

Greetings from Chile!

You may recall that GL and his family moved back to Venezuela last April. Guess what? Their brand new baby daughter was born this month! Her name is Sarah. Isn't she a cutie? It's a joy to see God blessing their family. Please continue to pray for their protection, guidance and for their country and the people of Venezuela. There are many Christians there.

September began with more student protests at the University of Chile. There were fireworks and another bonfire, lit by a group of men dressed completely in black, faces covered by balaclavas. The strangest thing to me about it was that the next morning there was absolutely no sign of the bonfire anywhere! There were no burn marks or ashes and the grass was green. I have no idea how they did that!

On September 11th, the anniversary of Chile's 1973 coup, the locals mark it as **"don't leave your house day."** Protests rise and the situation can be a bit unpredictable with possible violence and vandalism. Ginger worked from home, even though her company's entire management team was visiting the Chilean office that week coming from different locations around the world. The rest of the week was fine and nobody was endangered.



**One of Spring's
first flowers!**

Chilean National Day, or simply "El Dieciocho," falls on September 18th. It's not an exaggeration to say this day is more celebrated than Christmas! By law, almost everyone has the day off with pay but with only the essential services available and the country erupts in food, music, dancing, and national pride. Chileans even count down to it the way we do to Christmas saying things like: **"Only 253 days until September 18!"** For two days straight, the 18th and 19th of September, the whole nation celebrates, and of course they continue through the whole week:

18 September = National Day (Fiestas Patrias)

19 September = Army Day (Día de las Glorias del Ejército)

By law, every home and building must fly the Chilean



"¡Felices Fiestas! ¡Tiki-tiki-ti!"

(Happy Holidays! Hip hip hurray!)





Beautiful!
(and so are the flowers!)

flag and those who forget receive a fine. Red, white, and blue filled every street (although the Chileans say “white, red and blue”). Individual apartments do not have to fly the flag, but there has to be one on the apartment building. We were invited to Felipe and Isadora’s home to celebrate near the town of Melapilla. They live out in the country. The invitation promised food, laughter, and good company and it didn’t disappoint! We barbecued and ate empanadas de pino, a tradition. From morning to night, we spoke only Spanish, surrounded

by friends and their family who spoke no English at all. It was exciting and a wee bit exhausting. It was a mental workout that left us both drained but smiling. By the time we got home, we could barely keep our eyes open. We slept well that night. Given the chance, we’d do it all again in a heartbeat.

Our private tutor, BA, received a scholarship to study in Spain for a year, improving her skills as a teacher. We are happy for her. Please pray that during her time abroad, Jesus will open her heart more toward Him and guide her steps in this new adventure.

Our **“Alternative Missionary Entertainment”** was unique this month. Two young men on bicycles, jumping a ramp and doing flips right in front of the traffic! It was definitely

entertaining and another little slice of Chilean street life.

Thank you for your prayers and God bless you all!

- Bill and Ginger



Empanadas de Pino
(some with powdered sugar and some without!)

