

Hope Inspires Love WA is now JET Mass Media



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Same organization, same address, same staff, same IRS 501(c)(3) status and of course the same mission and purpose. To present the Gospel to the whole world from Chile.

Thurston Fall Report



Jim is the recipient of the Chilean National Merit Ministry Service Award.

October 2022

What more can happen on our return trip to Chile?

We thought our trip back to Chile would be easy, but it was a little more complicated than we had anticipated. Sally and I left Bellingham around 11:00 AM on Tuesday, August 29. We booked a hotel to be at the airport by 5:30 AM as the Alaska Airlines plane was leaving at 7:30 AM. For International travel, you need more than a two-hour check-in. The Alaska plane left and arrived on time, a beautiful flight to Miami. Then the problems began after arriving at the American Airlines boarding gate for our flight to Chile.

At 10:30 PM, everyone began to board the plane. We were lugging our two heavy carry-ons. Once seated, we sat back and started to relax. We knew dinner would be served soon, then we would watch a movie, and after it, try to get some sleep on the eleven-hour non-stop flight to Chile. The plane was completely booked, with about 90 percent of the passengers being residents of Chile.

After fifteen minutes of boarding, they closed the door. It immediately started to become very warm on the plane once they removed large tubes from the on-ground air conditioner. As the temperature rose, making it very uncomfortable, the pilot announced we would have a delay of thirty minutes to try to fix the air conditioning as it was not working. After an hour, the pilot said they could not repair it due to lacking a part, so we needed to disembark from the aircraft and stay overnight.

Hot and sweaty, we left the plane with our two carry-ons plus a heavy computer bag. Arriving inside the terminal, the counter staff said we would receive a voucher for a meal and a hotel at another counter. We were in line for over an hour to get the two coupons. The food voucher didn't work as almost everything was closed.

They said there would be a shuttle to pick us up and take us to the hotel about three miles from the airport, but no shuttle ever came after waiting. We ended up taking a taxi costing forty dollars. Arriving at the hotel, we found it to be delightful. After receiving our room key, we dropped into our bed. It was now close to 2:00 AM, and we would need to get up very early to take the shuttle at 5 AM as they said the plane would board at 7:30 AM. This would be the second night we would sleep only a few hours.

With only two hours of sleep, it might have been better to have stayed at the airport. We were lugging our heavy carry-ons everywhere, and that was a pain.

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Meeting with the President



Jim and Sally talking with the President of Chile

This past March, Chile's new President took office. Every September, the Evangelical Church celebrates a day asking for God's blessing on the government and the country, and this year it was Sept 17. Once again, I participated in this event. The President, cabinet, military leaders, and the country's foremost authorities attended. Sally and I told him we were praying for him and his government and he said thank you very much.

Name Change

Our board of directors, in June 2022, voted to change the Mission's name. The work we currently do in Chile will not change, nor does our office, Post Office box, financial director, mission, or IRS standing to give tax write-offs. Only the name changes. We continue to work with pastors, government leaders, Bible education, evangelistic leadership skills, and the internet. We also continue to work in ministry areas of communications and broadcasting. Our work continues as usual to seek and save the lost!

Starting with this letter, please begin to make out your checks and donations to JET Mass Media. You can still use our old name for a few more months in case you forget.

Arriving at the airport, we needed to go through security again; the lines to get into the secure area were long and slow.

When we arrived at the gate for the 7:30 AM boarding, they announced the departure time was changed to 9:15 AM. We sure wish we had known of the time change before returning to the airport as we could have used a couple more hours of sleep. At 9:15 AM, they said the flight was now scheduled for 1:15 PM. The part had arrived, and the air conditioner was fixed. But then they found the plane's computer needed to be reprogrammed. A technician was required to fly from Dallas to Miami to do it, and once he completed it, we would embark as soon as he had finished.

We got back on the plane at 4 PM to depart for Chile. We were happy we were ready to go. The plane pulled away from the apron, and the air conditioning went out again, causing it to get sweltering hot. At the same time, a storm came with thunder and lightning. After the plane left the apron, the ramp workers retreated inside the building as they were not allowed to be on the apron during a lightning storm. With no ramp workers, the plane could not return back to the terminal, and we had to wait on the taxiway for the storm to clear.

One of the passengers experienced heat exhaustion at the back of the plane. A flight attendant asked if a medical person was on board. Then a person six seats from us started with convulsions trying to jump up and down and waving his arms. People around him grabbed the person and had to haul him to the front of the plane. The flight crew couldn't remove him from the craft because the aircraft was out of the apron and on the taxiway.

After much discussion with the control tower, the ramp workers came back and the airport management let the airplane return to the terminal as it was a medical emergency. That meant everyone had to disembark again, and we again we had to remove our heavy carry-ons.

In the terminal, the AA employee said since it was an emergency, the jet could not leave until there was final clearance from the authorities.

At our waiting room gate, a group of fifty women banded together to protest about all the delays. They shouted, "CHANGE THE PLANE! CHANGE THE PLANE! CHANGE THE PLANE!" The clerks behind the desks didn't know what to do. With all the clamor, one of the AA managers came and said, "If anyone wants to change to another airline, they could if seats were available. But your luggage must stay with this plane, and you could get it whenever this plane arrives in Santiago." About 40 changed planes, but the rest of us just hung in.

The aircraft was cleared to fly, so they set the departure time at 6 PM. The only problem now was the plane's crew had gone home as their shift was finished. The jet was ready to fly, but it had no crew to fly it.

The AA manager frantically started to call to find 13 reserve crew members. He did find 13, but they were scattered all over Miami. He said they might take a couple of hours for them to get to the airport. It was now shortly after 6:30 when they started to arrive. When the last flight attendant arrived, there was a big cheer from everyone in the terminal. Now we could go!

The aircraft was scheduled to leave at 7 PM, but then they changed it to 7:30. Shortly before 7:30, it was changed to 7:45. I was praying this would be the last time to carry our heavy bags back to the plane.

We settled in our seats and had our seat belts buckled, and were now ready for a nice ride back to the mission field. The doors were shut, and the plane was prepared to pull out of the apron; when the pilot said over the PA, "The air conditioning just went out again." I thought, not again! He said, "Please be patient, and I will open the air vents once we get into the air. This will cool things off. There is nothing to worry about." We did take off, and the plane did cool down! Thank you, Jesus.

From that point on, everything went as originally expected. We had a good flight, dinner, and a night of good sleep, arriving in Santiago at five in the morning. Our flight even beat those who changed to other planes by three hours. Who says flying is not adventurous?

American Airlines sent us a letter saying how sorry they were for all the issues we faced. They also said we were receiving 10,000 free miles, which would help our next trip.



On arriving, I started working on long overdue electrical studio repairs.

Praise the Lord. Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who find great delight in his commands. Their children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Ps.112:1-2 NIV

Blessings,
Jim & Sally