



THE BONHAM LINE

April 2020

30 SECOND UPDATE (see articles for more details)

- Our MTW leaders throughout South America held an online Good Friday worship service for all of our Spanish-speaking churches and partners.
- How is COVID-19 affecting mission? When are we heading to Colombia? We share what is going on behind the scenes with the Bonham family as we sort through the Coronavirus Pandemic.

COVID-19 and Mission

It seems that we can't get away from news about the Coronavirus. If you bought a shirt online 8 years ago, you have probably received an email from that company talking about how they are addressing the pandemic. These types of emails have bombarded our inboxes! We don't want to be another junk email in your inbox. We hope that a glimpse into how this pandemic is affecting our family will give you practical ways to pray for us and other missionaries, but we also hope that we can be a voice of encouragement in the flood of anxiety-producing public opinions around us.

From the Home Front

We are currently hunkered down in Madison, MS. The term "Home Ministry Assignment" (HMA) has taken on new literal meaning as we are under state-issued stay-at-home orders. Our HMA travel calendar was essentially wiped clean in the span of one week, and we have gone from being constantly in-and-out of town to being completely at home! Though we are living in unprecedented times, many things have not changed. Nikki continues to home-school our three boys and meet virtually with ladies in Arequipa, so not much change there. Nate continues to meet with our Mission to the World (MTW) team leaders across South America and with our national partners in Arequipa, Peru and

Medellin, Colombia. It seems our years of using Zoom have paid off! We also continue to plan for our move to Medellin, although now we don't know when exactly that will be.

We have also tried to find creative ways to continue ministry and serve our Latin American brothers and sisters as they also fight this same pandemic in their nations. For example, we hosted a virtual Good Friday service for all of our Spanish-speaking friends across South America. To bring it together, each MTW team leader in South America recorded a part of the liturgy. I (Nate) preached a message connecting the Passover of



One of the youngest to join our virtual service.

ABOUT US

Nate & Nikki Bonham have been serving in South America with Mission to the World since 2012 in the area of church planting. With their three children, they are based out of Medellin, Colombia.

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Exodus 12 (where Israel was put on quarantine) to the importance of Christ's sacrifice upon the cross. We also had a montage of greetings from brothers and sisters all across the western hemisphere. We had people join us from Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Chile, Venezuela, Central America, the United States, and other areas. It was a beautiful night of worship, and the pastors we work with were able to rest and worship with their families.

One of the more unexpected blessings has been the ability to spend more time with Nikki's sister, Lacey, and her family as she continues to battle Stage 4 brain cancer. Lacey currently needs help throughout the day, so Nikki has been blessed to be a part of her team of caregivers. If you haven't already, search for the "Love For Lacey" page on Facebook for more updates and ways you can pray.

Towards the Field

We also want to update you on our plans for heading back to the field. Our original plan was to leave for Colombia sometime mid-May. There are several factors that have pushed back our departure date: Colombia has closed their borders at least until the end of May; we are not sure what our remaining church visits will look like once the quarantine ends; the U.S. has vastly slowed down passport processing and the boys' passports are currently stuck somewhere in process; Colombia isn't processing visas right now; and we don't know when airlines will be back to operating normally in Colombia. At this point, trying to guess a departure date would be pure speculation! **But, we do want to assure you that our plan to go and serve in Medellin, Colombia has not changed!!!** We are looking forward to moving there as soon as the Lord opens the door for us to safely and wisely go.

Thank you!

Lastly, we want to leave you with a word of thanks. We know that this is a very difficult season for so many—filled with concerns and anxieties, health problems and scares, and financial strains. I think we all feel a sense of bracing for impact. Nikki and I are so thankful for all of you who partner with our family as we seek to serve the people of South America. Though we are all figuring out how to adjust to the difficulties of this pandemic, we are resolute that God's Word is true: "the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that

is to be revealed to us" (Rom. 8:18). If Paul was referring to the physical and bodily persecution and suffering of God's people, how much more is this true for these present times? It will be a painful season, but we know that it is through times like these that the Lord extends the presence of His church. We believe this pandemic will open many doors for the gospel to go out, for people to place their faith in Christ, for leaders to be raised up, and the church to expand. This is not a time to back away from the mission, but to jump in all the more. Join us in praying for revival!

Our prayers are with all of our gospel ministry partners. We pray this season, no matter how difficult, would be a time of growth in your walk with the Lord. Please let us know if there are any ways we can be praying for you specifically.

Home Ministry Assignment Calendar - 2020

Jan. 5—All Saints PCA—Nashville, TN
 Jan. 12—Providence PCA—Clinton, MS
 Jan. 24-26—Faith PCA—Tacoma, WA
 Feb. 2—First PCA—Louisville, MS
 Feb. 9-16—Pear Orchard PCA—Ridgeland, MS
 Feb. 19-23—Highlands PCA—Ridgeland, MS
 Feb. 21-23—Trinity PCA—Jackson, MS
 Feb. 28—Mar. 1—Christ Church PCA—Katy, TX
 Mar. 8—Trinity PCA—Murfreesboro, TN
 Mar. 15—Covenant PCA—Nashville, TN
 (CANCELLED)
 Mar. 21-22—Faith PCA—Fairless Hills, PA
 (CANCELLED)
 Mar. 27-29—First CRC—Ripon, CA
 (CANCELLED)
 Apr. 19—Pearl PCA—Pearl, MS
 (CANCELLED)
 Apr. 26—First PCA—Gulfport, MS
 (CANCELLED)



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