



**Sid and Kathi Luke, Missionaries To Chile and Mexico**

Greetings to you in Jesus our Lord from Chile.

We haven't written much lately until we had more concrete info concerning families & friends in the earthquake area. We appreciate so many writing us for information concerning our well-being and that of the churches. Some of you have expressed interest in helping financially. We are very thankful. But for all, here is our update as of March 4th.

Plans are being made to send supplies to the south to help those affected by this ongoing catastrophe. As of Thursday March 4, 2010, since the initial 8.8-9.0 earthquake February 27 at 3:34 am there have been more than 67 replicas 5.0 - 6.5 Richter Scale, not including minor movements. The earth has not stopped moving. It is similar to walking or jumping on a trampoline. When the earth tremors not only is there physical movements, but also in Chile the earth growls loudly, like a large truck coming down a street. As Pastor Joel said: We don't know the extent of the destruction but are concentrating on surviving. There are people in the coastal area who did not know the magnitude until 4 days later due to being total cutoff from all communication.

Our family in Santiago(Ñuñoa), Pastors Cesar & Andrea & the church there are all safe and have been able to resume most of the normality of life.

Our family in Talca, Pastors Joel & Sonia & the churches are also safe and now have both water & electricity, but very little food is available to them. They are under strict curfew due to the looting. Gas for cooking & gasoline for vehicles have been limited until now. Stores have not been restocked, including small local stores that many people buy from since they don't have locomotion. Finances have been used up since most people live from day to day and all sources of work has come to an halt. We are making plans to send a shipment of food to the area Monday as soon as we can get safe transportation to take basic food, baby & health items such as flour, sugar, salt, oil, coffee, tea, rice, oatmeal, sauce, pasta, beans, instant soup, diapers, alcohol, toilet paper, laundry detergent. Because of the looting and out of control situations, we plan to use coupons giving every family in the church, according to their needs, a coupon then give coupons to neighbors in the surrounding area and as well as others that they know are in need.

It is essential that it is distributed the same day to prevent looting or ransacking. But the government has brought a lot of control to a chaotic situation.

We are trusting the Lord for a second opportunity to have enough funds to send a second load to the coast where the tsunamis hit many large cities and small towns. Our main thrust will be with blankets, new underwear & such since everything was washed away. Due to the looting, much vigilance must be taken.

The Lord has supplied for the first purchase and we raising the funds for the transportation. From Ovalle (where we are located) to Santiago it is 6 hrs straight without complications, but from Santiago to Talca, a normal trip that would take 3 hrs now takes around 11 hrs due to the damaged road and heavy traffic. Then to the coast it would be about the same. A very sacrificial trip to say the least. If you have seen any of the pictures on TV what the roads look like, you will understand. Their super four lane Pan-American Highway has been reduced to only 1 lane in many areas.

The church on the outskirts of Talca was to have their inauguration in May. It is in a new area being built. They have reported to us that the left wall has been fractured bad and will have to probably be replaced. Their two radio stations have been shut down due to losing all of their computer equipment. This at the moment is the obvious. Once they enter into the second phase, reconstruction, we will know more concerning the damages and will inform you.

Here in Ovalle, the city is gathering food and goods also. The name of the outreach is called: OVALLE RETURNS A HELPING HAND. In 1997 we experienced a 7.3 earthquake that devastated this city and changed the lives of everyone forever.

We invite you to participate if the Lord lays it on your heart. The need is great and the situations are so enormous we cannot even begin to paint a clear picture. Nor do we hope to be able to help everyone but our desire is to help relieve some of the hurt and make life easier for some in the midst of disaster. Thank you for caring and praying for us and for Chile. Also we ask you to pray for our children who have been very stressed out during this time of crisis. We are safe but feel that we are here for such a time as this.

Again thank you for everything. Please feel free to forward this to anyone you would feel would want to know or participate in this outreach to help during this traumatic time in Chile. Blessings and love to you in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sid & Kathy Luke

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*All gifts go directly into the non-profit ministry account. A Sid Luke Ministries check is written and cashed in Santiago, Chile by Transamerican, who changes US checks to a Chilean peso check that is deposited into the bank to prevent being assaulted on the street (since we walk around the city and take the bus). From here we use either check or credit card to pay for the items since they will be purchased in bulk.*