



March 2017

A hearty 'buenos dias' from Santiago!

Thank you so much for your prayers and messages over the last few weeks; there is a lot to be thankful for and the Lord has been really kind!



After arriving at the end of January, I had almost a week to settle in before starting some Spanish classes. It was great to be able to spend time with the family hosting me here: Luke and Mary Foster and Barney and Martha their super-duper kids.

The first few days were filled with venturing out on the metro, choosing avocados with Mary at a market, getting corrected on my pronunciation of 'gracias', singing 'In Christ Alone' in Spanish at church, meeting new people, getting used to the obligatory kiss on the cheek greeting, and losing hands-down to Barney at Top Trumps...

Then began three weeks of study at the Ecela Spanish school near the centre of town. It has been great fun getting to know the city with fellow Spanish-learners from all over the world. There were lots of opportunities to chat about the gospel and faith and hear people's opinions whilst practicing our vocab - this has been such an answer to prayer. This week I was actually able to read the Bible with one of my new friends after we'd had a few discussions about Christianity and what we actually believe, which is so exciting! I'm grateful to have met some people at Ecela who will be here for around the same length of time as me, and am enjoying spending time with them.

It's also been a real gift to meet an American Christian girl who is here for a few weeks visiting her family - it's easy to forget how nice it is to relax into English conversation! We have been eating strawberries and going on (very) short runs, but most of all it has just been great to pray together and share the challenges of living in a new place



and what the Lord has been teaching us. Meeting once a week with Mary has also been great and we're reading through Colossians together at the moment. To have her friendship and wisdom in thinking about the time here is so helpful, as well as just being able to have a set time to chat and drink coffee!

Last weekend the Fosters and I stayed in a place called Reñaca - it was bizarre having my expectations of a quaint coastal town quickly replaced by sights of huge apartment blocks teetering on the edge of hills that descend straight to the sea! I was able to explore the town of Valparaiso, and also visit a church there. It's been really encouraging to get the opportunity to visit a few different churches as well as the one I'm based at and be able to see people who love the Lord meeting and being taught faithfully from the Bible.

Our church, Cristo Redentor, is right around the corner from where we live in Nuñoa. It has a really friendly atmosphere, although it can sometimes be quite a challenge to be able to connect with



people in my bemusing Spanish. I'm thankful that the teaching and services have been mostly straightforward to understand, though. We had a great study on Philippians 1, led by the pastor Juanes - *'he who began a good work in you will bring it on to completion.'*

For the next three months I am working at Santiago Evangelista school, helping primarily with the high-school English classes and, as it is a Christian school, classes on the Bible too. There

seem to be quite a few other opportunities to get involved, but as yet I'm only down for two days a week (this should increase), so I'm looking forward to getting started and having a clearer idea of what my role there will be.

It's funny how quick the last month has gone - and although it is different, at times a bit daunting and I miss you all, I am so thankful to the Lord for his presence and that he is the dearest friend, refuge and strength.

Thank you for your support!

Lots of love and 'abrazos fuertes',

Jemimah

Please pray:

- My friend from Ecela is keen to meet again to read John's gospel; please pray that she'd come to a clearer understanding of who Jesus is and recognise her need for him
- Speaking Spanish - for energy and help in this, especially as I start working at the school
- Work at Santiago Evangelista school - for the Lord to make it clear what would be most useful to get involved in and that he'd be at work in the relationships that develop there, both with the students and other staff members
- I will be meeting weekly with one of the female students from Santiago Evangelista to read the bible with her, so please pray for the Lord to be guiding me in preparation for that and that he'd be challenging us both through his word
- That my heart would be most satisfied in God above all else and that he'd continually be bringing me closer to himself when it can be easy to be distracted!

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