tracts for us. Also, Priscilla from California sought out a church while on vacation in this town. Both were great encouragers and took the time to seek out their neighbor. God knows how to balance life out for those who worship God.

While we continued to value God and let him lead, Albert, Albenis' brother, came alone one Sunday and then on Christmas Eve, when he returned with his wife Johannis and their son. We thanked God for the visitors. We still have Benjamin. As he continues with us, we ask you to pray for him that his love for God and the brethren will continue. Benjamin continues to encourage Kevin after he moved from Venezuela illegally; Kevin is struggling with the legalities of seeking asylum here in Punta Arena, Chile.

As always, we continue our public ministry by handing out tracts at the public square and in neighborhoods. Benjamin and Kevin helped us with these outreach campaigns, so please pray they will continue to have a zeal for the Lord. Pray for Albert, Johannis, and the ministry here. As we stir ourselves up to encourage one another to continue, it is apparent that God's love is cyclic. As one gets discouraged, there is another person to keep this system going on behalf of the other. If love and charity can prevail among Christians without dissimulation with time, Christ's church wins the most significant victory as we wait for His return and continue working while looking forward and loving God and our neighbor.

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