



**HOPE.
INSPIRE.
LOVE.**

Thurston Report

SUMMER 2018

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God Answers Prayer!

Sally met Maria Moreno at a women's retreat for Catedral del Rey church near a small town called El Tabo which is about two hours east of Santiago. Maria has a prison ministry to women and also volunteers to help women who are in the local hospitals.

Maria began to have heart problems and went to the doctor. She said she would have to have many more tests as they were very concerned. The doctor wanted her to stop her ministry in the meantime so she could rest. At the retreat, Sally said to Maria, "let me

pray for you." Maria said she felt like an electric shock go through her body. A few days after the retreat, Maria had a doctor's appointment that was set up to complete her tests.

The doctor examined her and responded that he didn't know what had happened since her last visit, but she no longer had any more heart problems and she was completely ok. Maria told the doctor, "It was Jesus," and she went home giving glory and honor to what the Lord had done." Today Maria continues her ministry.

Visit to Teen Challenge

My colleague and long-time missionary friend, Mike Shields, and I visited the Teen Challenge Center in Calera de Tango, a city that lies about an hour and a half south of Santiago, Chile. We were able to spend time with Ivan Reyes, the center's director and the 35 men who were there trying to find a better path for their life through a journey of hope and healing. Hundreds of men who are struggling with life-controlling addictions pass through this Teen Challenge program every year.

These men spend around 9 months in the program with the hope of finding recovery and renewal. Ivan and his Teen Challenge workers wake up every day with a passion to change the world and aspire to provide a platform that not only helps people find freedom through recovery but also helps fill a void that only God can fill.

By rebuilding and restoring purpose, and kindling an eternal hope through a strong relationship with the Lord, their programs are transformational. They are confident that a restored relationship with God, through Jesus Christ, can transform those who suffer from addiction into vibrant, free and sober followers of the Lord.

We continually celebrate the progress of this program, but we cannot go without stating how grateful we are for our supporters who have allowed us to help rehabilitation programs such as Teen Challenge in Calera de Tango. You have

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Director Ivan Reyes showed us how the bread they bake in their outdoor oven heats up a boiler to give them hot water for showers. They bake and sell 154 pounds of bread every day to the local community which helps them support their ministry.

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)



Discipleship & Mentoring: Our Priority

Our desire is to fulfill Christ's command to go into all the world and make disciples. God has called us to invest in the discipleship process and we are joining him in his work in order to shape us into his image by going out on his behalf and offer reconciliation to the people in our lives.

I want you to meet one of our early couples who we have been discipling and

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mentoring over the years, Dr. Javier and Dr. Marisol Castro. He is an ear, nose and throat doctor, and she’s a dentist. They came under our ministry about 15 years ago. Some of you may remember them in a video I showed in the many home groups and churches. Now they have their own home outreach.



Johnny Pradines is another friend who started as an intern in our ministry. He was recently treated for leukemia. In this picture, I had visited him in the hospital when he was recuperating from chemotherapy. He has since shared with me that after being there for eight months, he is now in remission. Over the years, I have been able to pour into his life and that of his family. Not just as

an intern or as a friend, but we are fully responsible for and to each other through spiritual development. Please pray with him for continued recovery and healing and financial help to pay for his medical bills.



The interdenominational pastor’s group in our area of Santiago gets together once a month. Since most of those attending are young pastors, I was asked to share how to do discipleship through my 50 years of discipleship experience in Chile. I was able to share with them that our actions impact the spiritual development of others and that we need to walk with them, teach them, and be personal

and communal with them. We are responsible before God to be involved in their lives.



The Apostle Peter’s advice is very simple. “Yes,” said Peter. “The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. Above all, keep loving one another earnestly” (1 Peter 4:7-8). We should also be hospitable to one another without grumbling about it, and use our spiritual gifts to serve and minister to one another (1 Peter 4:8-11). The

Apostle clearly tells us to pray for one another as mature and level-headed intercessors, keep loving one another, and to graciously and generously host one another. Just this past June, we started a new discipleship group in our home. Our home has always been an open door for hospitality and loving generosity where we get to serve one another. Join us in prayer and continued blessing for Javier and Marisol Castro, Johnny Pradines and his family, our pastor’s group, and our new discipleship group in our home.



Meet Our Two New Volunteers

Virginia Raquelich (left) and Jessica Jerez (right) are our new senior citizen volunteers. They have a heart to serve the elderly and are helping us go into the rest homes to bring the Gospel to those who have never heard. We find many senior citizens are just waiting to die with no one really caring for them. Jessica and Virginia are helping us provide one-on-one support to individuals dealing with emotional, physical, or spiritual problems. Continue to pray for this outreach that we can continue to bless these people’s lives and bring joy and comfort as we spend quality time with them.



The Teen Challenge men make toys and other wood things to sell at Christmas time. They go around and get donations of shipping pallets which are turned into the toys. When they leave the 9-month program, they will have learned a skill in which to find work.

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been vital partners in the growth of the work that Ivan has been doing, holding their program accountable for the work they do and challenge them to continue to provide quality long-lasting healing and recovery.

Through your kindness and generosity, we have been blessed to see the tremendous impact of this ministry evidenced in the lives of those who have found wholeness, their families and local communities.

PRAYER REQUESTS

1) Sally and I are still praying for a new video editing system. This will help us produce more Bible teaching videos. Purchasing this equipment will allow us to keep producing and uploading our 35 years of videos to YouTube. This will allow the Gospel to be watched by any Spanish-speaking person around the world.

We believe God is going to provide us with the necessary funds to purchase this new system this year. This equipment will help us continue to reach hundreds of thousands of Hispanics around the world for Christ.

2) Jim’s 92 year-old mother-in-law escaped death several weeks ago as the nursing home she was living in burned to the ground. Ten people died in the fire. The day before the fire, she fell and broke her hip and was hospitalized and her life was spared. Keep her in her prayers as she recuperates from the broken hip.

Jim Thurston, Recipient of the Chilean National Merit Ministry Service Award & Missionary to Chile



His Servants,

Jim & Sally