



THE BONHAM LINE

January 2021

30 SECOND UPDATE (see articles for more details)

- Our first month in Colombia has been filled with getting our home and life back into a rhythm and getting to know our neighbors and community.
- We are partnering with a church plant about an hour away while we work towards a local church plant.
- Many ministry plans are going to be hashed out over the next couple of months (church-planting internships, university, etc) as we try to figure out how to wisely launch ministries during a pandemic.

CHURCH PLANTING IN A PANDEMIC

We arrived in Colombia 47 days ago. We knew that launching a brand new team for MTW in the middle of a global pandemic on top of a chaotic holiday season would make for an interesting initiation. Even with these things looming over us, the Lord continues to remind us that he has people in this city (Acts 18:10).

Despite jumping in and out of short quarantines (sometimes with only a few hours' notice), we have been able to get our home furnished and functioning, for the most part. Of course, as any husband knows, there is always an ever-growing honey-do list. Nikki and the boys ramped up their homeschool after a brief hiatus during the transition, and just this morning the boys had their first session with their new Spanish language tutor.

As we have a view towards church planting, we wanted to start making inroads into meeting our neighbors as quickly as possible. On Christmas Eve, which is the main holiday here instead of Christmas Day, we gave out some "happies" to our neighbors. This gave us the chance to let them know why "gringos" had moved into their neighborhood. As a



Luis, Noah & Barrett getting ready to hand out Christmas happies to the neighbors.

result, we have had several of our neighbors over for dinner and have been invited into their homes as well! There is simply no substitute for hospitality, not just for ministry, but for our own souls.

Please continue to pray for us as we try to meet more of our neighbors both in our neighborhood and around town. One challenge we didn't take into consideration is the difficulty in remembering peoples' faces and tuning our ears to the Colombian

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.

PARTNER WITH US

Mission to the World
PO Box 744165
Atlanta, GA 30374-4165
Memo: Bonham 10788

or online at:
give.TheBonhamLine.org

MORE INFO

www.TheBonhamLine.org
www.MTW.org
601-691-1001

mtw
Mission to the World



Team Christmas get-together... though we celebrated early since the city was on quarantine through Christmas.

dialect while everyone is wearing masks. Muffled Spanish and half-hidden faces are a challenge!

Despite the challenges, this hospitality is the first step towards a church plant. In the coming months, our desire is to see a Bible study formed from these relationships, both with believers and non-believers. We have already had a couple of families ask when we are starting worship services! Pray for wisdom in God's timing. We don't want to move too fast because we want to proceed in a healthy way, but we also want to take advantage of the momentum that comes with newness.

CHURCH PARTNERING IN A PANDEMIC

If you are in the process of planting a church, what do you do for public worship? I'm glad you asked! As the seeds are being planted for a new church in our community, we are helping other partner churches in their ministry. The next closest church we partner with is over an hour away. It is a church plant itself, and we are considering ways to come alongside them.

This week, Nate will be teaching Sunday school, which is his first time teaching in person in Spanish (not virtually) in over a year. Nikki has also been asked to help the church launch their women's ministry (on top of continuing her work with many women in Arequipa, Perú).

CHURCH PLANNING IN A PANDEMIC

Over the next few weeks, we will also be working out the details with a sister theological institution to see how we might provide some hands-on, church-planting experience for their students. One of the things we have noticed in Latin America is that solid theological training is scarce, and the chance for future church leaders to gain practical experience in a real environment is even more rare. Typically, the knowledge is transmitted without much context, and the student is then thrown into the deep end of ministry—sink or swim. We are hoping to provide this vital hands-on experience for students in a setting of mutual learning and oversight.

On another front, the McCall family found a home and are in the process of moving in. As they get settled, we will also be thinking through a strategy as we launch our team's campus ministry. That will be a challenge as the local universities are currently only meeting virtually. This will require both creativity and patience as we move forward.

As you can see, launching these ministries during a pandemic comes with its own peculiar challenges. Hopefully this newsletter lets you know how you might pray for us!



Family bike ride up into the hills of the city. We will get some more Colombia landscape pictures in future newsletters!