

Hello everyone, greetings from Chile!

This has been the weirdest Christmas of my life! Everything in me tells me that it is June/July. The only thing that tells me it's Christmas time is the fact that *I know* it is Christmas time. But everything else tells me it's June/July. It's hot. It's very hot. Follow the link to enjoy a South American perspective of Christmas (you might have to watch it on YouTube): Its called "Calurosa Navidad" or "Hot Christmas" and its from a popular children's puppet show called "31 Minutos" produced here in Chile (as far as I know). It is very disconcerting to see "Christmas tree" and "Santa Claus" liquid soap dispensers next to the beach towels and sunscreen at the local Lider (Walmart).



The food is also very different here at Christmas time. There were beef shish kebabs and empanadas (stuffed cheese pastries) at the church Christmas dinner and fresh watermelon. GL and his family also wanted us to try Venezuelan Christmas food so they brought it over. The main dish was Hallacas. Its similar to tamales but with more ingredients. Ginger loves tamales and she really enjoyed the hallacas!



We also got a Christmas surprise in the form of a 6.4

Richter Scale earthquake in December. You know the earth is shaking when you sit on the couch and both you and the couch are moving back and forth from side to side. Plus there was the rumbling noise to go with it! It lasted longer

than expected but we weren't hit very hard. Thank God for his protection!

We also have the wonderful summertime flowers. There is a very popular type of flower around all of the apartments in this area. They are these puffball looking flowers that are purple and other colors.



earthquake.usgs.gov

An official website of the United States government
Here's how you know

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MENU **Earthquake Hazards Program**
In cooperation with US

M 6.4 - 41 km ESE of Molina, Chile

2024-12-13 23:38:18 (UTC) | 35.321°S 70.900°W | 110.6 km depth

Summer is definitely here. The University of Chile doesn't have classes during the summer, so I am out of school until March. I did manage to pass my course and plan to continue with Spanish for Foreigners in the next semester. Ginger continues to improve her Spanish and is actually understanding more than I am, depending on the context. She has the advantage of being surrounded by Spanish at work for a good part of the day, and that really helps. I have been able to teach and preach in Spanish, but I have to prepare ahead of time and essentially read it. Thank God for translation apps! Sometimes they don't get the translation quite right though, so I have to be careful to check that the app translated what I actually said through "reverse translation". This is very beneficial in building a Spanish vocabulary and communication. But it is a bit of a struggle. Nevertheless, we press on! I've got to wonder at how others did this without computers.

In summer, hotdogs are very popular in both the States and in Chile. Check out these Chilean versions:



Have you ever seen or eaten hotdogs like these?

They are not very expensive. For that matter the food here in general is not too expensive. There is a restaurant near our apartment called "Chilean Fountain" that has a plethora of native foods for great prices. We are truly blessed!

Bible studies continue and God keeps working!
Thank you everyone for keeping the ministry in your prayers and asking God to open more doors into the hearts of people who are hungry to know him.

A very Merry belated Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all! God bkess!

Bill and Ginger

