

February 15, 2019

For This I Toil

Paul claimed that he preached Christ, “...warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: whereunto I also labor, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily” (Col 1:28–29). We too are always grateful for the opportunity to serve Jesus’ church and to pour our lives and energy into what Jesus Christ is building during this dispensation. In one sense, what we are doing here in Antofagasta is very simple (not easy, but simple): proclaiming Christ, warning and teaching everyone, seeking to see them mature in Christlikeness. In all of this, we depend on the promise of God’s power working in us to accomplish his will in his church.



We had the privilege this past month to host our mission’s general director and his wife, Tom and Debbie Gibbons in Antofagasta. We enjoyed listening to, laughing with, and learning from them. The following week, our teammates, Pastor Andrés and his wife, Cle, moved to a different apartment. We got to help them move and get settled into their new place, and we are looking forward with them to the arrival of their first child in the next several weeks! We’ve enjoyed hosting several families at our apartment, and with a few days of much warmer weather, the pool in our complex has been fun place to spend time with some of the younger families (and we don’t mind getting in the water either). Our coworkers, David and Kristi Flinck, had the opportunity to take their three oldest kids to an MK camp in Lima, Perú last week. We got the chance to spend some with the youngest, Lukas, who wasn’t old enough to attend. We were excited to hear the kids’ stories and see the pictures when they got back.

Our church is beginning the process of formal membership over the next several months, so that is a great opportunity to talk with people about the gospel, the church, and their lives in Christ. As a church, we are considering meeting in a school facility that might also give us opportunities to minister to the school children. This coming Lord’s Day we have a meeting where we will get to discuss some of these things. I’m looking forward to the privilege of teaching the book of Hebrews over the next several weeks. Please continue to pray for the mighty working of Jesus as he builds his church.

Thank God with us:

- For his grace in the energy of Jesus, working powerfully in us, giving us the desire and ability to please God.
- For his grace in encouraging our hearts with visitors.
- For his grace in allowing us to continue renting our apartment for another year (without a change in price).

Pray to God with us:

- For his grace to toil, struggling with the energy Jesus gives us, to see disciples follow him.
- For his grace as our church begins the formal membership process and considers another change in location.
- For his grace for our coworkers, Andrés and Cle, as they look forward to the arrival of their first child in March.



Thankful for my brothers and teammates here in Antofagasta, “my partners and fellow workers for the benefit...of the churches, the glory of Christ” (2 Cor 8:23).