

Lift your eyes and look on the fields,
That they are white for harvest

John 4:35

Doug & Shelly Kallestad



Dear friends and family,

September 2025

As many of you are heading into fall, we are enjoying the fresh warmth of spring. We pray you are growing closer to God with each new day. The following story is a testimony to God's unfailing love for each one of us, including those who do not yet know Him. May it encourage your heart as it has ours.



Hello! I am Karen.

I belong to the Oriente Church where God touched my heart.

It was May of 2019, when my son Andres, who was 7 years old and myself, would soon be leaving for Chile to join my husband after being apart for a long 12 months. The decision to leave our country, our family, our roots, our home, was not an easy one, yet something very profound led us to make the decision with a confidence and peace that everything would be alright.

Before leaving my home for the last time, I had a moment alone with God. I did not know Him; I did not even know much about Him, but I believed that somehow, He existed. In that moment, I was formally saying goodbye to my home with Him. I talked to Him and told Him that I did not seek luxury or vanity in another country, (as if He didn't already know that). I said to Him: **"God, help me, I only want for my son to have an education... and I also want to know Your ways!"** I thanked Him, crying. Then drying my tears, I left home for the last time.

We landed in Chile on May 11, 2019. It was Saturday and Mother's Day. On Sunday, we went out together to get to know the city and explore our new home. Early Monday morning, I went out to look for a school to enroll Andres in. The first school was too expensive for us, the second public school had openings in every class except for third grade, the grade Andres would be entering. The second school recommended I check into the Oriente Christian School. When I arrived there, everyone was very kind and quick to let me know there were no openings. Still, I was invited to talk to the Director.

The Director of the Oriente Christian School was also kind, confirming there were, in fact, no openings yet as he listened to the story of my life in Venezuela and the decision to go to a new country and start with nothing, it made him pause. He left his office and when he returned, he took his seat again, and said this, "As I told you, there are no available spaces. I have two third grade classes one with 30 students and one with 31." He paused and looked at me with a thoughtful expression on his face, then said "If one has 31 students, the other one can too!"

There were too many emotions to put into words! I laughed; I thanked him. The Director continued, explaining everything I needed to do to get started that very week. I couldn't believe it--- my first objective already accomplished so quickly! I stood up to leave, said my goodbyes, and had nearly closed the door behind me when I heard him call out, asking me to come back in. There was something very important, he had forgotten to tell me.

"The school teaches Christianity---does that bother you?" he asked. Personally, that wasn't something that would stop me from giving my son this opportunity. Then he added," OK. We also have a church right here, and you're invited to join us every Sunday at 11am!" I was stunned. Was this really happening?

In that moment, I froze. The director kept speaking, but my mind drifted back to the quiet conversation I'd had alone in my home. I felt tears welling up--- just a few escaped--- but something deep within me was shifting. All I could think was, *"Someone heard me that day ... and someone has answered."*

Finally, I said goodbye and left the office. As I walked back to my new home, I felt as if I were floating---completely overwhelmed, trying to make sense of it all. *Who was I, I wondered, to receive such a perfect answer? Could I really be that important to this someone called God?*

That Sunday, my second Sunday in Chile, for the first time we entered ICI Oriente. Of course, I invited my husband and son to come along. We arrived late---but even that felt like a triumphal entrance. All eyes turned as we walked in, and somehow it didn't feel awkward. It felt like we were meant to be there. We took our seats in the second row. Everything was perfect for me. That is how God captivated my heart. That is how I knew I had a father who truly loved me!

Today, I am deeply thankful that God looked upon me. Knowing Him has refreshed my soul---He has brought love and order into my life and into my family. We came as partners, now we are husband and wife. We arrived not knowing Him, and now we know Him, we love Him, and we boldly declare that He is our Savior.

We came to Chile as three---and now we are four. Together, we serve in our local church, and I testify to the joy of true fellowship. *But above all things, I give testimony to this one truth: the call of God will always come wrapped in bonds of love.*

Karen Ipus, ICI Oriente, Chile

This year the Oriente Christian school is celebrating 25 years of serving the community. Thank you for supporting this and other IAM works where God uses His church and ministries focused on children to transform lives and lovingly bring people into His Kingdom. Your prayers, commitment and faithful support are making a difference in the lives of people around the world!

Here's a quick update on our life in ministry... In May, we helped Seba and Christy move their family to Sierra Leon. Thank you again for your prayers! God has given them many unexpected opportunities to be used by Him. Please continue to pray for them; for health and for wisdom as they make decisions for their ministry next year. Please pray God's continued protection over the boys!

The day after we arrived in Chile from Africa, Doug left for Ecuador. In June God gave us the gift of a time for rest and renewal at a Retreat hosted by Canyon Hills Christian Church in Seattle, WA. On this trip, we were also able to spend precious time with family!

Doug was just in Paraguay with Marcelo Puentes our Chilean church planter celebrating the church's fifth anniversary. Marcelo and his family will be returning to Chile at the end of the year due to Marcelos health condition. He has multiple myeloma. Please be praying for Marcelo and Sandra as they make the transition back to Chile. Also pray for wisdom and perservance for the leaders and for a permanent location for the church in Paraguay.

In October, we have two teams going to Ecuador. Shelly and I will join them. Pray that these trips would be fruitful for the kingdom. We will be working in our centers for vulnerable children and teaching on marriage among other things.

Doug will be traveling to a missions conference in the States in mid November and then to southern Chile when he gets back. Please keep those trips in your prayers; that God would lift up more workers for His harvest and that in the south our relationship with the indigenous pewenche people would continue to grow as we share food and fellowship.

It has been a busy year so far with a lot of traveling but very fruitful. Doug is still working with a group of very fine young preachers that are taking more and more leadership responsibility in the local church while Doug is dedicating more time to the various fields we are working in helping the national leadership do the same thing he is doing at a local church level. It has been challenging and rewarding!



Super Exciting Family Fun Stuff !!!

Our son Kyle and his wife Valentina, serving in Chile, are pregnant with their first child! Baby girl is due December 5th. Our daughter Lori and her husband Daniel, in Arizona, are expecting their third boy on January 31st! AND... Niki is expecting her first baby the end of March! Niki and Brad her husband are in Washington. We are so blessed! Please pray that God would keep moms and babies healthy.

TWELVE grandchildren and THREE more on the way, pura bendicion! Pure blessing! Incredibly the kids are spread out on three continents! We are so thankful for family, for all that God is doing in our life in minisrty, and we are so thankful for you! May the rest of your year be super blessed!

All our love, Doug & Shelly



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Thank you!