



The BONHAM Family

Finding the Rhythm... At Home

This month marks six months in Peru. It has been a whirlwind, but it finally seems like everything is starting to feel normal. Yes, there are still difficulties with the language. Yes, there are still misunderstandings and ignorances of the culture. Yes, we still face other problems that every other family faces. But, we are slowly finding the rhythm of what it means to be a family living cross-culturally. Given all of those obstacles, we have learned how to acknowledge and accept those challenges as we go about our day—even providing some allowance for the many “expected unexpected” events that a day may bring.



The kiddos have certainly found their rhythm. All three of the boys attend a local “jardin” (pronounced harden), which is a little pre-school for them. They don’t attend full time like the other students, but they go for four hours, three times a week to help them learn Spanish, develop social skills, make Peruvian friends, and provide some contacts for ministry, Lord-willing. Nikki also homeschools them in the afternoons and their off-days to complement what they are learning in the school and provide one-on-one attention. Right now, all three of them are four years old, but they have very different personalities, strengths, and learning styles. When they are not in the “jardin” or homeschooling, they are just being typical 4-year-old boys living in a foreign culture. *Please pray for them as they learn Spanish, make friends, adjust to being a third-culture kid, and for Luis’ continued attachment and bonding to the family.*



The boys attending the “jardin” for a few days a week also allows Nikki time to run errands, keep our family life in order, do her own studies, and get out to practice Spanish and make relationships. Right now, Nikki and the boys are in the U.S. in Mississippi, and I will be joining them in a few days. This is not an official HMA (Home Ministry Assignment) for us, but it allows us to get some things done that we can only do in the U.S. as well as renew our Peruvian visas which expire next week. We will be there for two short weeks but they are jam-packed... updating licenses, many medical check-ups, meeting adoption requirements, getting necessary government paperwork, time with family and friends, visiting a few local churches, doing a few ministry presentations, and eating

Chick-fil-a. We designated three slots per day and they are all just about filled up. Pray that we would have some time for much-needed rest in the midst of errands, appointments, presentations, and checklists.

Finding the Rhythm... In Ministry

Not only have we been trying to find a rhythm on the home front, but we have also been trying to find the rhythm on the ministry-front as well, both literally and figuratively. The good part about starting a new church-planting work is that you have the freedom to do begin ministry in a thousand different ways. The hardest part about starting a new church-planting work is that you have the freedom to begin ministry in a thousand different ways. It can be overwhelming trying to decide where and how to begin and where to prioritize your time and attention. Slowly but surely, we are finding a rhythm to engage in ministry in Arequipa. We are finding that you can spend your time planning and preparing (which is certainly my personality—sometimes to a fault), but you just need to get out there and do it. The Lord is already at work and he will answer those questions as we serve him faithfully.

The Lord is providing many relationships and connections. We have had the joy of having Peruvians in our homes and us in theirs. We have been able to hold casual conversations as well as deep conversations about family situations and theology. Speaking of rhythm, I, Nate, have been able to meet weekly with a couple of guys. Each Tuesday we meet and play music together. These guys are some of the most skilled musicians I have met and they have a desire to use their musical gifts for evangelism. It has been a labor of love trying to “find the rhythm” with them. Their cultural and musical background is “Andino” which means it is a very different genre of music from anything I have listened to or played. They have given me much patience as I struggle to learn a foreign rhythm, but our connection through Christ goes beyond us playing together. More often than not, our discussion will delve into talking about the gospel and what that looks like practically in their lives as carpenters, husbands and Christians. This is just one of the examples of how the Lord is planting seeds here in Arequipa. *Please pray for us as we continue building relationships, discerning where to focus our efforts, and being faithful to how the Lord is using us.*



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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