

THE BOLICK REPORT



CHILE March 2017

We hosted two groups in the past four months. We strive to give them a comprehensive glimpse **of the ways God is moving among our partners here, the National Baptist Convention of Chile.** A part of our work here that we often fail to mention is how we also support the many good things our partners are doing in Christ's name.

These two groups toured Chile from Santiago to Panguipulli, seeing important, innovative work that our partners are doing. Here, then is a glimpse of where your generous partnership is making many good things possible.

- In Santiago several of our churches are suddenly faced with the presence of Haitian immigrants in their neighborhoods in desperate situations. These churches are rising to the call to minister to them with Spanish classes, job banks, household needs, friendship and pastoral care. This is a new experience for our churches, ministering to strangers and exiles, trusting God to provide in surprising ways.
- We went to see a site in the hills outside Rancagua where the convention is developing a camp. The site was purchased by American Baptist churches many years ago for Chilean churches to develop. So far, with their own resources they have built a pavilion, swimming pool, and set up a water system. The Santiago churches are providing inner-city children with a camp

experience each summer, introducing them to Jesus. It is exciting to see churches move from dependence to ownership and innovations in ministry. Now they are introducing a drug rehabilitation ministry.

- In Coronel, in the central coastal area, the church adopted a missional focus after the 2010 earthquake and tsunami relief work. They continue ministering to needs and providing pastoral care in a fishing village, and now they are doing weekly Sunday School and ministry activities in a squatters' settlement not far from their church.
- In Lautaro, outside of Temuco, we visited a ministry of the church providing weekday lunches to hospital patients' families and neighbors in need. Many of our churches now see this as a model for them to start social ministries of their own.
- In Temuco, they visited the church-sponsored school in a vulnerable sector where Barbara directs a **Girls' Club** program. While there are other Clubs in other churches, this is the hub of activities for Barb.
- The **Talita Cumi Girls' Club project** is a mentoring program being implemented in our churches. It is based on the life of Jesus and the seven classical Christian virtues. It connects adolescent girls with a mentor who leads the girls to Christ and introduces them to the practices of character and spiritual formation.
- The newest development is that Barb has a **partnership with Fuller Seminary's Thrive Center.** They are going to evaluate her curriculum, administer testing that will measure and verify the effectiveness of the program, and help develop a mentor training plan. Barb will conduct a mentor training workshop in April.

To be continued next month. Pray for our Esperanza volunteer network that is beginning to minister to the needs of many who lost their homes in the recent forest fires here.

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