

CROSSCOLLABORATION

mtw
Mission to the World

Monthly Newsletter - March 2013

BONHAM & KINES FAMILIES
Missionaries to Colombia



Gut Check

by Nate Bonham

I have to admit, I was a bit nervous when I was first asked. You want me to host three pastors from Bolivia in my house for several days and they don't speak English? We only had a few months of language school under our belt. It seemed as though the only thing I would be able to say was "good morning" and "how are you?" Maybe from time to time I could ask them what time it was just to keep the conversation going. The good news was that I knew it would potentially be as awkward for them as it would be for me.

On the other hand, one of the things that first excited us about having the Apprenticeship Program in Bogotá, Colombia is that other countries in Latin America wanted to come under the guidance and leadership of the Colombian Reformed denomination. We felt this would make some great opportunities to build some international relationships and perhaps open some doors for discerning our long-term location. There was no way we could say "no" to this opportunity.



The weekend was great! In total, there were five Bolivian pastors that stayed at our houses. They were here to talk to the local Colombian pastors about working with them to get the Presbyterian church up and going in Bolivia. The Bolivian pastors wanted the fellowship and assistance of the Colombian pastors—an awesome thing. I think the weekend ended up being more of a blessing to our families than it was to them. We shared many meals together, enjoyed long conversations about how the Lord is at work, and got to know a lot about each other's families. It was also encouraging for us to

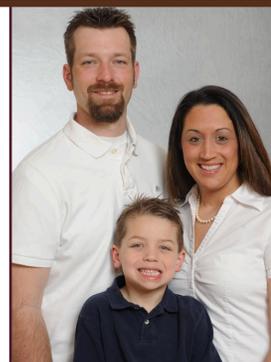
realize our Spanish has come a lot further than we had thought. Even the next week, one of the pastors got stranded in Bogotá because of some airline mishaps, and we were the first ones that he thought to call for help—we considered it a great honor.

We are not sure what the Lord will do in the future with these relationships that have been built. But for those few days, it was a beautiful picture of the global mission of God to reach his children—Bolivian pastors having fellowship with American pastors in our homes in Colombia. The Lord is at work!

An Amazing Team

by Josh Kines

We just had another family arrive here in Bogota to take part in the AIM program (Apprenticeship in Missions). Matt and Este Jesch joined the AIM family here in Bogota a couple of weeks ago and they have started the maddening process of getting settled here in Bogota. They have a son named Mateo who is 9 years old, who is already enrolled in school and adjusting well to all of the many, many changes to his little world. We are excited to be united with this family after going through our month long training in New York with them.



Josh & Emily (Howton) Kines
Nate & Nikki (Travis) Bonham

What are we doing?

In a nutshell: Our two families will be serving as missionaries with [Mission to the World](http://MissiontotheWorld.org). We will be serving with the missionary team in Colombia for two years to be trained in language, culture, and cross-cultural ministry. After two years, we will move to a to-be-determined Latin-American country to plant churches where the gospel has not taken root.

Tax-deductible donations may be sent to:

Mission to the World
PO Box 116284
Lawrenceville, GA 30368

Note in the memo line:
10788 Bonham, 14043 Kines

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Learn Spanish:

Words that seem to occur more than others:

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Dinner
Cena

Comer
to eat

Beber
to drink

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An Amazing Team (cont.)

As we have been working to help get the Jesches established here in Bogota, I am reminded of how tedious the process of getting settled in another country was for us. Even this week we have been wrestling through all the specifics of Colombian law concerning our kid's nannies. Come to find out, we have been neglecting several very important legal requirements as it relates to our nannies. I'll spare you the gory details, but I give that as an example to say there are so many things you have to do to get established in another country and culture. To do any of this without speaking the language is not difficult.....it's IMPOSSIBLE!

That is why we wanted to take the time to say a very special thank you to one particular family that has become a very important part of our lives. Nathaniel and Alicia Gutierrez were the first people on the ground here in Colombia with the AIM program and were instrumental in laying the ground work for our arrival. They have two kids and one on the way: Jeremiah(3) and Gabriella(1). Nathaniel is a missionary kid who grew up in Peru and speaks fluent Spanish. Nathaniel has logged more hours than Nate and I want to count taking us from one end of Bogota to the other. He helped us get our Colombian identification cards, our houses, our cars, our furniture, our nannies, our groceries, our sanity, and the list goes on! Alicia has been a tremendous help and encouragement to our wives and has sacrificed way too much family time to allow Nathaniel to help us with even the most mundane of tasks. More than all of this, Nathaniel and Alicia have become dear friends and a very important part of our life here in Bogota.



Whatever thanks we could offer them would not be enough to express our heartfelt gratitude and love for this dear family. That said, the Bonham and Kines families want to say a very special thank you to Nathaniel and Alicia Gutierrez for their sacrificial service, their evident love for Christ, and the blessing of their friendship! We love you guys and we thank our God always for you remembering you always in our prayers! (Philippians 1:3-5)

Prayer Requests

- Please continue to pray for our children. The anxieties and struggles of moving to a new culture come out in very different ways and at different times.
- Please pray for this season of language learning as we will be switching to in home tutors for the first part of the new year. Pray the Lord would give us the gift of the Spanish language and keep us focused and diligent in the process.
- Pray for the process of choosing a permanent missions site. Pray for our families, as that will require some travel that will leave our wives fending for themselves in a very different culture with limited Spanish.
- Pray for the beginning of our apprenticeship program. Pray that the Lord would work through this program to help us.
- Pray for our families as we face many unforeseen struggles such as sickness, new nannies for kids, and busyness with normally simple tasks.
- Pray for Emily and the new baby! He should be arriving any day now!
- Pray also for the Bonham adoption process!