

THE BOLICK REPORT



**News from the
Bolick Family
International Ministries,
ABC-USA Missionaries
in Chile**

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The Pentecostal Vision of Missions

What can Pentecost have to do with missions?

Everyone heard about the “wonders of God” in their own language, says Acts 2:10-11. It says that people from fifteen cultures and language groups believed in Jesus and became his followers. The church would move into the context of every culture mentioned in those explosive first centuries of growth.

The core of our missionary identity is that Pentecostal vision: respecting and using the culture and language of believers to equip them for Christ-like ministry and mission.

Towards a Mapuche way of doing missions

Recently, the Mapuche churches that we work with gathered for a weekend of workshops to reflect on the relationship between their culture and the Christian faith. We invited Josué Fonseca, the Dean and Professor of Missions and Spirituality at the Baptist Theological Seminary in Santiago to teach and lead the conversations.



Josué began by explaining how human cultures are part of God’s creation. We are created to be productive stewards of creation. God uses our languages, symbols, traditions, and history to communicate His word.

Then he told how Jesus, God incarnate, lived in a specific culture, subjecting his life and ministry to its way of experiencing everything, such as customs, ways of dress, languages, worldview, laws, and food traditions.

Josué has a dynamic and pastoral way of teaching and he fully immersed himself in the Mapuche way of life, staying in their homes and eating with them. He was able to stir up and minister to the longings, often unexpressed, that many of our Mapuche brethren have to be disciples of Jesus without losing their identity.

Too often the pattern of evangelization of indigenous peoples has been one of domination: the insistence that they reject every religious element of their culture and adopt the dominant culture’s way of dress, language, music and church practices.

Josué urged the Mapuche churches not to be ashamed of their culture, because God gave it to them. He urged them to use their language, their traditions, and their musical instruments, all that God gave them, to live and communicate the Gospel. We are free, he said, to transform our culture so that it can express our faith.



A Pentecostal Experience

These workshops were like a revival. Many finally grasped why we have dedicated so much time to the Mapudungun New Testament and other endeavors that highlight their Mapuche identity.

Our Vision

We believe that “when Mapuche churches and their communities are secure in their identity as people made in God’s image, practicing their vocation to be productive stewards of God’s creation, unashamed, they will be equipped to do Christ-like ministry, the Mapuche way.”

You are invited to join the Missionary Partnership Network of individuals and churches who support the work of the Bolick family through prayer and/or giving. To learn more about their MPN or to receive their e-mail journals contact the Church Relations Advocate, Betty Helpa at betty.helpa@gmail.com