

Under the Southern Cross

Let It Snow...Or Not?

December 2021

“Let it snow” sounds great while sitting comfortably by a fire or sledding with the grandkids, not so great when you’re driving six hours into a storm, hoping your flight hasn’t been cancelled! It’s been five years since we’ve experienced a North American winter, so our two-month visit has had its share of challenges.

On the other hand, the Lord has blessed us with many enjoyable times with family and friends where we’ve been able to travel since our Nov. 9 arrival in the US. We spent a week at mission headquarters in Florida and a **snowy** Thanksgiving with Diane’s family in Maine, plus helped Emily with home improvement projects and celebrated an early Christmas with her and Christina in South Carolina.

Our oldest daughter Tiffany (with husband and 5 children) moved cross-country to Ruby Valley, Nevada, the first week in Dec. We joined them on the 16th and loved our quiet, **snowbound** holiday. **Let it snow...** Unfortunately, due to Covid vaccine complications, we were unable to cross the border to see Curtis’s loved ones in Canada. 😞

As you may remember, it’s summer in the Southern Hemisphere. No white fluff there right now, but otherwise plenty of “**snowstorms,**” you might say. Though we appreciate those who’ve faithfully served in ministries and year-end activities in Punta Mira, the church has been without a place to gather for almost a year now. Even when we *can* get together, many people have become accustomed to not attending services or they don’t like/can’t do the odd hours when we get to use another church building. Laziness or weariness?—It’s hard to tell.

New believer Gladys is a bright light on the horizon. She just wrote how excited she was to celebrate her first Christmas as a believer!



We traveled back east on New Year’s Eve and will be spending the upcoming week at GMSA’s annual conference (in Florida, for the first time) before heading to Chile on Jan. 15th. Daughter Christina will be returning with us. We all know we’re moving into an uncertain future: Chile recently voted in a new, extreme-left-leaning president. The country writhes with social and economic unrest. Covid restrictions and protocols change so frequently that it’s exhausting to keep up.

BUT if it “snows”—and it no doubt will—we also trust that we’re safe in the Hand of the One who created and sustains each of us. **Thank you for praying us through the storms.**



Curtis & Diane Steward

PLEASE NOTE: Our new home is in a non-urbanized sector of Coquimbo called **Totalillo** and has no street address. Please send all paper correspondence to the mission’s **Florida address**.

csteward@gmsa.org

011-56-98-527-1931 (Phone Curtis)

011-56-96-375-4670 (Phone Diane)

Gospel Mission of South America

1401 SW 21st Ave.

Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312

P.O. Box 150

St. Charles, ON P0M 2W0

Prayer Requests

- For the Punta Mira church’s urgent need to find a suitable property.
- For strength, wisdom, and grace in our ongoing ministry in Chile and for plans for summer and coming-year programs.
- For Diane’s health concerns, that we’ll find the needed medical attention soon.
- For Christina as she settles in, that she’ll be able to care for paperwork quickly and find a job and home, that the Lord will use her.
- For the family of Diane’s niece Jennifer, who passed away Dec. 6.
- For Coquimbo pastor’s wife Myrian’s ongoing cancer treatments.