

**Prayer Letter from David and Gina Hucker,**  
**with SAMS in Arica, N. Chile.**  
**October 2009**

Here is another copy of a recent newsletter I produced for you, well at least from what I remember that I wrote. My computer broke down and I have been trying to recuperate the files, one of which is the newsletter without any success!

This year is election year in Chile at the end of November. Of course there are all the political parties jockeying for position, promising the world but offering very little. There are two main candidates. One is a past, socialist president and the other a successful, conservative businessman. Hopefully real change will come to the ones who are truly in need and they are the ones who are often neglected within all our countries, mainly the poor and outcast.

For the past 20 years, Arica has experienced a problem with severe lead and arsenic contamination. This year the situation has come to the forefront because of the presidential elections. Whole communities have to be uprooted and relocated in another sector. Some 20,000 people are affected by this particular problem. Schools have been affected and there is great debate as to what the government will do to actually solve this dilemma. The general feeling towards any government solution is negative as people basically do not trust them.

Both Wesley and Caleb have had an interesting year. A few weeks ago Wesley was affected by the dreaded swine flu, of which there were some 10,000 suspected cases here. It seems that everyone was affected here, but thankfully the anti viral was very effective and the next day after taking the remedy Wesley was better. In November Wesley will graduate from school, hoping to enter university next year. He wants to study electronic engineering. He is presently in the process of getting his driving license. Caleb's year has been indifferent as well. He has had a rough time recently as in June we changed him to the same school that we changed Wesley to at the beginning of the year. This change worked wonders for Wesley, but in Caleb's case, although he enjoyed the school, I personally felt that the change was detrimental to his educational future. So just a week ago, we took the decision to put him back in his old class.

Church construction is a frustrating thing in Arica. It seems to come in waves of great activity and then ceases for a few months. Currently we are waiting for a builder to take the construction to the next level. It has advanced a lot and looks more like a church than a shed, but still we have a long way to go when it comes to finishing it. At least it looks a lot better than this time last year. Gerardo, a member from our church who is in charge of doing the construction, needs prayer as he tries to hire the right person for the next phase.

Church growth is slow and at times concerning. Individuals come and go, and others who confess faith in Christ are wanting in their commitment to the Lord. Those who grow and are doing well in their walk with Him are the ones that come on Sundays and attend mid-week Bible studies (home groups). People have been added in numbers and have compensated for the church members that went to the South of Chile or to the USA, as is the case with our beloved Joanne who recently married our dear friend and brother in the Lord, Bert.

Home ministry is scheduled for this year, but we have doubts that we will be able to return this December. Wesley is graduating and will be applying for university. On top of this I am

studying at the main university here and I am in my second year of a MA in ESL pedagogy. This January I will finish the course and will only need to present my final thesis in the following months.

Please pray for the points mentioned here. As well, please pray for SAMS, which is merging into CMS this year, so it is important that this transition go as smoothly as possible.

Finally, God bless you and thank you for all the support that you give us.

David and Gina Hucker