

# Jack & Janine Swanson's "CHILE CONNECTION" September-November 2007



Iglesia Cristiana "Jesús Es EL CAMINO"  
(The "Jesus Is THE WAY" Christian Church)

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*If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete, by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.*

## 'IN' and 'OUT & ABOUT' as a team and as a church

### 'IN' –as a team and as a church

God continues to mold and shape us as a church and bring both supporting churches, others, and new workers here. In September, a team of eight from the Naperville Christian Church (Naperville, IL) was with us for two weeks (our fourth supporting church to visit this year—these visits really help supporters connect with our work). They helped us make tremendous progress in organizing the clothes we use in clothing "give-aways" in our neighborhood, and also trained us in how to better utilize our computers. As with other groups, they helped with construction, participated in different ways in the church, did a school devotional and were part of English classes in two schools. One of the schools they visited was in our immediate neighborhood, where good and growing relationships are so important. From this photo, it looks as if the visit went well!



In October, Luis and Katie flew to Kansas for a three-month stay in the States in which they are seeking churches and individuals that they can partner with in their full-time mission work here in Chile. Upon their return in January they will be working with a Chilean Church of Christ near the Peruvian border in Arica, Chile. The timing is right for this next step for them and we hope and pray that churches (especially any church looking for a worthy, new missionary to link with) will respond. Katie's new E-mail address is posted at the very top of this newsletter.

Also in October, Mike and Tabi Boyce came for a two-week visit. As a college student at Johnson Bible College, Mike interned with us for two months both in 1993 and in 1994. He earned his

Masters degree this year at Cincinnati Christian University (a relatively new name) in Religion, with a concentration in theology, and Tabi graduated from Johnson Bible College this year with a B.A. in Bible & Media Communications. Based in Ohio, they, too, are looking for supporting churches so that they can return to Chile to work—Mike principally with Bible training materials to use in Chilean Churches of Christ and Tabi helping us and other missionaries in the area of media communications. Pictured are Mike and Tabi with Carlos Villegas, the main Chilean coordinator of the Bible training institute. They will also work in La Cisterna, where the church continues to grow and be equipped in important ways. E-mail: [our.boycemail@gmail.com](mailto:our.boycemail@gmail.com)



Continuing with leadership development in the church, five of us men met again in October and in November. We have set aside the first Sunday morning of each month to come together in prayer at the church site, and we are using the book *The Purpose Driven Church* to look at the who, why, and how to be a church. Our meetings have been good, as what is clear is that we seek a healthy leadership structure and are going to the Bible to find it.

The men of the church coordinated a four-hour church-wide vigil, held Friday, Nov. 23. Its focus was on marriages and families, both of which seem to be under intensive attack (even more than before). The vigil was divided into four parts—what it means to be vigilant, prayer, an impacting intensive skit on the break-down of the family unit put on by the teens of the church, and lastly a talk on the differences between men and women. The vigil did a good job of raising our awareness of the importance and value of marriages and of family. We must be more attentive and alert and involved in strengthening them to the maximum.

### **'OUT & ABOUT' – as a team and as a church**

An important part of 'out & about' is capacitating through experiences and exposure to "a bigger world". The first week of September, a combination of teens and adults from the church attended a youth leadership conference/praise gathering in Mendoza, Argentina (approx. six hours from Santiago). Several teens commented that NOW they know what to do to lead!!

'Out & about' also means in our neighborhoods. **Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.**  
—Col. 4: 1-5

Chile's Independence Day falls on September 18, but is more a week-long celebration of culture in food, drink, dress, and dance, etc. This year, our church received permission from the municipality of La Cisterna to close our street and host an afternoon of games, folk dances, and fun, etc. for people of our neighborhood. It was a grand time of enjoyment, serving to further build up our contacts and trust amongst our neighbors.



We participated in a similar type of afternoon recently in November in our local plaza, which went very well. The praise team of the church worked up several Christian songs more in a style that would appeal to young people. They were one of four bands performing in the plaza, and the only one with a Christian message. We also had a booth and gave out the church's business cards with our Sunday school and Sunday service time on them. As a result, two additional children attend Sunday school and our teens met and invited others to join them on Saturdays.

Jorge Yuriscic, who lives with his family on our mission site, is in the plaza almost every Sunday playing soccer with kids from the neighborhood. They come to get him, if he's not out there. Amongst those kids who play are several who would otherwise be up to no good. *Way to go, Jorge!!* On holidays, Jorge and others of us add other sports and fun as well, like ping pong, baseball, and jump rope, not to mention good Christian music.

## CONSTRUCTION



Progress on the front duplex continues to move forward—doing finish-type work in the upstairs of both houses. The entire upstairs is wall-boarded and taped. Doors are being hung, rooms are being painted and the laying of ceramic tile has begun. With only two full-time workers, Juan and Carlos, the pace of work is slower than before, but they work well together and do quality work, and it's possible to fully trust them. Juan will have worked for us eight full years in February. We had fun giving Carlos a surprise special birthday barbeque this past we, when he turned sixty years old.

They are pictured here in one of the front upstairs bedrooms that they've recently completed.

Juan and Carlos are well-liked and respected many of our neighbors, as well, as when church members and others of very limited means living nearby needs something repaired or has some other problem, one of the two men is able to help them, as part of their work for us.

## SOME UP-COMING HIGHLIGHTS FOR DECEMBER:

**DECEMBER 1:** We have been anticipating the start of a four-session series on marriage, but were unable to begin in November, as originally planned. We will host the first of the four

sessions on December 1. The remaining sessions will need to wait until after the first of the year, due to the always-overly-busy month of December, a month in Chile that annually includes the beginning of summer and the ending of the school year (with all of its end of year class trips and graduations) and also, of course, Christmas with everything associated with it, and then the week between Christmas and New Year's.

**DECEMBER 8:** We will be going on a day-outing, as a church, to a picnic/recreation center not too far away. There are four adults that have been in a growing process of opening themselves up to Jesus, and are at the point of making a decision of being baptized. Luis Alberto, comes from a non-Christian background. He came to know us through the English Club outreach. Two others—Willie and Karina—live six hours south of Santiago. We came to know them ten years ago, and they are the family that make the marble figures the help support the work of the Chile Mission Team. Karina participated as a child in a church with her parents and Willie is new to Christianity. The other person's name is Miguel—also new to Christianity. He is being married (performed by Jack) on December 1 and he and his wife-to-be, Claudia, want Jesus to be in the center of their life together. It was Claudia whose two children lived with us for one year between June, 1995, and June, 1996. She was baptized in March, 1996.

**LAST TWO WEEKS OF DECEMBER:** A group of roughly twenty children, teens, and adults in the church will be going out to various public areas in La Cisterna (the metro and a mall and at other places, as well) to sing Christmas songs. They will dress up a Carolers and pass out information on the church. What a great opportunity to lift up Jesus' name in public!

## FAMILY TIME

Janine is already in the States, having gone in November to represent us at the Nat'l Missionary Convention of the Christian Churches/Churches of Christ held this year in Cincinnati the week before Thanksgiving. (It was an excellent convention, as always!) She will soon be traveling to Los Angeles to be with all four of our children and their families. I, Jack, will fly to join them the third week of December to be there for the holidays. It will be a great blessing for all of us, and there are now two grandchildren "in the mix"—Joshua (3) and Bella (1).

As we all enter December, may all of us remember that the world needs to meet and know Jesus and that we all are his primary ambassadors in this high-stress, marketing-crazed time of the year. Every time we keep our balance at home or out and around, *God gets the glory because others see his son in us!!*

**With much love and appreciation in an 'in and out & about' Jesus,**

*Jack & Janine and the Chile Mission Team & Church*