The Inca and Mapuche ruled Chile until Spain colonized the land in the 16th century. In 1810, Chile declared its independence. A long, slender nation along the western coast of South America, Chile stretches from the middle of the continent down to the tip of its southern horn. In fact, its Isla Navarino houses the southernmost human settlement outside of Antarctica. As a result of its length, Chile’s climate ranges from desert to Mediterranean to chilly. Sections of its Atacama Desert haven’t seen a raindrop in recorded history. Four species of penguin reside in Chile, as well as the pudú, the world’s smallest deer.

Eighteen million people call Chile home, 90% of whom reside around Santiago, the capital city. Democracy and recent economic reforms have brought growth to the country and cut the nation’s poverty in half. Chile has the largest reserves of copper on Earth, rendering it the world’s biggest supplier. It also produces significant amounts of the world’s lithium and salmon.

Although the nation has historical Roman Catholic roots, with two-thirds of the population claiming it as their own, only a small number attend church regularly. A growing number of Chileans ascribe to agnosticism or atheism, which renews the need for Gospel outreach.

Lutheran Hour Ministries conducts outreach in Chile through mass media, technology, and interpersonal channels.

**Ministry Response**

There is tremendous opportunity to share God’s love and reach out with the Gospel in Chile. Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM–Chile) responds to the spiritual hunger across this South American country through a variety of strategies:

**HOLISTIC OUTREACH.** As these individuals experience these acts of love, it creates opportunities to share the Gospel—the catalyst for that love in action—with them. Our Mercy program reaches out to impoverished families with medicine, diapers, and other provisions. We meet similar needs with elderly individuals unable to provide for themselves.

**SPECIAL EVENTS.** Each year, we host 10 conferences, centered around topics of popular interest, in locations throughout Chile. We design the events for immigrants and young Chileans, with a special emphasis on those who do not know Christ. These conferences serve as an introductory relationship, which we develop further when attendees enroll in Bible Correspondence Courses (BCCs).
DIGITAL OUTREACH. Young adults gravitate to the internet seeking help, including millions who are curious—or have doubts—about Christianity. The Vivenciar.net website serves as our hub for digital outreach in Chile and throughout Latin America. Through Vivenciar, we establish online relationships with individuals and provide biblically-based answers for their lives. Eventually, as God opens their hearts, we share the Gospel with them and guide them into church. In addition, for people ages 15-30 who live in Santiago, LHM–Chile’s Mi Camino website publishes feature stories, highlights within the city, and spiritual insight. This helps them as they transition to independence in their lives.

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES. LHM–Chile offers Bible Correspondence Courses (BCCs) to introduce the Gospel to people who don’t know Jesus, and to reinforce a biblical understanding for people who do. When someone responds to an outreach activity, LHM–Chile will typically invite the respondent to begin a BCC as the next step in his or her spiritual journey. BCCs are available for both children and adults.

YOUTH MINISTRY. Throughout the country, we conduct Bible school events for youth while they are on winter vacation. These events are evangelistic in nature, reaching out to the communities in the vicinity of local congregations. Many parents accompany their kids, too—and hear of Christ’s offer of salvation for them.

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS. LHM–Chile recruits volunteers and provides Equipping the Saints workshops that train volunteers to reach out to people with the Word of God in effective ways. We partner with local congregations to offer sessions on evangelism and stewardship. After attending the sessions, believers feel more confident sharing the Gospel with their neighbors and inviting them to local congregations.

Impact

DELIVERED FROM DARKNESS: How God Used Lutheran Hour Ministries to Help Prevent a Mother from Ending Her Life

Years of depression left Natalia shackled and lonely. She mustered the will to continue living—but only for the sake of her eight-year-old daughter, Maite.

Natalia lives in Chile. Although she had attended church there, she had broken ties years ago. She’d set her Bible aside, too. Deep down, she knew abandoning those spiritual anchors had left her vulnerable and empty.

One day, at a local health center, Natalia discovered a booklet about anxiety from LHM–Chile. She read its pages—and felt a flicker of hope. She called to ask who we are and what we do. Our ministry director in Chile invited her for a visit. Natalia accepted the invitation. And brought little Maite, too.

Ministry staff welcomed them with Christ’s love. Natalia received more literature. She also signed up for LHM’s Bible Correspondence Courses, which helped her grow in her faith. Step by step, using those courses as a guide, Natalia studied the Bible. She grew stronger. She and Maite found a local congregation, where they remain rooted today.

Natalia feels encouraged and energized—and, once again, enjoys the gift of life with Jesus at its heart.

LHM.ORG/GLOBAL