

CROSS
COLLABORATION
MTW MISSIONARIES TO LATIN AMERICA



BONHAM, GUTIERREZ & KINES FAMILIES

MISSIONS NEWSLETTER

JULY 2013

“Arequipa Bound”

“If the world were made of people like you, there would be no war or hate, only love and peace. May God accompany you guys and your families.”

These words from a man who at the beginning of our trip made it clear he was not interested in Christianity. Jesus was in his late 50’s and convinced that the Gospel we were espousing was useless, but as we spent three days touring the city with him we saw the Lord begin to soften his heart. What we also found in the process was the Lord opening our hearts to the people of Arequipa.

In May we were in Arequipa for our second visit, prayerfully considering it as a permanent ministry home for our team. Today, we are excited to announce that Arequipa, Peru is indeed the place where the Lord has called us to serve long-term. Please rejoice with us over the Lord’s confirmation of this calling and join with us as

we begin praying even now for the Lord’s work to flourish in Arequipa. The following video is meant to give you a glimpse into this great city and our sense of calling to it! →

As a team, we want our faithful supporters, friends, and family to know how we came to this decision. We hope that by doing so, it will encourage you as you see how the Lord has answered prayer by providing a clear calling to the people of Arequipa. Earlier this year we began meeting weekly for a time of prayer, where we spent time asking the

Lord to provide clear confirmation concerning our future home. On top of this, we set aside several more times to get together and talk specifically about what we were looking for as we considered our future location. This was meant to be a time for simply brainstorming and dreaming together. We then took these ideas back to our homes and asked our wives to share their ministry and family dreams concerning our future location. We divided those ministry and location ideals up into three categories. The categories were: 1) non-negotiables, 2) areas that are important, but not deal breakers, 3) those things that were not necessary, but might be nice.



To see video visit: www.crosscollaboration.org

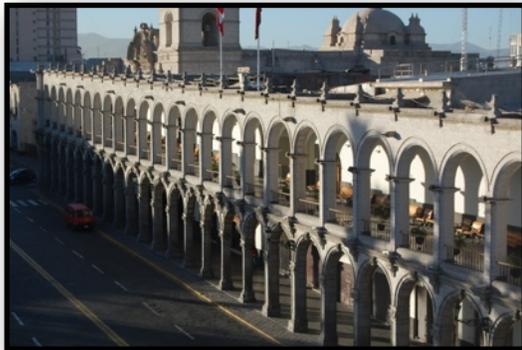
Our families are missionaries with Mission to the World, the missionary-sending agency of the Presbyterian Church in America, currently serving in Bogotá, Colombia. Next year, we will be moving to Arequipa, Peru to beginning a new work with MTW. Find more info at: WWW.CROSSCOLLABORATION.ORG

Here are those areas of ministry that we considered non-negotiable. We would like to share these with you so you can see how God answered our prayers in Arequipa:

1. We believe the Lord is calling us to reach an area/people that are largely unreached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 24:14)
2. We believe Nathaniel's experience, love for, and connections in Peru warrant the pursuit of opportunities there first. (Philippians 1:3-11)
3. We believe that Jesus calls His people to serve, love, and communicate the Gospel with the poor, the orphan, and the widow. We believe the Lord is calling us to a place/people in need physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. (Luke 4:17-19, 14:12-14; James 1:27) We want to target the city; not part of a city, most of a city, or a particular class in a city but a **WHOLE** city. We, therefore, believe the Lord is calling us to a metropolitan area, but one with a workable size and population. (Luke 4:14, 31-32, 37)
4. We desire to be in a strategic location that provides opportunity to network with other ministries in surrounding regions and countries. From Nathaniel's relationship with the people of Huanta, Peru, as well all our relationship with pastors in Bolivia, we desire to be in a place where the Lord could provide a network of ministry opportunities throughout South America.



Armed with these core values and a host of secondary and tertiary ideals, we sought the counsel of the leadership at MTW, our missions sending agency. A few countries and cities were suggested and as we began narrowing those down according to our core values and ministry ideals, Arequipa was the one that struck a chord with each of us. We made a preliminary visit in February with the help of a group of MTW missionaries from Cusco, Peru and the director of the AIM program, Gary Waldecker. After an intentional period of prayer and reflection, we made our second visit at the beginning of May and by God's grace confirmed a call to this beautiful city. Here are the factors that led to this decision:



1. Arequipa is strategically located near the border of Chile and Bolivia. It is also close enough to Huanta, Peru to continue ministering there from afar. We believe this will allow us the opportunity to pursue ministry in areas we already have relationships and resources.
2. Arequipa is a city of just over a million people and is the second largest city in Peru. Though it represents the second largest city in Peru, Arequipa feels very much like a large suburb of sorts. As we toured the city and talked with many of the nationals, the sense of civic pride and connectedness in the city made clear that though the city is large, it is very interconnected and accessible.
3. On the outskirts of the city, we found many opportunities and very real needs that the Lord not only began stirring our hearts toward, but also began giving us vision for.



4. While in Arequipa, we came to a well known overlook where we spent some time walking around. Some Quechua women were selling traditional Peruvian trinkets on the side of the road and Nathaniel struck up a conversation with them and asked them about some words in Quechua (another language spoken in Arequipa). As we watched him converse with these women, we recognized what we already knew, namely that Peru was a part of Nathaniel and that factor was going to provide us many inroads for ministry.

5. We met with two local Christian leaders in Arequipa, and were amazed to hear how little evangelical influence there was in the city. Both pastors communicated their need of help and the city's need for the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For us, this was the most important decision making factor concerning our call to Arequipa.



As you can see, the Lord has been at work and we are excited to see how He will continue this work in the days ahead. As of now, we are scheduled to finish the AIM program and transition to Arequipa, Peru in the Spring of 2014. Please join us in prayer for the Lord's work in Arequipa.

In Case You Missed It:

God has blessed our ministry and we have been in the spot light at this past General Assembly, and in two of MTW's publications this past month (Invision: Insight for Leaders and Network Magazine). Visit our website and blog to see these articles:

<http://www.crosscollaboration.org/blog/>



Growing Team:

Praise the Lord with us as we welcome Simeon Osman Gutierrez to the team!

He was born to Nathaniel & Alicia on June 17th!



PRAY

- Praise for the safe delivery of Simeon Osman Gutierrez to Nathaniel & Alicia on June 17th!
- Praise for our call to Arequipa, Peru
- Pray for the Bonham's adoption of Luis. They hope to meet him and finalize the adoption in July.
- Pray for health of the team and ministry partners - there are very strong viruses and illnesses that are preventing us from doing our work.

PARTNER

Tax deductible donations may be sent to:
Mission to the World
PO Box 116284
Lawrenceville, GA 30368

Note in the memo line:
10788 Bonham, 12762 Gutierrez, 14043 Kines

For other ways to give, visit:
www.crosscollaboration.org/partner-with-us