

# AUGUST 2020



I met Martin last year. We were attempting to connect with the neighbourhood and decided to launch a series of encounters and talks. To promote it we used social media ads for the first time. One of the talks was called 'The Bible from A to Z'. It was an introductory talk on the Bible and ended with an invitation to join a course with the same name. Martin was there. He felt overwhelmed with what he had discovered that night, so he decided to take the course.

Now, Martin was the only newcomer who actually committed to the course after the initial talk. If you have ever organised an event or a course you will know that only one person after all that work can be quite discouraging. Besides, he was not particularly keen on Christianity and identified himself as a Buddhist, even after the course. It certainly didn't look like a success for me.

When COVID-19 spread in Chile around April, we decided to start an evangelistic series via Zoom. Around ten people decided to join, among them Martin. His attitude was always respectful, but he was the one putting me on the ropes. He was asking the harsh questions with the same scepticism as before. In spite, he persevered through all those weeks. From recent conversations I understood that from the beginning he felt something captivating about the biblical preaching on Jesus.

Then, about two months ago, Martin decided to identify publicly as a Christian.

Martin is a film maker and invited me to host an online streaming of one of his movies, followed by an online conversation about it. Around 20 people joined the event. I understood, then, that he had not just been a Buddhist but a Buddhist teacher. Most of the people who attended the event were his followers and students. After the movie, Martin said to all of them that he had discovered Jesus and he was now a Christian. He asked me to explain the gospel to his friends and invited them to come to our new series of conversations on the Gospel of Mark. Seven of them wrote to me to ask to join the meetings.

This Thursday we start our series in Mark and we have 13 people signed up. None of them are church members. None of them have studied the Bible. Most of them identify as non-Christians.

Last year was a tough year. I thought all those evangelistic efforts were a failure. Now, as I write this story, I remember our Lord's words in Mark 4:26-29:

*'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All*

*by itself the soil produces corn – first the stalk, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. As soon as the corn is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.'*

Our evangelistic failure or success is not determined by what we see but by what God decides to do with it. Our part is to persevere, knowing that it is our Lord Jesus who will certainly produce fruit in us and through us.

Maybe this bizarre time will become harvest time. Maybe it is sowing time. But it certainly it is not time to quit. Brothers and sisters, let us stand together in our effort to declare the Good News of Jesus Christ to this world. And, if it pleases the Lord, may we be able to see the fruits.

### Please pray for us

- During the COVID-19 crisis our online meetings have been instrumental for a stream of newcomers that are now part of the church family. Please join us in praising our Lord for these families that have come near him.
- We have just launched two online Bible Conversation Groups and we suspect it will be necessary to launch another one. Please pray that many people come to discover and enjoy the God of the Bible. Pray also for us to take wise decisions for the advance of the kingdom of God.
- During the first semester we trained a handful of disciples and they are each starting to launch small groups of discipleship. Around 30 people will be part of this during this semester. Please pray for those who are weak in their faith, so that they can be strengthened. Pray also for those who are thriving, so that they can become disciple-making-disciples.
- Lucía was born on 25 May and she is a beautiful healthy baby. Please join us in giving thanks to the Lord for her and pray for me and my wife Sabrina, that we can enjoy raising her as we seek to carry out our responsibilities.



Diego Pacheco  
Iglesia Cristo Redentor Vitacura

1ª Pedro 1:1 "Pedro, apóstol de Jesucristo, a los elegidos extranjeros dispersos por el Ponto, Galacia, Capadocia, Asia y Bitinia"

Reproducción del chat destacado ▾

- cuarentena.
- Cristián Bone holaaaa
- Ingrid Soto Buenos días a todos. Dios les bendiga
- Diego Pacheco Torrealba ¡Los Pacheco Wainberg somos fans de Ellie y Theo!
- MILY PALMA Buenos días a los hermanos de la iglesia Cristo Redentor. Bendiciones.
- Claudia Venegas Que tengan todos un buen domingo a todos y una bendecida semana
- Christian Aranda Bellenger Son geniales el
- Christian Aranda Bellenger Club de Jesus
- Rubén Alvarez Hola Chris, Diego y Claudia.
- Christian Aranda Bellenger Holaaaaaa
- Claudia Rubio Hola a todos!
- maricel san miguel! hola soi tomass kebueno dios y jesus
- Diego Pacheco Torrealba Hola Tommy!, un abrazo!
- Diego Pacheco Torrealba Hola Claudia, ¡bienvenida!