



AFLC World Missions News

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May 2025



People Are Necessary For Kingdom Work

BY: REV. EARL KORHONEN, DIRECTOR OF WM

Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil make up the tri-nation vision of our first AFLC missionary, John Abel. Those nations were chosen because missionaries Pastor John and Ruby Abel, who previously served in Brazil, had a network of friends and hoped to reach across the nearby borders of Paraguay and Argentina with the gospel. In the 1980s, the Charles Knapp family served in Paraguay, and now the Matthew and Ednay Abel and Zachariah and Carey Ritland families have calls there. But Argentina remains without an AFLC presence. Why? Because we have no one to send and we have no workers in that country.

AFLC World Missions needs workers to accomplish our church-planting vision. We have already gone well beyond the original Tri-Nation Vision by starting works in Mexico, India, Uganda, and Switzerland. And now we have a pastor in Chile who desires fellowship with us. Chile is a long, narrow, mountainous country along the West coast of South America. It is noted for its Patagonia mountains, rugged

desert landscapes, its Pacific islands—most notably Easter Island—and its capital, Santiago. However, Chile's most valuable resource is its people, and they need Jesus. Pastor Patricio Rivero Bravo is already discipling people in Santiago. But they desire to have an AFLC congregation. For the past four years, Pastor Patricio has been seeking fellowship with a Lutheran, pietistic, and doctrinally sound group of congregations. After two years of communication with Matthew Abel in Paraguay, we invited him to the annual conference in Brazil, where he met with and was interviewed by our missionaries and the Brazilian leadership. The Brazil church approved Patricio for their clergy roster last November.

An engineer by trade, Patricio works full-time at a steel fabrication facility and serves as a volunteer chaplain for the fire department in Santiago. His care and ongoing discipleship with the firefighters and their families have shown him the need for a biblically sound congregation in the community.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your continued prayer and financial support of the AFLC World Missions Department! Our missionaries rely upon regular monthly gifts for their Personal Support. We ask that you would prayerfully consider supporting World Missions and our Missionaries through your generous donations.

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3110 E Medicine Lake Blvd
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**“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?”
-Romans 10:14**



Out of respect for our AFLC polity and dependence upon our congregations for prayer and financial support, the World Missions Board is seeking guidance from the World Missions Corporation and the AFLC Annual Conference to open Chile as a field of work. We are seeking immediate prayer support and guidance by the Holy Spirit for this new work. There is no financial commitment at this time, but we pray that God will one day call more workers or

teams to encourage the work in Chile. In Romans 10 Paul makes the point that people are necessary for Kingdom work. Instead of calling a missionary to begin the work in Chile, God has already provided Pastor Patricio to work the field. Please join us in prayer for this opportunity!

-REV. DR. EARL KORHONEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AFLC WORLD MISSIONS



PHOTO: PASTOR PATRICIO AND HIS FAMILY



From the Field

- Zachariah and Carey Ritland, of Radcliffe, Iowa, have completed their missionary training and are visiting congregations seeking prayer and financial partners. They will be commissioned at the Annual Conference.
- Todd and Barb Schierkolk seek continued prayer for therapy and healing for their 6-month old granddaughter, Sanna, who is recovering from infant botulism.
- Michael Rokenbrodt is looking forward to heading back to Uganda in July, Lord willing to work with the Ambassador Free Living Church in Jinja.
- Paul and Becky Abel: are looking forward to furlough June-November 2025. They will be visiting congregations this summer and fall. Look for them at the Annual Conference!
- Jonathan & Tamba Abel continue their discipleship ministry and Jonathan's pastoral duties with the congregation in Maringa, as well as Bible camp at the Fazenda.
- Jonni Sliver asks for prayer during her furlough now through September, 2025. Look for her at the Annual Conference!
- Continue to pray for John Lee's teaching in the Brazil seminary and discipleship of students.
- Matthew and Ednay Abel are praising the Lord for the completed walls on the Pavilion project! Next project: a cement floor.
- AFLC-India: It's exciting to report that the Bible school in India is being attended by 11 students. Pray for their equipping! Pastor Luther and Vardhini will be at the Annual Conference and plan to visit some congregations in June.

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