

Antofagasta *Chile*

the Perrys
Mark & Bekah

October 15, 2015

Deserts and Fertile Fields

How will they hear without someone to tell them?

What is a desert? Google helpfully says that any area that receives fewer than 9.75 inches (25 cm) of rainfall annually is considered a desert. Antofagasta, with an average yearly rainfall of 0.11 inches (0.28 cm), definitely qualifies!

What is a *spiritual desert*? It might be harder to quantify and Google may be less helpful, but we could define it as a place where Christians and local churches are few and far between, and where the gospel is not well known or even unavailable. Certainly there are many areas—even nations—around the world where this is the case.

Traveling in Fertile Fields

If we are honest, our country is a spiritual greenhouse. The gospel is readily available and we have a veritable smorgasbord of churches within easy driving distance from which to choose. Over the past several Lord's Days, we have enjoyed traveling to and worshiping with God-honoring, healthy churches, some of whom have enjoyed Bible teaching and fellowship for decades. We thank God for this blessing, but we know it isn't so throughout our world.



Praying for Deserts

As we serve in our fertile fields (1 Cor 3:9), our prayer is that we will obey Jesus' great commission. We also desire God to burden our hearts and theirs with the needs of spiritual deserts that need the Water of Life. Just as we are making disciples here, pointing unbelievers to faith in Jesus Christ and encouraging believers to obey *everything* Jesus commands us, we desire to see the same thing taking place in Antofagasta.

Please pray that God would use us to encourage pastors and churches in our spiritually fertile area and to represent gospel deserts around the world, and provide our necessary support. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve the Lord by serving Jesus' church over the next several weeks.

October 18: Fayette Bible Church (Washington Court House)
November 1: Grace Bible Church (West Middletown, PA)

October 25: Orwell Bible Church (Orwell)
November 8: Calvary Baptist Church (Willard)



Lori Gordon took this picture of us when we were at Eastside Community Bible Church in Milford, Ohio, a few weeks ago.

Thank God with us:

- for meetings scheduled this fall and winter.
- for our first three meetings and many opportunities to encourage pastors and churches.
- for God's provision of encouraging churches who have ministered to us.
- for safety in travel and grace in serving.

Pray to God with us:

- for opportunities to "impart some spiritual gift" and be encouraged by each other's shared faith (Rom 1:11–12).
- for God to make us more like Jesus through deputation (Rom 8:28–29).
- for God's provision of partners to help us on our way (Rom 15:24).

We are Mark & Bekah Perry, missionaries to Antofagasta, Chile serving with Gospel Mission of South America. We are currently on deputation raising support to serve on a church-planting team in Chile's *Grande Norte*. Visit our website at perrys2chile.com.