



# CROSS COLLABORATION

MTW MISSIONARIES TO PERU

MISSIONS NEWSLETTER

JULY 2015

**A LOT HAS HAPPENED OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS. HERE ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS...**

## **A LOSS | PERUVIAN FUNERAL**

One of the hardest privileges of ministry is performing a funeral. Towards the end of May, we received a call that a brother of two members of the church had passed away unexpectedly. It was a routine procedure that went wrong. He had joined us on our Church Retreat in January, attended our Italian Dinner in February, and was attending the church occasionally. By God's providence, through the passing of this young man, we had the opportunity to preach the gospel on several occasions to over 200 people—at the viewing, the funeral, and at two other memorial services that are customary a week and a month after the death. *Please pray for his family as he leaves behind a wife and three children. Also pray that the Word that was preached would take root in all of those who heard.*



## **A UNION | RELIGIOUS WEDDING**

Just days after that funeral, the brother of the deceased who is a member of the "La Roca" Church was married to another member of the church. As you might imagine, the emotions were high given that the funeral and the wedding were just days apart. Both Nathaniel and Nate were given the distinct honor of serving as "Padrino" (think "god-father") and to officiate the wedding. This wedding also gave us great cultural insight. This couple had already been married "civilly," but they also needed to be married "religiously." The custom in Peru, and many other places in Latin America, is that these two ceremonies are very distinct. *Please pray for the marriage of L. & P.* They are very active in the life of the church and have been great friends since our arrival.

## **A GAIN | CHRISTIAN BAPTISM**

As if a funeral and wedding in the same week were not enough, the following day we celebrated our first baptisms in Arequipa. On Sunday, May 31 two adult new believers and one covenant child were baptized. It was amazing to see the Lord's faithfulness after a year and a half in Arequipa. These were also the first baptisms in this congregation in over 6 years. That same Sunday, two young adults also made a profession of faith and became communing members of the church (ie, they can participate in the Lord's Supper and are full voting members). The Lord is truly working in Arequipa!



**CHECK OUT A VIDEO OF THE SHORT-TERM TEAM FROM COVENANT PRES:** <https://youtu.be/uy3C9qdRpL4>

**MORE INFORMATION AT: [WWW.CROSSCOLLABORATION.ORG](http://WWW.CROSSCOLLABORATION.ORG)**

## A HAND | SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIP

In June, we received our first short-term team from the U.S. A group of five came from **Covenant Presbyterian Church in Nashville, TN** and a close friend from **Madison Heights Church in Madison, MS**. It was an historic occasion for the ministry in Arequipa. They were a small group, but don't let that fool you. They met and surpassed our expectations for the week as they worked long hours to complete a construction project. Even more importantly, they were a great encouragement to us, the long-term missionaries, and despite not speaking Spanish (except for one person) they all interacted well with the Peruvians and got to know them. We hope this is the start of more teams coming and a continued partnership with Covenant Church. A special thanks to **Nathan, Becky, Matt, Wiley, Scott & Rob**. They were very patient as we ironed out the logistics and only had encouraging comments to make. Check out the video here:

<https://youtu.be/uy3C9qdRpL4>

## A NECESSITY | CHURCH EXPANSION

Over the past six months, the Lord has brought tremendous growth to the church. Last year, the average worship attendance was around 10-12. Now we are regularly seeing attendance of around 45. This has been a great blessing but

also presented a great challenge. We could not fit in our current sanctuary. With the help of the short-term team from Covenant Church working shoulder-to-shoulder with Peruvians, we were able to more than double the size of the sanctuary. We now have room to expand to an attendance of more than 100. We still have much more to do to complete the construction, but we now have room for worship each Sunday. Praise God for this wonderful provision and pray as we complete the work.



Our families with Rob P.



Before



After



Pr. Nathan McCall preaching / Nathaniel translating



Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support!  
-The Gutierrez & Bonham Families

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