

Earthquake: Chillán, Chile, 2010



At 3:34 a.m., Saturday, February 27, our battery-powered clock stopped with the first jolt of the earthquake.



We spent Saturday cleaning up. Above, part of the kitchen. At left, Mimi's office floor. We found our phone working but off the hook, buried under books and papers.



In our neighborhood and throughout the city, many panderetas (concrete security walls) were toppled.



At left, these statues of Mary and Joseph in our neighborhood chapel had just been beautifully restored by a group of our women. The crucifix, also restored, held to the wall and survived.

Below left, the new bedroom area of Casa Ursulina, where Sister Ruth rode out the quake, proved strong.

Below, Carola and her family must rebuild their *quincho*, a shelter for many family and neighborhood celebrations.





Fire trucks deliver water to people throughout the city, including this group lined up in front of our neighborhood chapel.



Above right, a group of volunteers collects supplies on the Cathedral steps for delivery to those on the coast who have lost everything.



Photos above and left: the home that Jenifer, Rodrigo, and their son, Rodrigo, share with Jenifer's mother suffered severe damage. The young family's bedroom (above left) collapsed over them, In the mother's bedroom (left), the walls separated. The family is sleeping outside. Jenifer is a generous member of the Casa Ursulina community.

Below left, María stands in her home, which was destroyed when the second story of an adjoining house fell into her bedroom (below, showing tin roof on Maria's bed). María was blessed to be away . . . a fact that almost certainly saved her life. María is the sister of our next-door neighbor, Gladys.

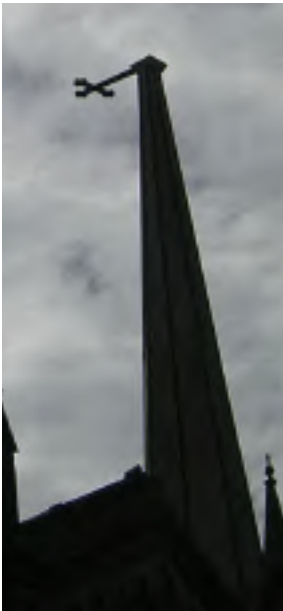




Photos on this page are from newspapers and web pages.

At left, a picture of destruction, sadness, and loss.

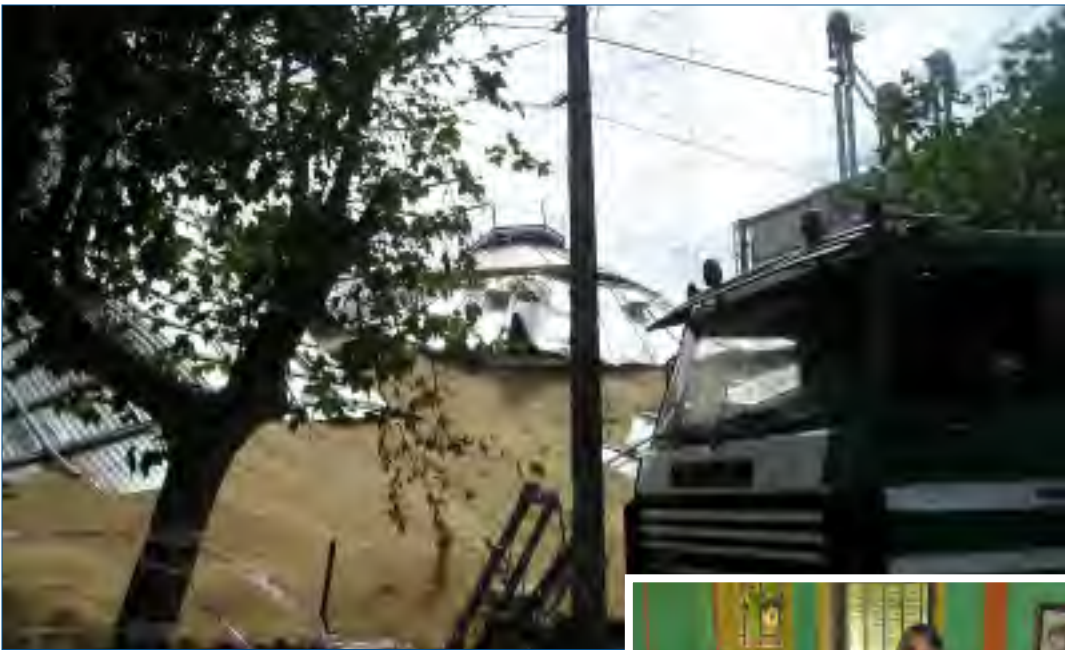
Below left, steeple of the Dominican Church, which suffered serious damage. Below, our parish church, St. John of God, a national monument, was severely damaged and will probably have to be demolished. Under steeple photo, damage to exterior of St. John of God Church.



Piles of rubble made some streets impassable in Chillán. Major highways and bridges were damaged, expanding (for example) the 5-hour drive from Santiago to Chillan to 12 hours.



People stand in line to buy bread at a downtown bakery. There were also long lines at grocery stores, pharmacies, and banks. Many people came from Concepción and other places to buy necessities in Chillán.



A silo in one of Chillán's major streets collapsed, spilling huge piles of wheat into the street. A second silo nearby is tilting, but its contents seem to be still intact.

In this photo, workers are attempting to vacuum the wheat into a large truck.

Sisters Ruth and Mimi prepare bags of donated clothing to send to the coast, where many people lost everything and are sleeping in tents. We also sent some superfluous items we found in our suitcases!



In the kitchen, Alejandra sorts through our collection of dishes and packs up boxes to send to the coast along with the clothing.

On March 6, our bishop, Monseñor Carlos Pellegrin, dropped by to see how we and our neighborhood were faring. This photo was taken in our new (coming to be) classroom, where construction has resumed.



On Friday night and all through Saturday, we followed "Chile helps Chile," a star-studded telethon broadcast on all national TV stations. With a goal of \$30 million, the telethon raised \$60 million! Much of this will be used to build 33,000 emergency houses for those whose homes are uninhabitable or were destroyed.

