



## E.S.L. | ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Being able to speak English is a very coveted skill in much of Latin America. That rings true here in Arequipa, as well. Due to Arequipa being a large tourist attraction and the second largest economic center in Peru, speaking English gives many people an advantage when looking for a career. On top of this, university students need to be able to pass a basic English proficiency exam in order to graduate.

As we have considered ways to reach the community immediately around the church, we decided that teaching ESL (English as a Second Language) would be a good way to know and serve our community better. We are located just a stone's throw from a university and also just a few blocks from the heart of downtown Arequipa. Therefore, about 6 weeks ago we begun a "soft opening" for our ESL outreach. With the help of a generous donation by Peace Lutheran Church in Gulf Shores, Alabama, we were able to purchase tables, chairs and supplies for class that the church desperately needed. Because it was our "soft opening," these initial classes were only open to the congregation of our church. We wanted guinea pigs that we knew would give us honest feedback about how the classes were going.



This past week, we finished this first round of classes, and I think that all of our "students" believe it was a huge success. Even though it was only open to our church family, we ended up with a few extras. Please pray for this ministry as we hope to open it up to the community next year (after a few tweaks are made). Our desire is to genuinely get to know our community and also introduce them to God's Word through English. Specifically, we are hoping to reach the younger generations—many of whom have come to Arequipa from the rural areas to study. These young men and women often do not have close family and friends, and it proves to be a very challenging time for them—emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

## THANKSGIVING IN PERU | A GLIMPSE INTO THE CULTURE

"I can't understand why you would celebrate that pagan holiday," one of our well meaning church members said to Nathaniel the other day regarding Thanksgiving.

At first when I heard that I was offended. Thanksgiving! Pagan? Thanksgiving is a holiday we Christians cherish! It's the day we Thank our Father for the ways he provided for us during the year. It's a holiday steeped in rich Christian heritage!

## 2015 2016

Can you believe the New Year is just around the corner. That also means that Uncle Sam is coming to collect soon. Did you know that MTW is a 501(c)(3) company, which means that when you support our ministry, you could also be saving on your taxes. Would you consider a year-end contribution to help keep our families in Arequipa and support the ministry?

But over the last few weeks I've come to understand where our Peruvian Brother was coming from. For us Americans, most of our holidays are centered around family, BBQs, and a Christian history. But imagine growing up in a culture where every holiday, no matter what you are celebrating, is a chance for people to get drunk, party too hard and often times get in fights. Even when you hire a clown for a child's birthday party here, it is like hiring an off-color comedian to come and tell dirty jokes to your grown up drunk friends.

For most of our church members, that is the life they used to live and were surrounded by before they came to Christ. Most of them have bad memories of what parties and holidays look like with drunk relatives and fights and foul words. For many non-Christian Peruvians, holidays are not really happy. And for many Christian Peruvians, holidays are to be dreaded.

We aren't sure what to do about the mindset that our Christian brothers and sisters here have regarding holidays. We want to share with them what it looks like when loved ones get together in the spirit of Christian love and that it is possible to celebrate a holiday without turning it into a drunken debacle. We enjoyed celebrating Thanksgiving as a team and rejoicing in how God has provided for us this year, and as we go into the Christmas season we want to share with our church how holidays can be about family, celebrating Jesus, and loving our neighbors. But please pray with us as it is a tricky road to navigate, and that we can be a light to our city, and show our Christian and non-Christian neighbors what a Christian holiday can look like, even in Peru.



When you buy a turkey in Peru, you get EVERYTHING!

## U.S. OR BUST | THE BONHAM FAMILY ON HOME MINISTRY ASSIGNMENT

In just two weeks Nate, Nikki and the boys will be headed back to the U.S. until the end of April for "Home Ministry Assignment." It is an opportunity to share what the Lord has done here in Arequipa and our team's vision for the next phase of ministry. It is also a time to raise support to compensate for donations that have dropped over the past 4 years and an increase in expenses. We are thankful for a calendar packed full of opportunities to share about our ministry here in Arequipa, and we would love to see you at any of our upcoming events!

Jan 10-13: Westminster PCA (Greenwood, MS)  
 Jan 17: Madison Heights PCA (Madison, MS)  
 Jan 18-23: Pear Orchard PCA (Ridgeland, MS)  
 Jan 24: Providence PCA (Clinton, MS)  
 Feb 3: Trinity PCA (Corinth, MS)  
 Feb 5-6: Presbytery of the MS Valley  
 Feb 6-7: Pearl PCA (Pearl, MS)  
 Feb 12-14: First PCA (Hattiesburg, MS)

Feb 17-21: Highlands PCA (Ridgeland, MS)  
 Mar 6-9: First PCA (Gulfport, MS)  
 Mar 13: Peace Lutheran (Gulf Shores, AL)  
 Mar 18-20: Trinity PCA (Jackson, MS)  
 Apr 3: Covenant PCA (Nashville, TN)  
 Apr 9-10: Trinity PCA (Murfreesboro, TN)  
 Apr 17: First PCA (Louisville, MS)



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

Would you consider becoming a ministry partner?  
 Please visit: [www.CrossCollaboration.org/partner-with-us](http://www.CrossCollaboration.org/partner-with-us)  
 Donations: **Mission to the World, PO Box 2589, Suwanee, GA 30024**  
 Memo Line: **Bonham (10788) and Gutierrez (12762)**