

EARTHQUAKE IN CHILE.

According to Archbishop Greg Venables, "Bishop Tito (Bishop of Chile) and his team are leading inspiring Anglican work throughout Chile. This earthquake represents both a setback and a great opportunity to demonstrate the reality of the transformation Christ brings through his Spirit working through his people. I hope we can support our brethren in Christ in Chile strongly at this time. "

Bishop Colin Bazley, a former Bishop of Chile and Presiding Bishop of the Southern Cone and his wife Barbara are in Chile and experienced the earthquake themselves. Anglican International Development has received the following information from them of particular needs they are addressing

They write: "The need here is for tents, watercarriers with water, torches with replacement batteries, candles with matches, paracetamol, powdered milk, milk products, disposable nappies, generators, blankets, anoraks. We can buy them here without any problem. Our churches here in Santiago are mobilised to collect and send stuff and Bp Tito went South yesterday with the first van load. Another 12 metre lorry loaded with stuff left at 4 a.m. this morning and another one is being collected. We rent the lorries to take the stuff. The situation in the epicentre area is grim with little news coming out. We hear all our churchfolk have been preserved with their lives, but one we know has lost his coffee shop in the centre of Concepción. More news will come as time goes on. So any help will be welcome."

Should you and your church wish to contribute to the Chilean church's actions in relief, support may be sent through Anglican International Development at 21 High Street, Eynsham, OX29 4HE, or donated through the Donate button on www.anglican-mainstream.net, earmarked for Chilean Earthquake. If you wish to send funds directly to Chile please email anglicanaid@gmail.com for bank details in Chile.

ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE OVERALL SITUATION IN THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN CHILE

To: Parishes and Mission groups of the Anglican Church in Chile
From: The Diocesan Bishop
Date: 1 March 2010

Beloved in Christ,

May the grace, mercy and love of Christ be with each one of you.

Apart from the VIII Region, the general situation of the church is good. There has been no loss of life, although there is some structural damage to buildings which will need to be repaired during the second stage of recovery.

The little information we have received on what is happening in Concepción, hampered by the breakdown in communications and the supply of electricity, is as follows:

- The city of Concepción is still isolated; electricity supply has not been established, and due to lack of transport no food, water or petrol is getting through.
- Around seventy families from our church have been affected. Our brethren are sleeping in tents in three different parts of the city: Manqimavida, San Pedro de la Paz and Las Lomas.
- As the families are grouped together they can share cooking pots and maximise the few provisions they have between them.

At an emergency meeting, the Diocese decided to take help to the area. We called upon our churches, both in Chile and abroad to help carry out the following plan:

1. It is very important for the church to unite and mobilise, to help, first of all, our brethren in the churches in Concepción, and then the other seriously affected towns in the VII Region.
2. We would like to support those affected in an integrated way (body, mind and spirit)
3. We are asking pastors and lay leaders to create and organise prayer networks in each church, so that ultimately the Lord may be glorified in this whole situation.
4. Churches in the metropolitan area of Santiago are asked to help with funds, non perishable goods, nappies, bottled water and blankets. Please get in touch with this office if you need help with transport.
5. God willing, on Tuesday 2 March I hope to take a truck of goods to Concepción. Another truck is due to leave for the coastal area of the VII Region at the same time.
6. On Wednesday 3 March a lorry will depart with goods for Concepción.
7. In Concepción itself we will need to evaluate the situation on the ground.

Finally, we remember the words of our Lord Jesus Christ "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick

and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me'."

In the service of Christ

Rt Revd Hector Zavala
Diocesan Bishop

P.S. Tito has now arrived in Concepción - it took a day and a half to get there. The lorry left at 4a.m. but at mid-day had not gone very far. Road congestion, I fear. The following was received from Jose Luis Avendano

The following is the translation of a letter that I received from one of my friends living in Concepcion, one of the areas of Chile hit hardest by the earthquake.

Brothers and Sisters:

Our country is submerged in pain, death and hopelessness. The effects of the earthquake, combined with tsunamis, are indescribable. The images transmitted on television, while dramatic, do not reflect all of the pain and drama of all the victims of this great tragedy. The cities most affected are those of the 7th and 8th regions of the country. Many people there lost their lives, their homes, and their belongings. Others who survived were left, in many cases, with only the clothes on their backs. Today the government has recognized that there are more than 700 dead. There are no figures with regards to how many are injured or missing. With regard to homes, there are more than 500,000 completely destroyed and many others in a precarious condition and difficult for people to live in.

In the area of Concepción we do not have any direct information about our churches, pastors or the theological institute we have in Concepción. (*Note: I have since found out that it was flattened.*) We know that there is a lot of destruction, that there are families and churches that are suffering. The area of Concepción has also suffered tsunamis like in Talcahuano yesterday, when the sea came as far up as the centre of the city, leaving a trail of death, pain and suffering.

Despite the pain, we affirm our hope, and participate in the activities of tending to the reduction of pain and suffering, and accompanying our brothers, sisters, and the Chilean people in general because there are many spiritual needs even in the midst of so much material destruction.

Your prayers and solidarity help us a lot in these moments.

May our great God bless you. Your brother in Christ,

Jose Luis

Bishop Colin Bazley's diary of the Earthquake

2nd March 2010.

It was truly a mind-boggling experience. We were shaken awake at 3.34 on Saturday morning. I got out of bed in our top 24th floor flat and ran to the room where our guests from Bebington, David and Ann Renison, were sleeping, As I ran along the corridor the first of the huge jerks occurred and threw me from wall to wall. I eventually got

their door open and David came to the door where we both sank to the floor. We stayed there wedged as best we could, he against the bed and I against the door posts while the jerks continued. It seemed never-ending and while I was there, I remembered that this was our Golden Wedding Day and in between all the other succession of thoughts I smiled to myself! The noise was deafening with crashes and thumpings as things slid around, roofing banging continuously. The lurching of the building was as if the top of the building was like the end of a whip as it jerked from one side to the other.

When the movement stopped I went back and found Barbara trying to get out. It was very hard as three pieces of furniture had fallen down flat, with books and other stuff all over the place, so she had to climb over the bed in the darkness. The electricity had cut out immediately. The mobile phone rang and it was daughter Katherine asking if we were OK. We managed to get some clothes on, and shoes as well because there was glass all over the floor, Two bottles of wine broken with contents all over the kitchen floor.

Then son-in-law Enrique arrived. It was dark as there was no electricity, nor water or gas either. He had climbed up the 24 floors to our flat as the lifts weren't functioning, carrying torches and some anoraks. He led us down and outside into the patio where we all gathered with the Lagos and Enrique's mother. We just sat there on some seats for a couple of hours and Fernanda plied us with bottled water. Then we were allowed back into (other daughter) Margaret's flat on the ground floor. Katherine and Rodrigo then arrived with flasks of tea. After a while it was decided we should go back with them to their house. We spent the rest of the night and up to mid-morning there. Then David and I went back with grandson Francisco to collect some essentials - medication, clothing, etc. We were able to get into the one lift working up to our flat on the top (24th) floor, gathered stuff out of the total mess there and left it to be cleared up another day. But the lift had stopped running and we had to wend our way down the emergency staircase once again. We then went back to Katherine's where we had a lovely comforting lunch.

We had planned to have a celebratory meal on Saturday evening but in view of the devastation decided to put it off till later on. There is so much devastation up and down the country. 240 had been confirmed dead up to that point, many more injured. Most new buildings in this part of the city have held up as they are built with modern anti-seismic methods. Most of us felt it would be inappropriate to celebrate in a public place, though some didn't want to deprive people from earning

much-needed cash at this time. But it was an 8.8 earthquake (worse than Haití in fact) and there are 720 dead so far, 1.5 million homeless. The main Pan American highway motorway joining the major cities North to South has been broken in several places as bridges have collapsed. Here in Santiago the airport has been badly damaged. Concepción, 500 km South of here is a total mess. News is very jumbled at present. But we are grateful to the Lord for his care and praying for those who have suffered far more than we have.

It wasn't the Golden Wedding we had planned. But to see the way our families here have pulled together, gave us and our visitors so much care and love, made it a real golden day for us. Sammy, Enrique and Margaret's son, had very concerned communications with his girlfriend, Peggy, a Chilean Christian girl who is on a two-year contract at a Christian school in Taiwán, received a text message from her. She quoted Isaiah 54:10: "The mountains may disappear and the hills may come to an end, but my love will never disappear. My promise of peace will never come to an end". My Psalm this morning was number 138, and verses 7 and 8; "Though I walk in the midst of danger, yet will you preserve my life...the Lord will complete his purpose for me. Your loving kindness, O Lord, endures for ever; do not forsake the work of your own hands".

We stayed at Katherine and Rodrigo's overnight. It was a quiet night, with just a few small after-shocks that didn't wake us. We went to Providencia church this morning to worship with God's people. There we began to hear the stories of friends from the South. One whose husband's town centre restaurant in Concepción was destroyed and he has to declare himself bankrupt on Monday morning. Another with no communication with family yet. More will emerge as the days go by. Now we have to decide when or if we go back to our flat. It's impossible at the moment as the only way there is to climb up the stairs as the lifts are not working. For that reason the block which houses some 1000 people is like a ghost town. Only a few have gone back, those who live on the first few floors. Our daughter and family have stayed but they are on the ground floor and "camping out" there as there's no electricity or gas. But they get flasks of hot water from friends where energy has been restored and come here to Katherine and Rodrigo's for showers.

When we get there, there is a terrible mess to clear up in all the rooms. One interesting one is a small electric clock which fell down and lost its battery. So it registers 3.39 - it was five minutes fast! We'll send some pictures as soon as we can.

Monday now and the after- shocks are less frequent and weaker. This afternoon we went back to the block of flats because Margaret told us there was a lift working. The Renisons and a group of Francisco's friends came to help us sort out the mess, pick up the furniture, replace all the books, pick up broken glass and china, mop up all the dried wine and other liquids in the kitchen, lift up the microwave and TV from where they had crashed to the floor. The worst has been done and now we need to give it a good clean through. But the lift had broken down again when we finished so we trudged down the 24 floors once again.

We won't be able now to go down South again today as we had planned, but we do want to be able to give the Renisons something of a holiday before they go back to England next week. But they are very brave and understanding. We are also wanting to be of help where we can in the recovery and may well find ourselves sorting out clothing and bedding to be sent down to the most affected areas.

The quake was so violent where we were that it is hard to imagine that it could possibly have been worse elsewhere.

Things are not good in the area round Concepción and in that city some people have begun looting and burning big buildings. They have had to declare it a Catastrophe Zone, bringing in the army and a curfew from 8pm till 6a.m. Some coastal towns and villages were devastated when they were hit by a tsunami just 40 minutes after the quake. Locals went up the hillside, but holidaymakers, unaware of the danger had to face the wall of water. Many did not survive it.

Our churches here in Santiago are busy collecting essentials and gathering it all together for sorting and packing at Las Condes Church. A van left this morning for Concepción with Bp Tito and a young pastor, Felipe Chamy. Another is due to leave at 4 am tomorrow and another is planned to go later. We were there this afternoon watching the large group of young people sorting clothes, medicines and non-perishables.

Thank you