



# The BONHAM Family

Since our last family update in December, we closed out one chapter of our missions journey and started another. It was bittersweet to leave a place we had grown to love and Luís' birth country, but also very exciting to finally be on the ground in the city we hope to serve for years to come.

We spent the first couple of weeks of December saying goodbyes, packing our suitcases and a shipping container, and selling everything else. We flew from Colombia to Peru on December 11th, spent a week in the capital of Lima doing some paperwork and working on our visas, and finally made it to our new city of Arequipa on December 18th. With only a week until Christmas, we scrambled to get settled in our temporary rental apartment, hunt down a few decorations and gifts for the boys, and prepare for a simple but memorable Christmas – Luís' first Christmas with our family.



After welcoming in the new year on a rooftop watching the most amazing fireworks show we've ever seen, we hit the ground running to scout out neighborhoods, rental houses, vehicles, banks, and everything else you need to set up a life in a new country. It takes awhile, especially when

you don't know the requirements for anything, you haven't learned your way around the city, and every single step has to be done in a different language. But you can learn a lot about a new country during the set-up process, and we were thankful for the opportunity to get our feet wet and practice more of our Spanish.



Now that we're here at the beginning of March, life is starting to feel a little more settled and our daily routines are starting to emerge.



For Nate, that means learning as much as he can about the city, culture, and people here, engaging with as many people as possible to build relationships and work on his Spanish, and thinking through potential ministry opportunities.



Nikki is still focused on managing a busy household full of crazy little boys, learning how to do all things that come with new city (like where to buy what, how to get around, cooking with all new ingredients, and tackling the never ending dust that covers EVERYTHING), and practicing Spanish by trying to get to know the neighbors.

The boys are jumping into life in Peru headfirst, just as expected. They are loving the warm weather and sunshine, and they spend as much time outside as possible. They will start preschool this month (3 days a week, and all in Spanish!), and they are bursting with anticipation as they wait for their first day. We are excited for the twins to increase their Spanish, for Luís to continue developing his communication and language skills, and for them to begin making Peruvian friends. All three will be in the same class, and I'm not sure this little preschool is ready for the Bonham boys!

In addition to our continued adjustment and settling into a new culture and city, there are several other things we are trying to accomplish over the next couple of months, and we covet your prayers in these areas:

1. In March, we will welcome an assessment team from MTW (our missions agency) to Arequipa for a week and participate in a leadership assessment program.
2. We recently received news that there have been complications with Luís' US citizenship, and he is not a citizen after all due to the fact that we live in a foreign country. We are working with our adoption agency and the US government to resolve the issue, but it isn't an easy (or fast, or cheap!) process. Please pray that we can work out the details quickly and smoothly.
3. The citizenship issue also has implications as we continue the process to get Peruvian visas, so we are trying to work out those details as well. Please pray that we will be able to get both settled in the next few months.

Even though there has been a lot to do and a few hiccups in the process, we are so excited and thankful to finally be here in Arequipa. We have spent YEARS working towards long-term mission work, and sometimes we can't quite believe its actually starting. Please continue to join us in praying for the city of Arequipa and the ways we can be involved in spreading the gospel here, and for our family as we begin to embrace it as our new home.



**We invite you to read about the rest of the families on our team. it is hard for us to give a true reflection of all that the Lord is doing in our lives apart from sharing about our larger family here on the field.**

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