

## CHILE

CMF INTERNATIONAL-GLOBALSCOPE  
 PO BOX 501020  
 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46250-6020  
 317.578.2700  
 WWW.CMFI.ORG

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### A BIG "HOLA" FROM SANTIAGO, CHILE!

Hello to all of our many friends and family who have shared in our campus ministry down here at the bottom of the world! We are heading into our fourth semester of ministry at El Oasis, and so far it has honestly been an incredible journey. We have seen God move in some amazing ways through weekly Bible studies, retreats, small groups, soccer tournaments, and of course, the way to every college student's heart: free food. We could fill up many pages with stories about all the students that have come through our doors, the mistakes we've made while learning a new language, the experiences we've had in a new culture, and the ways God has proved Himself to be faithful through all of it. But we hope to at least give you a snapshot of some of our recent happenings down here. So as you read these stories, we hope that you can soak in each one and know that you are a part of this place, a part of these students, and a part of each one of us on the team at El Oasis.

### TWO TRADITIONS COME ALIVE

Snapshot of the most recent Mini-Soccer Tournament El Oasis: Today's award for "All-Tournament Prize for Biggest Slowpoke" on the field goes to ... Mark Jackson. He had to laugh about this one! Due to a minor



lower back injury from a few months ago, he was a good bit slower on the asphalt.

Students cheered as several players received various awards (some serious, some not-so-much) in the form of huge chocolate bars. Among those received were: Most Convincingly Dressed as a Professional Player, Most Goals, and Best All-Around Player. Such was the atmosphere at the El Oasis Soccer Tournament this semester, light-heartedness mixed with some more serious players vying for the grand prize: movie tickets.



Three women's teams and seven men's teams vied in their separate categories for the glory on the field, movie tickets, and candy.

Each semester, the tournament we have put on has been better organized than the last and with more people attending, to the point where a tradition has been established. One of the best parts of this tradition is the cookout – as the students are playing, others are preparing delicious sausages to be devoured between games. As the day comes toward a climax, everyone watches a short video on the activities offered at El Oasis. The whole day is an experience – and, importantly, a stellar outreach event – usually bringing at least two or more new teams of students in contact with the ministry.

Another tradition that is coming alive is Café a lo Gringo. Every week we have a Café atmosphere in the house where we help students with their English. The idea is to combine a fun activity for learning English – such as filling in blanks in lyrics to famous songs in English, translating movie clips, or just chatting with Americans – with coffee and friendship. This is an ongoing tradition in the El Oasis house, and it has proven to be an invaluable tool for reaching students.



So, recently, when a student, Eduardo, coordinated with his university to organize a location on campus for us to do this same activity, we were amazed. And yet, is it surprising that God would open doors for us to do our most successful outreach activities on campus? Not with a God as big as ours.

*Please pray for our relationship with the university, and the quality and success of the Café a lo Gringo program. We*

*hope to establish a strong tie to the university, as well as a reputation for quality and respectability among students and faculty alike.*

### **OUR THURSDAY NIGHT TERTULIAS**

Thursday night is our big Bible study of the week. Each four weeks we have a different theme that we frame our talks around and decorate our house for to try to connect our students to Jesus in different, creative ways. The cycles we just recently did were:

#### **Heroes**

Probably the most exciting cycle we did during the year. We connected the popular TV series *Heroes* with biblical themes of taking small steps of faith, God believing in you, and being a new creation of Christ. We then wrapped it up with “just as all the *Heroes* had to work together to fight evil, we too are a body of Christ that stretches the globe; our stories weave together through time and into God’s perfect plan for the world.”



## Seasons of Christ's Life

We tried to connect the seasons of the year with seasons of the life of Christ. Spring: birth, faith journey being a process like that of a seed; winter: death, feeling the loss of Jesus (right before Easter), etc. It was a great chance to talk about the many different

experiences Jesus had and why He understands us so well.

### Senses

The most hippie cycle we've had yet. It came about from "taste and see that the Lord is good." Psalm 34:8 We took that and ran

with it, encouraging the students to experience God in all manners in life, through the different senses. For example, experience God through hearing Him ... learning to hear Him through scripture, through the silence, through prayer.

## BAPTISMS!

This year it has been encouraging to see God move in the spiritual lives of our students. Last year was spent in learning the language, getting to know new people, and starting to form those deep relationships, and we are now seeing the fruit of those efforts! The year started out with our intern Yief deciding to get baptized in the first Bible study of the semester, and it ended up being an incredible testimony to our

students. From that Bible study, two more students, Jorge and Natty, decided to get baptized as well, and Jorge wasn't even a Christian yet! He just knew he wanted to go deeper in his relationship with Christ, and through the classes we do with our students before they are baptized, he realized

what was missing in his life and accepted Christ as his Savior. Both Jorge and Natty were baptized in the Pacific Ocean during our first retreat of the year in June.

Since then, Natty has continued to grow in her passion for Christ, and is even considering going into ministry when she graduates this December. Jorge has been

growing more and more as well, going to church each Sunday, and even inviting his father who isn't a Christian to come on Father's Day.

We also have two more young women, Laura and Maria,

who have expressed a desire to be baptized.

Laura has already completed the classes and is getting baptized the first Bible study of our second semester. Maria, however, is fighting inside; she has the desire to commit herself to Christ, but is struggling with a certain sin in her life that she doesn't know how to deal with. We are praying with her and trying our best to guide her in God's Word and show her Christ's truths, but we definitely need your prayers for the situation. Please pray that God would give us wisdom in this situation and work in Maria's heart. She is an incredible girl and on the very edge of giving her life to Christ.

## HOW YOU CAN PRAY WITH US

- *Right now we are in the process of searching for a new house! While this is exciting, we know that it is a big process. Please pray with us that we will be able to find a new house that will meet all of our needs.*
- *We recently made changes to our leadership program to better suit our students' needs. We hope that this change will be the combination that works best. Please pray that we have found a successful day and time!*
- *Pray for our connections with our families and friends back home, that we are able to find good times to talk and reconnect.*

Our hope is always that you feel a part of these stories and these students. Without your prayers and support, none of this could ever happen. We are currently getting ready for another semester and have hopes to see El Oasis continue to grow as a community of college students who will fall in love with Jesus and change the world whether right in Santiago or wherever they may find themselves. This coming semester we are planning for two more retreats, an outreach concert, we are bringing our English café to one of the local universities, and continuing to dream about everything else God might have for us.

Thanks again for all the many ways you share in our ministry. We hope to have many more stories to share with you down the road. God bless!

**Mark and Elisabeth Jackson, Lukas Fortunato, & Andrew and Katie Mosby**

