



CROSS
COLLABORATION

MTW MISSIONARIES TO PERU

JANUARY 2017

MISSIONS NEWSLETTER

PLANTING CHURCHES IN AREQUIPA, PERU

WILL YOU PARTNER WITH US?

ONLINE:
WWW.MTW.ORG

MAIL:
MISSION TO THE WORLD
PO BOX 2589
SUWANEE, GA 30024-0982

MEMO:
BONHAM FAMILY - 10078
GUTIERREZ FAMILY - 12762

READ THIS LETTER AND PRAY!



The Christmas season is always a busy time in the life of the church. In the midst of the busyness, we were able to share the message of the first coming of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Below are a few ways we were able to do that:

IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

You may remember that several months ago, we organized a huge neighborhood dinner. We received an amazing response from the neighbors about how glad they were to finally meet their neighbors (some after 7 years of living beside each other). We didn't know what fruit the Lord would bring after that dinner.

Now, fast forward to a few months before Christmas. We received a knock on our door. One of the neighbors was wanting to get our help to organize a "Chocolatada" for the neighborhood. This is a customary event where you gather with family and close friends and drink Hot Chocolate and eat "Panetón" (fruitcake). So we held a last-minute "Chocolatada" which turned out to be a great success. Although it may not seem like much, we can't tell you how exciting it is that some of our neighbors are realizing the need for true community. Arequipeños are notorious for being quite closed off. The fact that they want to build relationships with their neighbors is amazing. Please pray for doors to continue opening and that these relationships would move beyond friendship to true gospel fellowship.

IN THE COMMUNITY

On December 23, we held a Christmas Outreach Dinner in Vallecito, the community where the church is located. Two weeks prior, we organized a team from the church that knocked on doors and invited over 200 households to the dinner. We had no idea what to expect. Some said that nobody would show up. Others said that everybody was going to show up. After decorating the church and prepping the food, we ended up having over 80 people attend (over 1/2 were not Christians).



CHRISTMAS OUTREACH DINNER

After enjoying turkey (a delicacy in Peru) and some traditional sides, Nikki was able to gather the children and share the story and meaning of the birth of Jesus. Then Nate was able to share the gospel message and the true meaning of Christmas with all of the adults. Please pray that the Lord would bring growth to the seeds that were planted.



**EVANGELISTIC TEAM
INVITED OVER 200 HOUSEHOLDS**

IN THE CHURCH

And of course, no year is complete without a Youth Christmas Party. Although our youth group is small in number, the room was filled with excitement as we played games, ate Panetón, and drank hot chocolate. I am sure the kids are still recovering from the amount of sugar they consumed! Please pray for these young men and women. Not only do these teenagers face the typical temptations of the teen years, but coming to an evangelical church can also mean judgment from their own families.

IN OUR HOME

By the time Christmas Day arrived, we were exhausted, and we planned to have a quiet Christmas lunch before our worship service in the afternoon. We also invited a couple of members/visitors from the church. One was a sweet older lady in the church whose husband passed away in 2015. When we asked what her plans were for Christmas, she said that she would be alone for the holidays except for the church outreach dinner on the 23rd. So we picked her up and brought her to our house for Christmas

Day. Our second visitor was a gentleman who has been visiting the church for a couple of months. He has an incredible testimony of the Lord bringing him from the darkness of homelessness and alcoholism to the light of Christ. Unfortunately his family, still wounded from the past, wants nothing to do with him. So he spent Christmas with us as well.

As we shared a traditional American meal with them, they shared more about the struggles of life, but also their gratitude for God's mercies in their lives. "Peruvians don't do this.; Pastors don't do this," the gentleman mentioned, fighting back tears. "Do what?" I inquired. "Have people in their homes like this... especially on Christmas Day. I never imagined I would have somewhere to spend Christmas. It's like a dream." What had been really a last-minute decision for us meant the world to these two lonely people on Christmas Day. After lunch, we all went to worship together. Please pray for these two dear friends who struggle with families that, in many ways, have abandoned them.



YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

GUTIERREZ FAMILY ON HOME MISSIONARY ASSIGNMENT

Since our last newsletter, the Gutierrez family has spoken in Lufkin, TX, Katy, TX, Lafayette, LA and twice in Tacoma, WA! We were received very graciously and today we make the drive to the Northeast where we will speak in Arlington, VA, McLean, VA, Newark DE, Yardley, PA and Mount Laurel, NJ! Following these few weeks in the Northeast, we will drive back down to MTW headquarters in Atlanta, GA where we will spend the week at "Reconnect" and Lord willing will fly out of Atlanta to Peru on Jan 27th!

Please pray for our final weeks of support-raising and presentations. We are weary from travels, deeply missing Peru, but also thoroughly enjoying spending time with all the people who love and support us so well.

We could not be more encouraged by all the people who are praying for our family and our team on the ground, as they continue to labor (so incredibly) in our absence! Thank you for standing with us!



SPEAKING AT FAITH PRESBYTERIAN, TACOMA, WA