

Breads Around the World

Chile

UCC Hunger Action Office

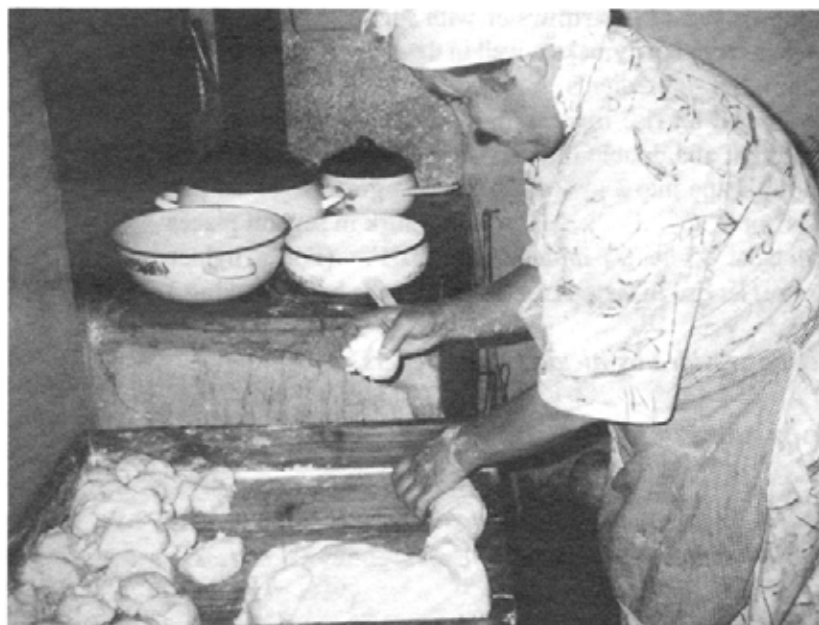
World Ministries in the U.S. and Canada

"OUR HOMES ARE SMALL BUT OUR HEARTS ARE BIG"

These are the words of Pastora Sara Aguayo who, with her husband Pastor Oscar, returned to Chile after a year of service to the Massachusetts Conference as "Missionaries-in-Residence." The Aguayos live and work in Concepcion where they carry out the mission of the Iglesia Pentecostal de Chile (Pentecostal Church of Chile): to evangelize and support the poorest segment of Chilean society. Pastor Aguayo holds a full time job during the week to support his ministry. "The poverty of Concepcion was more than we had expected to find," said a visitor to Chile from the Massachusetts Conference. "Yet in the midst of all the material poverty, we experienced a richness of spirit, of resilience, and of Christian community second to none."

This richness of spirit is one of the gifts that the Iglesia Pentecostal de Chile (IPC) brings to the partnership established in 1985 with the UCC. The UCC provides grants for seminary education, support for those facing political and social violence, and facilitates the mission partnership begun in 1991 between 17 IPC churches and the Massachusetts Conference.¹

The IPC was founded in 1945 by the late Bishop Enrique Chavez Campos. For years, members had to worship in secret because it was illegal to practice any form of religious expression besides that of the state supported Roman Catholic church. Churches were burned and church-goers were stoned in the street.² Despite persecution, the church has flourished. 140 pastors serve 400 congregations and preaching points, reaching 40,000 adult members, 20,000 youth members and 30,000 children.³ Today the church demonstrates a very public faith: members gather to walk several blocks to their church singing, preaching, giving testimony to their faith and glorifying God; cries of "¡Gloria a Dios!" fill the air.



Each year since 1992, an active exchange of gifts has flowed between members of the IPC and the UCC Massachusetts conference. In addition to the service of the Aguayos as "Missionaries-in-Residence," delegates from the IPC have attended Massachusetts conference meetings, participated in a Global Mission Seminar and sponsored a visit to Massachusetts by a group of young Chilean performers. The UCC Women's Fellowship joined women of the IPC Dorcas society to buy 12 sewing machines which rotate from congregation to congregation so the church women can use them to make clothing for needy members of their community. A group of volunteers from Massachusetts helped to build an administration center in Curico. Delegates from Massachusetts attend the Annual Meeting of the IPC. In recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the IPC, the Massachusetts delegation presented a baptismal font to be used by the Central Church in Curico.

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Chilean Breads

Pan Amusado

IPC President Ulisses Muñoz drew a lesson from the baking of Pan Amusado. As you mix and knead the various ingredients, "remember that we must be like yeast causing the dough to rise. This is a symbol of the unity of our two churches. We are the yeast and the flour working together to make one loaf."

Recipe:

About 2¾ cups flour (400 gr.)
1 package yeast dissolved in ¼ cup warm water with 1 teaspoon sugar
1 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons melted butter
About 1 cup warm water (enough to make a soft dough)

Dissolve yeast in warm water with sugar. Mix flour and salt in a large bowl; make a well in the flour. Into the well, pour other ingredients and mix to form a soft dough. Cover and let rise in a warm place for 2½ to 3 hours or until light and double in bulk. Knead lightly on a floured board, shape into a loaf and place in a greased bread pan 8"x4" or 9"x5". Prick the top with a fork in several places and bake 45 to 60 minutes @ 350°F. (For a lighter texture, let rise in the pan for about ½ hour before baking.)

Recipe provided by Alcida Garcia Jeffers.

Sopaipilla

Traditionally eaten at tea-time during the winter, especially on cold, rainy days.

Recipe:

½ cup cooked, mashed squash, slightly salted*
1 to 1¼ cup water
4 cups flour
4 tablespoons melted shortening or vegetable oil
1 teaspoon baking powder
Oil for deep frying

*If you cook a watery squash like zucchini, mash without draining and use 1 cup of mixture; reduce water to about 1 cup.

Mix all ingredients together, adding enough water to make a paste-like consistency. Turn dough out on a floured board and knead lightly for easier handling. Shape in

circles ½ inch thick and 4 inches in diameter. Fry in deep, hot oil, turning once, until golden. These are best eaten hot as is or with sugar and cinnamon.

Recipe provided by Elena Huegel.

Tortilla

Chilean tortillas are a kind of bread preferably baked in the ashes of a fireplace. Prepare the fireplace by allowing wood to burn to embers. Push the embers aside for the tortilla, then place some of the embers on top of it as well. Brush ashes off before eating. This version is adapted to bake in the oven.

Recipe:

About 1½ cups warm water
1 teaspoon salt
4 cups flour
2 tablespoons cooking oil or melted vegetable shortening
2 teaspoons baking powder

Preheat oven @ 425-450°F. Mix flour and baking powder together in a large bowl. Add shortening. Mix salt with the warm water and pour slowly into the flour mixture until dough can be handled but is still quite stiff and not sticky. Knead lightly until thoroughly blended. Pat into a round loaf about 1 inch thick. Place in hot oven on preheated baking sheet and bake for about 20 to 30 minutes.

Recipe provided by Elena Huegel.



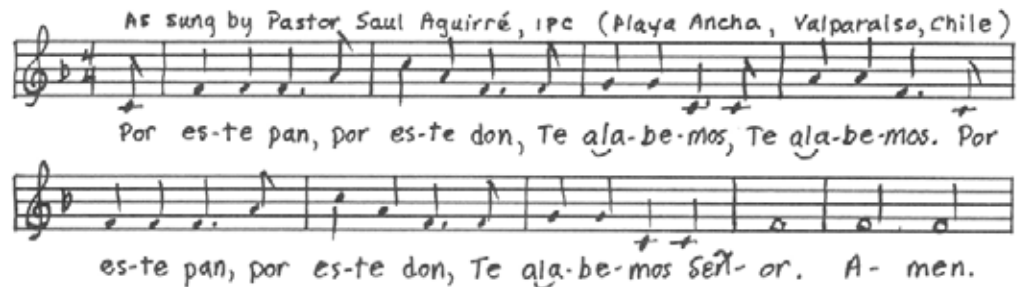
A Service for Breaking the Bread

Scripture Reading: Psalm 8

Hymn: "How Great Thou Art" (¡Cuan Grande Es El!")

Meditation (based on the following): Bread has a special meaning in the Chilean church. The sermon is often called "Bread" - "The word of the Lord which is fresh today, which we need every day." The preacher may say, "I have the bread ready for you," or a church member might advise the congregation, "It is now time to prepare ourselves to receive the fresh bread from the word of the Lord."

Hymn: "Chilean Grace"
(For this our bread,
For these our gifts,
We praise you, God.
Amen.)



Offering of the bread followed by response:

Leader: Christ lives! (¡Cristo vive!)
All: Yes, Christ lives! (¡Sí, vive!)
Leader: His name? (¿A su nombre?)
All: Glory! (¡Gloria!)
Leader: To whom do we belong? (¿De quién somos?)
All: To Christ! (¡De Cristo!)
Leader: With whom will we go? (¿Con quién vamos?)
All: With Christ! (¡Con Cristo!)⁴

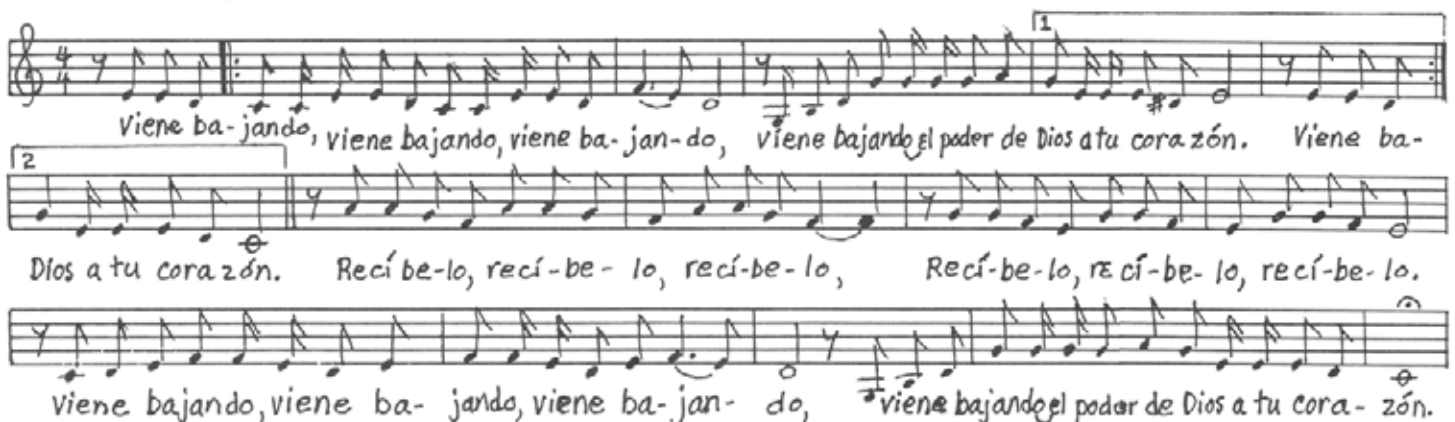


Offering of the Cup followed by response above.

Prayer of Dedication:

All: The Lord cares for all creation. Let us rejoice!
Leader: You show your care for the land by sending rain; you make it rich and fertile.
All: You fill the streams with water; you provide the earth with crops.
Leader: This is how you do it: You send abundant rain on the plowed fields and soak them with water.
All: You soften the soil with showers, and cause the young plants to grow.
Leader: What a rich harvest your goodness provides! Wherever you go there is plenty.
All: The fields are covered with sheep: the valleys are full of wheat. Everything shouts and sings for joy!
Leader: All living things look hopefully to you; and you give them food when they need it.
All: You give enough and satisfy the needs of all. Amen⁵

Hymn: "Viene Bajando" (The power of God is descending on your heart. Receive Him.) Words and music by Pastor Gerard Valdivia



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You don't have to go to Chile, however, to attend a service at an IPC Church. Pastor Gerard Valdivia's thriving Pentecostal Church of Sunset Park serves the Chileno population in Brooklyn, New York, where they are members of the Metropolitan Association.

Chile is a land of contrasts. With the highest literacy rate in South America and that region's fastest growing economy, 30 percent of the people live in poverty. It is this 30 percent that is served by the Pentecostal Church of Chile. The UCC partnership with the IPC allows us to share this valuable mission.

*"It [visit to IPC in Chile] was a deeply moving and humbling experience for all of us ... Our hosts were all materially poor, but so spiritually rich... I am forever changed by my journey to the Pentecostal Church of Chile."*⁶

*"...congregational worship includes everyone and is full of life. People of all ages take part: children playing tambourines, women singing in the choir, and people of all ages testifying to their faith. Vibrant music and witnessing God's goodness are central to the services."*⁷

World Ministries in the U.S. and Canada

Your congregation can participate in a variety of ministries with Christians in Chile. If you are interested in establishing a partnership with a congregation in Chile, please write for global church partnership materials. Also ask for information about international youth programs, global education and advocacy, and multicultural projects.

Church Partners in Chile Pentecostal Church of Chile

World Ministries
in the United States and Canada
United Church Board for World Ministries
700 Prospect Ave., 6th Floor
Cleveland, OH 44115
(216)736-3210

Hunger Action

The United Church of Christ Hunger Action program affirms a holistic approach to anti-hunger work: prayer and worship; direct feeding; education; lifestyle; public action; and financial support in each of these areas. Our office is committed to work with you to help in developing your holistic approach to anti-hunger work.

Breads Around the World is a collaborative effort between the UCC Hunger Action Office and the United Church Board for World Ministries. It is an expression of Hunger Action's responsibility to provide the United Church of Christ with education and worship resources on hunger and poverty.

Breads: Chile is the sixth in a series. To receive *Breads: Africa; Breads: Middle East; Breads: Caribbean; Breads: India; Breads: China*; additional copies of this resource; or a list of all resources available from the Hunger Action program, please contact:

UCC HUNGER ACTION
700 Prospect Ave., 3rd Floor
Cleveland, OH 44115
(216)736-3290

References:

1. Massachusetts Conference Newsletter, 1991.
2. The Reverend E.A. King, Massachusetts Conference 1998 delegate.
3. Newsletter, 1991.
4. *Gifts of Many Cultures*, Maren C. Tirabassi and Kathy Wonson Eddy; UCC Press, Cleveland, 1995. Used by permission.
5. *Banquet of Praise*, Bread for the World, 1990. Used by permission.
6. Massachusetts Conference UCC, 1997 Partnership Report.
7. Ibid.

Acknowledgements:

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