



# *The* BONHAM *Family*



*Iglesia La Roca*

The past few months have seen a significant shift for our family as we have jumped in whole-heartedly to life and ministry with a sweet little community at Iglesia La Roca (The Rock Church) here in Arequipa. In January, Nate and our teammate Nathaniel Gutierrez were voted in as co-pastors of this little church, with the hopes of shepherding them through a difficult season of stress and change.

Of course, the new role brought lots of new responsibilities and a few challenges, and our families have spent the last few months working to find a rhythm and routine to fit the changes.

Of the 5 of us in the Bonham household, Nate's day-to-day has been the one to change the most drastically, as he has had to work in things like Spanish sermon-prep, writing Sunday school and weekly bible study lessons, and pastoral counseling, as well as leadership training and discipleship meetings. And here in Peru, most activities or meetings are scheduled for the late evenings, so Nate is usually out 5 nights a week or so. We have had to rearrange our days a bit to accommodate, often doing a family lunch and a bit of playtime in the middle of the day instead of at the end, in order to make sure to get good quality time together as a family.

But it hasn't just been a change in duties or in schedule. With the role of co-pastor has come a heaviness that wasn't there before. Serving a growing community of hurting people who have suffered (or are currently suffering) through abuse, hunger, poverty, unemployment, and pain comes with a different kind of weight. And while it feels heavy, so does the passion for proclaiming the hope found only in Christ to a group of hurting people we have come to love.

Nikki's routine has changed a bit as well, although the majority of her time is still spent at home taking care of "los tres varoncitos" (the three little men), as many of our friends call them. They are enjoying their first year of semi-homeschooling, which is a mix of pre-K for Noah and Barrett, and developmental therapy-related activities for Luís. But now, with the new roles at the church, Nikki and her teammate, Alicia, are also leading the women's ministry and teaching



*Nikki, Alicia, and a few ladies of the church.*

the younger children's Sunday school. In the women's study, Nikki and Alicia are teaching the book of Galatians, and in the children's Sunday school, they're teaching the life of Moses. Several afternoons a week are usually spent studying and preparing lesson plans (and practicing it in Spanish!) during the boys' "rest time," as well as meeting women from the church for coffee in order to spend time together, pray together, and encourage them through various struggles. The last few months have been a time of deep growth in friendships for Nikki, which has been an enormous blessing and a sweet answer to prayer.

And as for our trio of little superheroes, they are as wild and lively as ever! They joined a soccer team in January, which has been a great way for them to make some friends and learn a new, important part of Peruvian culture. We spend 3 afternoons each week at the soccer field ("la cancha"), and it has proved to be a great way to burn off some of that hyper-active little boy energy! At home, they're still into all things superhero or Rescue-bot related, and they can normally be found creating elaborate make-believe worlds in which they have to rescue everyone who lives there from all sorts of disasters. Between church activities, visitors in the home, and soccer, they have something in Spanish every single day of the week, which has steadily helped their language comprehension over the past few months. It is always fun to hear them strike up a little conversation in Spanish with a friend or neighbor, and I'm always surprised at how far they have come, even without being enrolled in a local school.



*Luís, Noah, Barrett & Jeremiah*



*The center square of Arequipa*

And while we've been at it for a few months now, we still haven't quite gotten into a good groove yet. We're still tweaking our day-to-day routines, still trying to come up with a flow that will work smoothly for our home life and for ministry as well, still trying to make the most of our time in order to work well *and* rest well, especially in a context and culture with routines and schedules that differ greatly from what we're used to. But thankfully, the Lord has guided us every step of the way so far, and we have no doubt that he will continue to faithfully lead us as we continue to minister and love these people in our community here in Arequipa.



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