

2015 began with a bang. The thousands of fireworks at midnight were impressive, but what really surprised us was the news we had just received days before. The pastor of the small congregation we were helping was stepping down for personal issues and the congregation voted unanimously for us to be their pastors. That early morning, on January 1st, 2015 at 12:01am we officially inherited the responsibility of pastoring these 12 Christians and a new ministry.

Since the beginning of our time here in Arequipa, we have clearly communicated that our purpose is not to pastor churches, but to train Peruvians to be pastors of churches. Though that remains our purpose, as a team, we have decided to take on this new responsibility for a time. We had the choice of either helping this small congregation or let it continue to deteriorate. Our hope is to see this group develop into the first Presbyterian Church in Arequipa. It is our prayer that God would use it to establish the gospel in this city and serve as a feeder for new church plants and mission works throughout Arequipa.

Even before we were handed the keys to this church, our team was working around the clock to pull off many year-end outreach events. December was packed with three huge Christmas parties and a New Year's Eve event. The Lord blessed these events and let us develop relationships with many non-Christian neighbors. Some of these new friendships are still developing, while others have already jumped into visiting us at church!

Handing off a ministry

This month has already proven to be very exiting. A young pastor-in-training who had asked us to help him with a ministry to youth, returned from his seminary education. Excited to get to work with these youth, he jump right back in where he left off. Knowing that we were going to have our hands full with the church, and that our goal is to have local ministers pastoring these ministries, we were happy to have been able to play a foundational roll in the lives of these young people and to hand off that ministry to a local minister.



Handing over the "key" to the church



Rogelia, Nikki and Juana

Jumping into ministry

Having received the exciting news that we would be responsible for the leadership of this church, our team sprung into action. Nikki and Alicia began teaching in the women's bible study and will teach the children's Sunday school. In this short month, these women have already made countless pots of coffee, cooked many desserts and served large meals! Their love for the church is contagious and the other women in the church have gained an immediate love and respect for them.



Olga and Alicia

Nathaniel and Nate are now preaching each Sunday and have started a series in the book of Colossians, and lead the weekly prayer meetings. They have begun developing courses for elder and deacon candidates, for new members and for Sunday school. They proposed that the church have a name that points to the fact that the foundation of all we do is Jesus, and that in him alone will we stand. With joy, the church adopted the name, "La Roca," or "The Rock" and now La Roca is streaming all our audio, sermons and lessons via the Internet. (Please visit us at www.LaRocaArequipa.com and "like" us on Facebook).



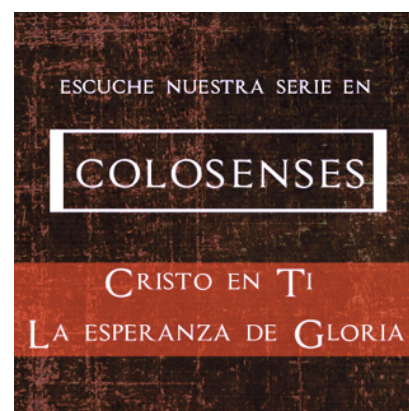
LA ROCA
IGLESIA PRESBITERIANA

Our new name and logo

Marshall). This radio has an FM and Short-wave radio reach of over 500,000 listeners. As of last week, we are happy to announce that we now have the privilege of proclaiming the gospel not only to our small group in Arequipa, but also to the many thousands that tune in to the Radio throughout Peru. Please pray for us as we prepare these messages. Please also pray that the Lord would provide the necessary means for Radio Amauta to stay afloat and to continue to broadcast the gospel to the Andes.

Radio Amauta

Another exciting development is that this month we established a direct relationship with Radio Amauta in Huanta, Peru. This Christian radio station was developed in 1960 with the first group of Presbyterian missionaries to Huanta, which included Nathaniel's grandfather (Harry

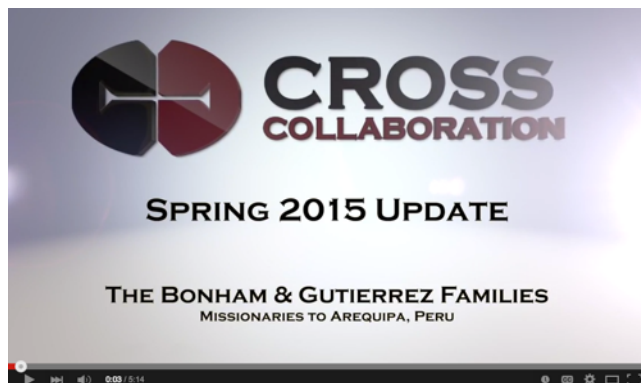


"Listen to our series in Colossians:
Christ in you, the hope of Glory"

Prayer request:

As you read this letter, you may have picked up on the fact that we are very busy! Please be praying especially for this specific request: that God would guide us as we begin the process of recruiting more missionaries to help us in this beginning work in Arequipa. Pray that the Lord would send us missionaries who would be willing to join our vision. One of our immediate needs is a missionary to reach the university students.

Video



Thank you so much for your investment in us. We depend on your prayers every day and could not be here without your financial support. To help you to pray more specifically, we created this short video so that you can "see" what the Lord is doing through us! Please enjoy by clicking here: <http://tinyurl.com/SpringVideo2015>

NEW donations address:

Mission to the World
P.O. Box 2589
Suwanee, GA 30024-0982

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