

## Update 3: Earthquake in Chile

*4th March. Melvin Rivera Velázquez, UBS Americas Area Secretary, writes:*



Dear colleagues,

This morning, Claudio González from the Bible Society of Chile (BSC) returned to Santiago with his family, who had traveled to Concepción to pick him up. Claudio reports that the local staff is alright but in need of food supplies.

This situation is really critical—yesterday the government sent in 15,000 soldiers to protect Concepción's residents because supermarkets and pharmacies had been ransacked, department stores had been set on fire, and homes were being broken in while the owners were inside.

Francisco Viguera said today, "There is a curfew in effect from 6:00 pm to 12:00 noon. There are over 2,000,000 people who lost everything, and every day more buildings are being evacuated because they are in serious risk of collapsing. In Santiago, 500 buildings were closed off and await demolition because the damage is beyond repair.

Along the coast, several towns disappeared after the tsunami."

### **Pray**

The BS of Chile is thankful to the Lord because all the staff is alright, but they urgently need to provide them with food. The promoter for Talca, Gilberto Cáceres, the promoter for Chillán, Leonel Aguayo, and the lady in charge of the Concepcion branch and two other employees, they all need food supplies urgently.

Last night, Francisco met with leaders from World Vision, the Salvation Army and Campus Crusade to organize a coordinated response to aid the people who are suffering.

### **The needs of the BSC are the following:**

1. Resources to buy food supplies for the five most affected families who live in the area of the earthquake.
2. Financial support to publish the Bible portion "Refuge and Strength" already sent in to the printer (10,000 copies) and other Bible materials.
3. Assistance to cover payroll for the next two months. The country is at a standstill. They have not made any sales nor received any donation in the past three days.

Alfredho Altamirano is working with BSC staff on an urgent project to bring to the people the message of hope in the word of God.

**Let us continue to pray for Francisco, his staff, the Board, and all the people of Chile.**

Cordially,

Melvin Rivera Velázquez  
Americas Area Secretary