

# REDEEMING THE TIME

*"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16).*

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## "Herein is love ..."

BY BRAD K. GSELL

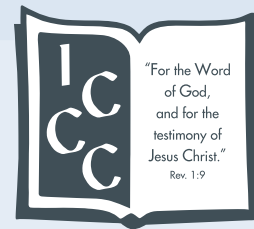
*Message delivered at the opening service and ceremonies of the 20th World Congress of the International Council of Christian Churches, January 22, 2020, Puerto Montt, Chile.*

**B**eloved Brethren, it is a great joy to my heart to be here in united fellowship with all of you, from every corner of this globe, from every inhabited continent — Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and North and South America — as we begin this 20th World Congress of the International Council of Christian Churches. The theme of this Congress is taken from the Apostle John's First Epistle, which has as its overarching theme that "God is love."

And thus, we as believers in the 21st century can join in saying with the Apostle John, with all confidence and gratitude in our hearts, as recorded in 1 John 4:16: "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love."

In 1 John 4:10, the theme verse chosen for this Congress, we read, and I will begin with verse 9: "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live

*Continued on page 2*



**ICCC**  
2020

**W**hen the opening service of the 20th World Congress of the International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC) was called to order on Wednesday evening, January 22, 2020, the main floor of the Arena Puerto Montt was full, with standing room only. Over 1,000 were in attendance. Delegates and friends had assembled from every corner of the globe in united witness "For the Word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 1:9).

The local Chilean Planning Committee, under the very capable chairmanship of the Rev. José Héctor Oyarce, of Valdivia, Chile, had done a splendid job over 15 months to pull every detail together, in cooperation with ICCC leadership. Elder Stephen Ricker of

*Continued on page 15*



**International Council  
of Christian Churches  
20th World Congress**

## "HEREIN IS LOVE ..."

*Continued from page 1*

through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

John tells us, "If you want to know what love is, here it is! I am about to tell you! God, the Father determined, from all eternity, to send His only begotten Son, His beloved Son, into the world to die on the cross that we who were dead in trespasses and sins, might have everlasting life and "live through Him!"

This was not just some mere sentiment on the part of God. As we read in verse 9, God "MANIFESTED" His love "toward us." God's love was so genuine, so overwhelming, so sincere, that He GAVE, He SACRIFICED, that which was most precious and dear to Him — His only begotten Son.

Often when we read John 3:16, probably the most wellknown verse in all of the Bible, we think of the end of the verse — about receiving everlasting life. How very precious

that is to us. However, we must not forget that "God so loved the world, that HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON...."

This is the very definition of love — God sacrificing that which was of most value, of highest cost, of greatest love, so that sinners could drink of the water of life freely and be saved from eternal damnation.

### Why Was God "Pleased"

Some have questioned, if this was supposed to be such a great sacrifice of God, why Isaiah 53:10 tells us: "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand."

Make no mistake about it. God took no delight in the mere fact that His Son was going to suffer and die. This was His Beloved Son! We would have a hard time reconciling Psalm 145:17 with a God who took delight in torture and death for its own sake. This verse tells us: "The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works."

God's delight was in the fact that His Son was the only one who could pay the penalty for sin, the only one who could "satisfy divine justice," and the only one who could "reconcile us" to Himself. The end of Isaiah 53:10 says: "and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand." His "pleasure" was the salvation of sinners, and this could only be brought about (to "prosper," if you will), by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

### If God Loved Us, Why Was Christ's Sacrifice Necessary?

Some have also asked why Christ's sacrifice was even necessary if God already loved us. In our day, many have a very shallow view of God, and thus they do not understand the nature of His love and salvation. In

Isaiah 45:21, God Himself tells us: "there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour." Fully interwoven with God's love for sinners is His holiness and justice.

As we just read in Psalm 145:17: "The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works." And the Prophet Habakkuk, in the first chapter of his book, verse 13, speaking to God, says: "Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity." This God, who cannot look upon iniquity, declares His wrath on all unrighteousness.

### God's Wrath

The idea of a God of Wrath is foreign to the thinking of many today. Some are angered at the very thought. They excuse all kinds of sin by saying such things as: "The God I believe in is a God of Love." Their statement is very true, but their understanding of it is tragically flawed.

Sadly, many pulpits today likewise speak profusely of God's love, yet fail to present the wrath of this just God of perfect righteousness.

When did you last hear a sermon on Psalm 7:11: "God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day"?

Or, Psalm 5:5: "... thou [God] hatest all workers of iniquity"?

You may say, "Well, that is just the Old Testament. The God of the New Testament is not like that."

But, the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 25, verse 46, says that the wicked "shall go away into everlasting punishment...."

The Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 1:18: "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness."

There are some today who wrongly like to separate the words of Christ in the Scripture, as if the Apostles and other writers sometimes contradicted Christ. Yet, Jesus Himself





said in Matthew 13:41-42 that “them which do iniquity” shall be cast “into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

Brethren, the Biblical doctrine of hell, the place of fire, and burning, weeping and gnashing of teeth, where there is no rest, where there is outer darkness and separation forever from this holy God, is consistently found throughout the entire Bible.

Brethren, preach the “whole counsel of God”! Do not shy away from teaching that which has such a prominent place in God’s Word.

In the 1700s, one of the most famous sermons of all time was preached by the Rev. Jonathan Edwards in New England, in the United States. It was entitled: “Sinners, in the Hands of an Angry God,” taken from Hebrews 10:31: “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” By the end of the sermon, the people were so convicted of their sins that they were clinging to the pillars in the church building, and many were gloriously saved.

However, by the time the ICCC was formed in 1948, many in the World Council of Churches no longer believed the Bible and denied its teaching as it related to God’s wrath and Christ’s atonement.

Just one example, of many, was Methodist Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, a leader in the apostate World Council of Churches. Bishop Oxnam wrote a book entitled *Preaching in a Revolutionary Age*. In it, he wrote that we should have “justifiable repugnance” at the teaching of God’s wrath and punishment in the Bible, and he countenanced a reference to the God of the Bible as a “dirty bully.” Oxnam continued: “We have long since rejected a conception of reconciliation associated historically with the idea of a Deity that is loathsome. God, for us, cannot be thought of as an angry, awful avenging Being who because of Adam’s sins must have His Shylockian pound of flesh,” a reference to Shakespeare.

This was an attack at the very heart of the Gospel.

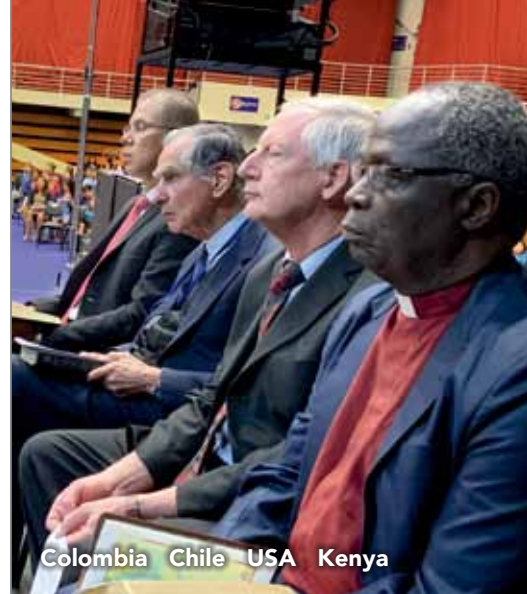
The World Council of Churches today has gone much further than even this example, having supplanted the true gospel of Jesus Christ with a false gospel of “social justice.” The current General Secretary of the WCC, Olav Fykse Tveit, a little over a year ago said that he found the common Biblical understanding of Revelation 21:5, “Behold I [Christ] make all things new” to be “archaic.” He says the WCC has “turn[ed] ... toward a more modern approach to the world ... and urging the churches to focus more on the enormous challenges of THIS world.”

To make himself perfectly clear, the WCC General Secretary further ridicules those who focus on what he calls “pie in the sky bye and bye,” [I challenge our translator to make that rhyme in Spanish!] and cautions his hearers not to be “too focused on the life after this one.”

When it comes to “turning,” we must ask what they have turned FROM. Proverbs 4:20-21, 27 says: “My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.... Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.” This is the message of the ICCC!

In bold contrast to the WCC, the ICCC holds unswervingly to the true Biblical Gospel. The Apostle Paul, the greatest missionary of all time, tells us in Acts 26:18 the whole purpose of His missionary service: “To open their eyes [the eyes of lost souls], and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.” This is the Gospel, the true Gospel, the Biblical Gospel, that the ICCC and its churches declare to the world!

The WCC General Secretary concludes, “... may God motivate and



guide us in OUR planning OUR work, in anticipation of the coming unity of humankind. Thy kingdom come!” Now, we as Christians are to fight for liberty, and freedom and justice, and show great compassion — the ICCC has given millions of dollars over the decades to help the poor and suffering — but the WCC has now left any trace of the true Gospel of Christ for a kingdom made with human hands.

In abandoning the God of the Bible, these men with their own plans, their own gospel, “pray unto a god that cannot save,” as Isaiah 45:20 tells us.

We, as Bible-believing Christians in the 21st century, must fully recognize that God’s holiness, justice and wrath are at the very foundation of the true Biblical Gospel — the Good News — of Jesus Christ.

### Man’s Plight

In considering God’s wrath, we will now turn to the state of man since the Fall under Adam.

Romans 5:12 tells us: “Wherefore, as by one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”

The Apostle Paul, earlier in Romans 3:10, quotes David in Psalm

*Continued on page 4*

## "HEREIN IS LOVE ..."

*Continued from page 3*

53:3: "They are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." And verse 23 of Romans 3 says: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God...."

The Prophet Isaiah, in chapter 59, verse 2, of his book tells us clearly where this places all mankind in relation to God: "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."

Sinful men always try to do things in their own power to win God's favor — if they recognize Him at all. But, Titus 3:5 tells us: "NOT by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost."

The Prophet Jeremiah likewas tells us, in simple terms: "You cannot save yourself"! Jeremiah 2:22 says: "For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, yet thine iniquity is marked before me, saith the Lord God." What here is called nitre was a substance found in the Middle East which, when mixed with other ingredients, made a great soap or cleansing agent.

When I was growing up, I remember my grandmother taking lard and other animal fats and mixing it with a perhaps somewhat similar substance called lye. She cooked it on the stove. When it cooled and hardened, she cut bars of soap out of it. That is what they used to wash their clothes, take their baths, and so forth. If you were unfortunate enough to get poison ivy, rubbing some lye soap on it would dry it right up!

Here Jeremiah says that you can take the best soap known to man, the best good works you can produce, and yet that stubborn stain of

sin on your soul will not be diminished in the least in the eyes of a holy God.

### God's Love Manifested

Yet, in the midst of all the gloom of man's fallen state, and having the just wrath and curse of God upon him, we read in Romans 5:8: "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." And, Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

This love of God was not some sort of permissiveness. It was not God winking at our sin and ignoring it. That is the message we often hear in churches today. No, Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:21: "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." The righteousness of Christ did not simply commute our sentence, like when someone is shown clemency and let out of jail before completing his time. A person who is not made to serve his jail sentence is still just as guilty of his crime as before.

But, when God justifies a lost sinner, He accepts and views him as righteous, only for the righteousness of Jesus Christ, which the Bible tells us is imputed to us, and received by faith alone. You are now a "new creature. Old things are passed away, and all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Our God is a God of great mercy, longsuffering, compassion and redemption. The Prophet Micah tells us in chapter 7:18-19: "Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea."

Even in the Old Testament we see God's wonderful plan of redemption through Jesus Christ.

In our theme verse for this Congress, 1 John 4:10, the big word "propitiation" is used. It is very similar in the Spanish and Portuguese Bibles. Some newer translations have sought to use simpler words, such as "sacrifice," in its place. And indeed Christ's work on the cross was a sacrifice. But, in this verse, giving the very definition of love, we also see God's wrath. "Propitiation" carries with it the idea that Christ's atonement placated the wrath of a holy God and made us righteous in His sight.

Christ, as our great High Priest, paid the sacrifice for sin — once for all. Hebrews 7:26-27 says: "For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he [Christ] did once, when he offered up himself."

We have already referred to Psalm 145:17 twice before in this message: "The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works." When you leave tonight, you may very well tell others that the preacher kept repeating himself.

But, what we see in Psalm 145 is so important. The Psalmist shows us both a holy God, but one who at the same time loves and is good to His people. Verses 7-10 say, "They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness." Here God's goodness and holiness are tied closely together. It continues: "The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works. All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee."

*Continued on page 6*





**Top:** Puerto Montt is the capital city of Los Lagos Region of Chile. Here members of the ICCC local planning committee, ICCC president Brad Gsell and ALADIC president Stephen Ricker were entertained in the cabinet chambers by the chief of the cabinet. She is in the middle flanked on either side by two other officials. The chief of the cabinet had called a press conference concerning the ICCC, and introduced the ICCC delegation to the press. **Bottom left:** ICCC leaders met with members of the local planning committee two days before the Congress to finalize all plans. Local committee chairman Rev. José Héctor Oyarce (left) and Congress music director Pastor Luis Leiva (right) did an outstanding job, volunteering countless hours to make the Congress a success. **Bottom Right:** An interview at a regional TV station gave good opportunity to advertise the Congress and to present the gospel.





## "HEREIN IS LOVE ..."

*Continued from page 4*

Immediately after verse 17, about God's holiness, it says in verses 18 and 19: "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them."

The chapter concludes with the very thing that should fill all of our hearts tonight. Verse 21 says: "My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever." Brethren, may we all give praise to God throughout our days that God loved us and gave His Son, our Great High Priest, to die on the cross as the spotless sacrifice for our sins, "once for all," that we might become the very "sons of God."

### **Our Responsibility to Love God and Our Brothers**

For those who have been washed in the precious Blood of Christ, the Apostle John makes quite clear that our salvation is just the beginning of our walk with Christ. When we are redeemed by Christ we are no longer "dead in trespasses and sin." We are no longer at enmity with God. God's Spirit works within us as we become more and more like Christ and die more and more unto sin.

When I was a child, we sang a chorus which sums up rather simply what happens to the man or woman, boy or girl, who is regenerated by the Spirit of God. The chorus states: "Things I loved before have passed away, things I love far more have come to stay!" And John teaches us, in his first Epistle, many things which we will love, and things we will not love, if we are a true child of God. As new creatures, our hearts' desire will radically change to love that which is holy and which God loves.

1. John tells us that we are to love God. 1 John 4:19 states: "We love

**"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."**

1 John 4:10

him, because he first loved us." Even here, we can see the great contrast to verse 10, which says "not that we loved God, but that he loved us." When God loved us, we were vile, guilty sinners who hated God. But now, we love God because He has "delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son" (Colossians 1:13)!

2. We are to love and obey God and His Word: "For this is the love of

God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous" (1 John 5:3).

Peter tells us in 1 Peter 1:15-16: "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation [in all your actions]; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

3. We must love truth and hate error. Those who give a shallow, single-faceted view of God's love need to read the beginning of 1 John 4. Immediately before the very definition of love is given — "Herein is love..." — verse one begins: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." Are we to believe that John is showing this love he is writing about in calling certain men "false prophets"? He is indeed!

Yet, when we properly speak Biblical truth in love, and expose evil — precisely in the same way John does in this passage — many well-meaning people, including many of those in the evangelicalism of our day, will say: "Oh, that's not showing love."

We must be humble in telling forth Biblical truth, and examine ourselves, but we should never allow such criticisms to dissuade us. If the world, and well-meaning evangelicals are critical of us,



# ICCC Executive Committee members present

(not pictured: Rev. Hal Ricker)



they must, of course, be critical of the Apostle John and, really, all the writers of the Old and New Testaments. Brethren, we stand on solid ground. John very clearly tells us in verse 6: “Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.” There is that which is right and that which is wrong. There is that which is good and that which is bad. The apostate churches, and even some evangelical churches, teach that since the overarching theme of the Bible is God’s love, we should not be too concerned about doctrine, we should work with the apostate Protestant churches, the Roman Catholic Church, and so forth. The World Council of Churches even works with and praises the Muslims, Hindus, and many other religions as being pleasing to God. In contrast, unlike many other religions, the Bible-believing Christian has a fervent and real love for the souls of men in every religion, but we know that God says there is a narrow way that leads to life eternal, and that there are “false prophets,” who are on the broad road leading to destruction.

We are to “speak the truth in love,” yet we disobey God if we do not recognize “false prophets,” and that we are to keenly discern that which is truth and that which is error.

The Apostle Paul gives instruction concerning what the love in the heart of Christian should be: “Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good” (Romans 12:9). Nowhere does the Bible present a false love, whereby we are to love evil and betray the truth.

4. We are to be separate from the world. Back in chapter 2, verse 15, it says: “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” This is personal separation from that which is carnal and fleeting, unto a true love for the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word.
5. We are to love one another. Chapter 4:7-8 tells us “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” Verse 20 tells us: “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?”

Some have criticized the ICCC over the decades for believing too much in the Biblical doctrine of separation, but here in the book of 1 John we see that in displaying God’s love there are times when we are to join and fellowship with other faithful believers, such as we are do-

ing this week in this 20th World Congress. Yet, there are also times when we are to separate both ecclesiastically as well as in personal separation from the world.

I believe that the International Council of Christian Churches is one of the grandest displays of those who stand together for truth, love God, love God’s Word, and love one another. We are here from every corner of this planet, yet we have one glorious Saviour who loved us and gave Himself for us. May we seek every day of our lives to be faithful to Him!

Brethren, we look forward to this week ahead of us as we feast upon the Word of God. May 1 John 1:7 be in our hearts: “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” May we find a great outpouring of love for our Saviour and for one another, and may we be encouraged to go back to our homes ready to be good and faithful servants of Jesus Christ till our Lord calls us home or until He returns in the clouds for His saints, with power and great glory. •



*Rev. Brad Gsell is a minister of the Bible Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, NC, and President of the International Council of Christian Churches and of The Independent Board for Presbyterian Foreign Missions.*



*Dios Es Amor* ♦ *God Is Love*

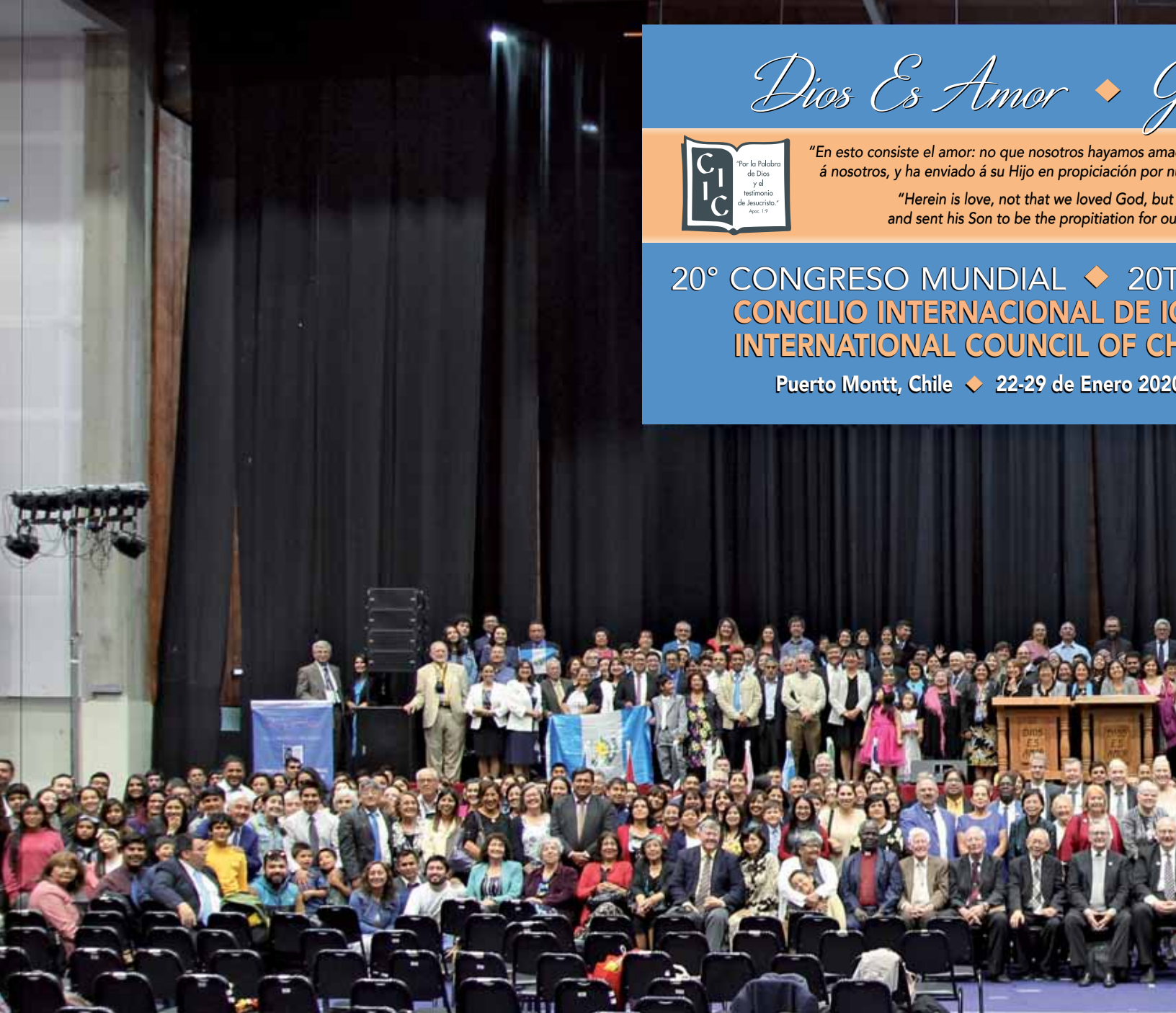


"En esto consiste el amor: no que nosotros hayamos amado a Dios, sino que él nos amó, y ha enviado a su Hijo en propiciación por nosotros."

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

## 20° CONGRESO MUNDIAL ♦ 20TH CONCILIO INTERNACIONAL DE IC INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF CH

Puerto Montt, Chile ♦ 22-29 de Enero 2020

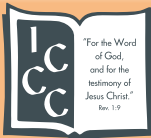




God Is Love

do á Dios, sino que Él nos amó  
uestros pecados." 1 JUAN 4:10

that he loved us,  
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# TH WORLD CONGRESS IGLESIAS CRISTIANAS CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

0 ♦ January 22-29, 2020







Parade of Nations





ICCC General Secretary Ken Olson reads the Preamble to the ICCC Constitution at the opening service of the Congress.



100-voice Unified Chilean Choir, representing those from ICCC churches throughout the country.



The Congress orchestra







ICCC Vice Presidents participating in the opening service: First Vice President Rev. Nadir Carreño, Santiago, Chile (right); Second Vice President Rev. Swhee Hwa Quek, Singapore (Center); and Third Vice President Hall Ricker, Guatemala City, Guatemala (left)



Singapore

Australia



Kenya



Peru





Colombia

Kenya



Singapore

Chile

USA



Brazil



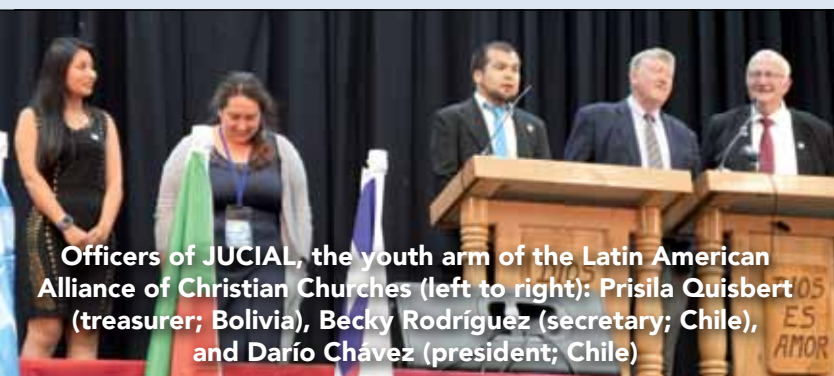
A beautiful banquet was held following the opening service of the Congress.



Chile



# International Christian Youth



Officers of JUCIAL, the youth arm of the Latin American Alliance of Christian Churches (left to right): Prisila Quisbert (treasurer; Bolivia), Becky Rodríguez (secretary; Chile), and Darío Chávez (president; Chile)



Mrs. Sheila Gsell led the Ladies' Conference and spoke on how various ladies of the Bible showed love. Mrs. Melody Bjur served as translator.



## Ladies' Conference







ICCC Treasurer Rev. David Lewis

## ICCC 2020

Continued from page 1

Guatemala, president of the Latin American Alliance of Christian Churches (ALADIC), with his fluency in both English and Spanish, also was tireless in this endeavor. Hundreds or even thousands of e-mails were exchanged, each having to be translated between English and Spanish (Google Translate was a wonderful tool!). The many hundreds of volunteer hours expended were given in thanks and praise to God and for the furtherance of the Gospel.

The theme of the Congress was “God Is Love,” taken from 1 John 4, with verse 10 as the theme verse: “Herein is love, not that we loved God,

but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

Throughout the Congress, nearly 40 messages were delivered touching on many aspects of God’s love for us, and not only our love for our brethren, but also for our enemies, and the poor, widows, orphans and strangers. Obedience to Christ and His Word were emphasized as always being tied in the Scriptures to true love for Him.

The Congress concluded with messages of challenge: “The love of Christ constraineth us ... to abound unto every good work,” and “Thou hast left thy first love” — a call for renewed love and obedience to Christ.

The three ICCC vice presidents gave important messages. First Vice President Dr. Nadir Carreño (Chile) spoke from 2 John and 3 John: “Whom I love in the truth” — the Biblical basis of the ICCC.” Dr. Swee Hwa Quek, Second Vice President (Singapore), spoke from Jeremiah 9:24: “God’s Delight: ‘lovingkindness, judgment and righteousness.’” And, Third Vice President Rev. Hal Ricker spoke on “Our love for our brethren in light of modern disobedient evangelicalism.”

ICCC President Brad Gsell, ICCC General Secretary Ken Olson, and Dan Greenfield, Executive Secretary of the American Council of Christian Churches, conducted a panel dealing with the World Council of Churches and its theme for its 11th World Assembly in 2021: “Christ’s love moves the world to reconciliation and unity.” Rev. Gsell

presented information about the WCC’s socialistic program. Rev. Olson presented what the Biblical Gospel is and is not, and Rev. Greenfield spoke about the Biblical teaching concerning social justice and caring for the poor.

On Sunday, January 25, the City gave the ICCC use of its main city plaza for an outdoor evangelistic service. Rev. Hal Ricker had originally suggested the idea, and led in making the plans. We will have pictures and more information in our next issue of *Redeeming the Time*.

The following officers were re-elected: Rev. Brad Gsell, president; Rev. Nadir Carreño, first vice president; Rev. Swee Hwa Quek, second vice president; Rev. Hal Ricker, third vice president; Rev. Ken Olson, general secretary; and Rev. David Lewis, treasurer.

It was announced that the 21st World Congress of the ICCC will be held in July 2023 at the Bible Presbyterian Church of Collingswood, NJ. People from around the world are already making their plans to attend.

Pray that the Lord will use the ICCC as a united witness in these wicked days “for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Revelation 1:9).

## REDEEMING THE TIME

**Editor: Brad K. Gsell**

**Associate Editor: Mark W. Evans**

*Redeeming the Time* is a quarterly publication with the purpose of encouraging God’s people and applying God’s Word to the issues of our day.

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**e-mail: [redemingthetime@bellsouth.net](mailto:redemingthetime@bellsouth.net)**

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# Herein Is Love

## CONGRESS HYMN

20th World Congress of the International Council of Christian Churches

January 22-29, 2020 • Puerto Montt, Chile

*"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:10).*

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each with four lines of text corresponding to the four parts of the choir. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, time signatures, key signatures, and dynamic markings like '(slight)'. There are also triplet markings (3) over certain notes in the Soprano and Alto parts.

1 Our "God is love," so won-drous, di-vine, He sent His Son for our sins to die;  
2 If we love God, His com-mands we will keep, with Christ our Shep-herd, and we His sheep.  
3 Our Chris-tian bro-thers we are to love, with fel-low-ship in God's Bles-sed Son.

That we might ev-er live through Him, and serve the King, our ris-en Lord!  
A ho-ly life for Christ we'll live, as faith-ful ser-vants of our Lord.  
Built on the truth of His Ho-ly Word, God's glo-rious church shall live for Him.

Here-in is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and gave His Son to die,

The pen-al-ty of sin to pay, and to rec-on-cile us to the Lord.