



CROSS
COLLABORATION
MTW MISSIONARIES TO PERU

FEBRUARY - MARCH 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!**



This newsletter is long overdue, but here is what has been happening in Arequipa...

BOOTS ON THE GROUND

At the end of January, the Gutierrez family returned from their 5-month Home Ministry Assignment ("HMA," previously furlough). This was a much-welcomed relief for the Bonhams, who had been holding down the fort in AQP. But more than just being an a relief from travel and heightened work-loads, our much-anticipated reunion provided all of us with an opportunity to begin afresh in ministry here in Arequipa. 2016 had felt more like a year of maintenance and survival, since each of our families had needed to take a 4-5 month HMA while the other family handled ministry on the field. After so much time apart, we were excited to get the chance to regroup and start moving forward with newfound momentum.



*PICTURED: Team planning meetings.
NOT PICTURED: The vast amounts of coffee we drank.*

Our first week back together, we hit the ground running and had a sweet time of catching up and seeking the Lord's guidance for ministry in Arequipa for 2017 and the years to come. We hope to have some exciting announcements in the next few months as we seek to expand the work in Arequipa. Please pray for us as we work through the vision and ministry plans of our team.

TAKING STEPS

As you may know, our hope is to see Peruvians pastoring and planting their own churches. We want to be instruments of discipling and training these pastors. Those plans were drastically changed when we arrived in Arequipa and were asked to pastor a local congregation. Of course it was not our original plan, but God has used this experience in a thousand ways. We have learned so much serving this congregation. We have seen growth in ourselves as much as we have seen growth in the congregation.



Getting down to (church) business.

But now it is time to start taking steps to transition from pastoring this congregation. A few weeks ago we had a congregational meeting that is putting us in a trajectory to transition to Peruvian leadership in the church. We had to communicate many challenging things to the congregation, but they received it with humility and a desire to see the church grow with Peruvian leadership. The reality is that each member must take responsibility in their involvement in the church and in their financial giving.

Our hope is to have a Peruvian pastor identified by the end of 2018 and see some Peruvians stepping up to the task of the leadership of the church. We are slowly implementing a strategy to see this happen, but ultimately, it is in the Lord's hands. We cannot change hearts or call people to the ministry. We simply want to be faithful to what the Lord has called us to. Please pray for the Lord to raise up leaders in this church and that we may transition well. This is by far the hardest part of ministry in a foreign culture.



It wouldn't be a true Peruvian meeting without sharing a meal.



2017 VIDEO UPDATE

Each year we like to produce a video update. Please check out our video for 2017. Here you will be able to see for yourself what the Lord is doing in Peru. You may pick up on some subliminal messaging that we are looking for more career missionaries to serve in Arequipa. There are so many needs and opportunities, but we lack laborers. Are you interested in long-term missions? Have you ever considered it? Do you have friends that would like to serve? Please watch and pray over our video and help us pass it on to others. Go to the link below or scan the QR code with your phone.



LINK: <https://tinyurl.com/ccmu2017>

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://tinyurl.com/ccyoutube2017>

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for our team as we develop, refine, and implement a vision for the work in Arequipa.
- Pray for unity among our team.
- Pray that the Lord would raise up Peruvian leaders and pastors.
- Pray for more career missionaries to serve in Arequipa.
- Pray for the students of Arequipa as school starts this week.