



Thurston Report

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International Outreach



Jim giving his testimony and his vision to help reach the world for Christ on a world wide secular TV network.

Just before leaving Chile, I was invited to be on one of Chile's world wide TV program, Puertas Abiertas (Open Doors.) This is the only evangelical program broadcast over the government's TV channel. The network goes point to point in the country and it also goes by satellite to over 60 % of the countries in the world. Even in the Washington area the program can be picked up on cable. I shared my testimony of how I received Christ, and my vision for helping to fulfill the Great Commission. I shared how important it was to have Christ in your life. At the end of the episode the host asked listeners to receive Christ. Each week, he receives hundreds of letters of those making a decision.

Meeting with the President's Chief of Staff



Pastors group receives recognition for their work.

Gonzalo Blumel, (right) the President's Chief of Staff and now Vice President, gives out a golden Medallion to our pastor's group for their 25 years of service to the country.

Arrival in USA



Recently, we returned back to the US for a mini furlough just ahead of all the protests in Chile. We plan to return to Chile the end of February, as we want to spend the holidays here with our families. At this time, we hope to be able to see many of you and share more personally what God has done.



On October 25, more boxes arrived.

Some have asked how is the project going? I'm happy to say it is just about finished. A significant shipment of the parts arrived on Oct. 25, (above) just before the protests and the customs strike. The last large item purchased on Oct 21, has also arrived in Chile.

We were glad the majority of the things arrived in Chile before all the turmoil took place. (See page 2)

My son Paul has been busy putting everything together.

We still have a few things to get, such as software to allow the machine to function. There are also some small parts missing.

If you haven't been able to help in the past, this would be a great time to do so.

Protests and Destruction



Emergency prayer for Chile needed! Destruction and more destruction

On Friday October 18th, rioters in Santiago set fire to buses and damaged subway stations, offices, and supermarkets. Eventually, the police responded with water cannons and tear gas. The government put 10,500 soldiers on the streets.

Over 160 Walmart stores were completely looted and at least 16 were completely burned to the ground. Fortunately the one closest to our house was spared, but was only open a few hours each day.

Paul had to wait five hours in the hot sun to get into the store to buy a few things. They only let 20 people into the store at a time and they were allowed about five minutes to make their purchases.

My daughter Mary Jane reported their closest supermarket was burned to the ground after it was stripped of everything. She also said the new subway and its stations in her section of town were completely burned down. Without it, this will make it difficult to get to our house as she lives about 20 minutes away.

The Chile church is claiming 2 Chronicles 7:14 as the solution. "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

As we have been going around visiting our friends and speaking, some have asked, "Are you and Sally going back?" "Yes we are! The return date is in February." When there is unrest in the country many more doors for the Gospel are opened and people are more receptive. In the early 70's, I lived under the first freely elected Marxist Government for three years. After that, we had 18 years of a military dictatorship. I have seen it all. During that time God protected us and many, many lives were changed by the Gospel. God did great things.

The protests were sparked by a steep hike in public transportation prices, but that's only a symptom of a deep underlying frustration at growing inequalities and a failure to embrace economic reform.

Chile has the highest per capita income in Latin America and just a two percent inflation. However, the widespread privatization of healthcare and education, together with spiraling costs of basic goods and services, has led to these protests. Over the last few days, the marches and protests have subsided a bit, but they continue. One march had over one million two hundred thousand protesters. The government said the damage so far was estimated over a billion dollars.

According to the Police Chief, 3.2 million people have been protesting during the first 20 days and more than 10,000 have been arrested.

We thank the Lord our house and studio were not damaged. Please pray for peace to come back to the country and for protection for my family in Chile.



Jim Thurston, recipient of the Chilean National Merit Ministry Service Award and Missionary to Chile.

Jim & Sally