

BONHAM FAMILY UPDATE – MAY 2016

WE'RE BACK!!! -----

At the end of April, we arrived back in Arequipa, Peru to begin our second term with Mission to the World. It was a blessing to visit all of our partner churches and see friends and family, but after 4.5 months in the U.S., we are very glad to be back “home”—in our own beds, attending our own church, serving in our own community, and trying to find the elusive “family routine.” There has certainly been no rest for the weary as we have hit the ground running. To be honest, it was nice to be able to preach in English while we were in the U.S., but we are thankful that our Spanish did not become too rusty during our time away. We are already back in the saddle: preaching, teaching, counseling, visitations, studying, and just living.



\$19.95 -----

No, that is not the price of some gimmick on an infomercial. This is a reminder of God’s faithfulness to us. Soon after our arrival in the U.S., we were handed a glass jar that held \$19.95 in dollar bills, quarters, dimes, nickels, and pennies. The children of some close friends had held a cookie sale in their driveway, but instead of choosing to spend the money on a toy, they told their mom they wanted to send the money to help their missionaries in Peru. We were so humbled that these kids would work so hard and give up their time to be a part of the Mission. Inviting people to come alongside of our ministry and support us financially is certainly the most humbling (and sometimes awkward) part of this calling, but this is just one example of how the Lord has used our ministry partners in the U.S. to encourage us and to confirm the call that the Lord has placed on us to serve the people of Peru. God’s faithfulness was shown to us time and time again through you, our ministry partners who support us through your prayers and financial giving.



AN APOLOGY -----

As we were planning for our “Home Ministry Assignment” (HMA, furlough, etc.), we had grandiose plans of visiting all of our partner churches and meeting with every one of those individuals who have come alongside of us to support the ministry in Peru. Wow, did we overestimate how much we could do in just a few months!!! Between travelling around to visit our partner churches (16 churches in 19 weeks), we also had to cram in four years’ worth of medical appointments, a debrief conference with MTW, a recruiting conference

(to try to grow our team), several Bible study presentations and ministry meetings, and spend time with family and friends. One family member said it best when they told us, “I hardly get to see you! You might as well still be in Peru.” On top of this, trying to assist with ministry in Arequipa, keep up with the administrative aspects of the job, and continue “normal” family responsibilities proved to be challenging. To put it bluntly, we were not able to visit with everyone that we wanted to, and for that we sincerely apologize. There are several of you who support us faithfully and we truly wanted to catch up over coffee or a meal... it just didn’t happen. ***Please, forgive us for this.*** It does truly make us feel terrible that we couldn’t see everybody.

PRAYERS -----

Please pray for us in several areas:

- 1. Pray for our readjustment to life in Arequipa.** 4.5 months was just long enough that we have to re-acclimate our bodies to the altitude, the dry climate of a desert, and the... well, let’s just say “gastrointestinal challenges” of foreign food.
- 2. Pray for us as we move.** Our landlord is planning to sell the house we are currently renting, so that means we will soon be moving. We have found a house that we like and that would provide many ministry opportunities for us as well as homeschool space, and we are hoping to finalize that contract in the next few days. Please pray for that transition.
- 3. Pray for our boys.** During our time in the U.S., they became accustomed to seeing friends, cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents. Coming back to Peru has been a bit of a challenge for them. Please pray for them as they continue to wrestle with those goodbyes.
- 4. Pray for our fund-raising.** We were able to share the work in Arequipa with several new individuals and a couple of new churches. Pray that, if it should be the Lord’s will, they would partner with us.
- 5. Ministry at La Roca.** We are gearing back up for a busy season—Sunday school, Women’s Ministry, introducing Men’s discipleship, and planning ways to reach out into the community.