

Greetings from Chile!

The summer is well on its way! Supposedly the hottest time of the year is in the next week or so. We have been very blessed to have the weather in the 80°F range and not much hotter. It's also very dry. We only have air conditioning in the bedroom, but we are blessed to have a cross breeze through our living room and dining area and this keeps those areas pretty cool, considering that we are on the seventh floor. We never actually shut the window or the balcony doors. This does allow a lot of dust in, but it cleans up!

Ginger got to make a flying trip back to the states for business purposes last week and I am very glad she's back. I mean, I survive, but I really like having her here! She did get to spend some time with our children and her parents, so that was really good. She also got to bring home some things from the states that we can get here, such as *fajita seasoning*! I fear it may not last long, so I'll have to plan to get a couple of big containers of this from Costco or somewhere the next time I'm in the States. There is a store here called Kios that buys things from Costco, ship sit down here and then sells it for three times the price. It is a good way to buy Ritz crackers!



The other day, I was looking out of the balcony and saw someone crazy walking around the ledge of another balcony, installing a screen barrier for a neighbor. He was on the eighth floor, and I didn't notice that he had a safety belt. But after looking at the picture, I realized that he did have one on so that if he fell, he wouldn't go very far. Still, if he fell, he would be hanging upside down until someone could help him, because most of his weight is above his belt line. In the picture, he is putting up the attachments for the screen. There is no actual screen there yet. Now that is supreme confidence! The grid screen that you can see in the picture is our balcony screen, and it is made up of what appears to be heavy fishing line. It keeps things from flying off the balcony, but I wouldn't want to fall against it or anything. It is a long way down!

The Lord has opened a door for me to teach at the church and online in Spanish. In cooperation with the local pastor, I am teaching on Zoom every Thursday night beginning at 8:15 PM. We have to wait for everyone to get home from work. I'm also teaching in the church

every other Sunday. The lesson is prepared in English and then translated with DeepL, a pretty good translation program, and I teach it by reading it. This has been amazing for acquiring vocabulary and expressions in Spanish that I would probably not otherwise have contact with for quite some time. Several people have told me that they understand well what I am saying, and I'm going to take their word for it! I have been able to converse more and more with people at church in Spanish as well. Every week it seems to get better, thank God! I'm still planning to return to the University in March when classes start up again, but I might outpace the classes. Part of my preparation is reading through the lesson in Spanish out loud at least three times before I teach it, to become accustomed to the pronunciation. Knowing what I wrote originally, I can see how it is said in Spanish and that gets inserted into my brain quickly. Language acquisition is kind of like an avalanche. You start out small but things keep getting added. The



more that is added, the more it is possible to add even more things at a faster rate. Before you know it, you're speaking the language pretty well!

Another good way to get input from the language is graphic novels that are aimed toward children. There are, of course, lots of pictures and lots of dialogue. Probably the most famous graphic novel for Spanish

speakers is Condorito (little Condor). This character has been around since the 1950s and is actually Chilean in origin. Another example are graphic novels of classic books and stories. There are quite a few available in bookstores here in Chile.



Finally, with the hopes of meeting some of our neighbors and building relationships with those around us, we have just posted a we'd-like-to-meet-you message in our apartment community's WhatsApp group, and have already received some responses. We look forward to meeting new friends and will be praying that God leads us to those who will be open to Him.

God bless!

Bill and Ginger