



THE BONHAM LINE

August 2020

30 SECOND UPDATE (see articles for more details)

- Through Seminario Bíblico Reformado we have begun offering bite-sized studies via Zoom dealing with various pastoral subjects.
- No, we still do not have a date to go to Colombia. Borders are expected to open in September, but it will likely be a slow and restricted process.
- Thank you for your prayers for a Peruvian pastor we work with who has been battling Covid. He is on the mend!

“...the time when your class is live coincides with when we have our daily allotment of 20-30 minutes of water.”

This was part of the voicemail I received from one of our students in Venezuela as she asked us to make sure we recorded the class. She didn't want to miss it, but she was faced with the choice of tuning into our live, interactive classes or be able to get water for her family for the day. COVID-19 has brought many countries to the brink of disaster that were previously economically healthy, relatively speaking, like Perú and Colombia. But for countries like Venezuela, which was already declining rapidly, the coronavirus has brought absolute tragedy.

Seminario Bíblico Reformado operates in several cities and countries, and because of that, we have had to examine how we can best serve the communities around us. Also, because we are a seminary *by* the church and *for* the church, we have had to evaluate how to best serve our pastors and their local churches. This has meant that each of our various extensions are currently taking a respite from

seminary classes in order to care for their churches and communities.

Think of how your own pastor and church have had to adapt to COVID and the various restrictions that have come along with it. Now take away the resources that we take for granted—sound systems, cameras, quality cell phones, reliable internet service. Those are the challenges that our brothers and sisters in Latin America are navigating.

Though we look forward to the day when we can offer a full class schedule, we have taken a different approach over these months of quarantine. As a seminary, we began offering more bite-size studies. For example, Nate just finish teaching a study of the book, *The Whole Christ*, by Sinclair Ferguson. This allowed us to explore several pastoral issues for our students (legalism, antinomianism, assurance of faith, perseverance, etc.). Rodny just began teaching a study on the Apostles' Creed. Each week we offer these evening groups as a resource. We want to care for all of these communities in a way where they don't feel like it is just another Zoom event to attend, but rather that they are not forgotten during these difficult times.

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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Please pray for SBR as we continue these small studies, for Latin American church leaders as they strive to pastor their flocks with limited means, and for all of our brothers and sisters across the world who are suffering in ways we cannot comprehend.

ONE SMALL STEP

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, we are getting quite stir crazy, not because there is a shortage of ministry and things to do, but because we long to get to Colombia. “So do you have a departure date, yet?” I find myself having to answer that question at least once a day. But, honestly, I ask myself that very question several times a day!

One small step we’ve seen is the the Medellín airport (MDE) just began a limited number of domestic flights. Colombia has been saying for months that they will open up to international flights on September 1, but they have not given any additional information as to what that looks like. The word “normalization” has been thrown around in various news articles referring to when international flights will return to pre-COVID days. News articles speculate about “normalization” as early as this November, or as late as 2022.

So to answer that question this month, let me say that we do not yet have a departure date. I’m hoping we will have some new information in our September update since that past few months have just been more of the same.



Thanks to a local church, we’ve been able to improve our recording studio during COVID.

Until that time, we continue (albeit struggling some days) to trust in the Lord’s timing. I was reminded in a sermon by a dear pastor friend of ours that we must be content in glorifying God through a computer screen as we remain “stuck” in the USA. Daily, I must remind myself how blessed we are to have technologies that allow us to minister across the globe. It doesn’t compare with in-person ministry, but it is where the Lord has us right now.

So we continue in the areas of mentoring, counseling, teaching, and encouraging to our dear brothers and sisters in Latin America. We continue to be encouraged to see how the Lord is working in many peoples lives as they’ve faced various struggles catalyzed by COVID. We continue to be thankful that the Lord has us near family during this time. We are thankful to all of you who continue to pray for Lacey (Nikki’s sister) and her family.

We also mentioned in our last email that one of the pastors we work with was diagnosed with COVID. There were plenty of scary moments as he struggled just to breathe, and going to the hospital was not an option as patients were being treated in tents in the parking lots or in their cars due to an overwhelmed medical system. We are thankful to report that he has recovered. He will be preaching this weekend and has found his ministry has shifted to caring for many in the church who are losing loved ones to the Coronavirus.

Please continue to pray that we would not be discouraged with where the Lord has us right now. We don’t want to just be content, but we want to rejoice in everything that is going on.

We apologize for the lack of pictures this month. They would just be photos of computer screens. ;)



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