



THE BONHAM LINE

July 2021

30 SECOND UPDATE (see articles for more details)

- Our church plant has a name! Please pray for Iglesia El Redentor (Redeemer Church).
- We are getting ready to move from Phase I (launch-group meetings) to Phase II (public Bible studies) on Aug. 21.
- Lord-willing, we will sign on a rental space for the church plant next week! Help us stock the building! (See link!)
- Seminary students (and our own boys) are on a short break for the summer.

IGLESIA EL REDENTOR

We had hoped to send a newsletter much sooner, but A LOT has been going on. You might remember that our church plant launch team began meeting on March 27th. After spending a few months making contacts and having individual families in our home for dinner, it was a joy to have the entire group in the same room at the same time! There was unity in our desire to see the gospel go out to Colombia and to launch a new church in our little corner of the Kingdom.

Immediately after our first launch meeting, Antioquia (our state in Colombia) initiated lockdown measures as a new Covid wave was ramping up. Starting a church in optimal conditions is difficult enough, but then we were faced with have to go virtual after only one meeting in person! For six weeks we had to meet through Zoom.

Though initially it was unwelcome news to us, the Lord's mercy was at work. When we got the call the Nikki's sister, Lacey, had passed away, we immediately flew back to the US. But because our group was meeting virtually due to lockdowns, we could continue to teach and meet from the US. Who

knows what might have happened if everything had not been virtual during those weeks! Then, in the Lord's providence, the restrictions were eased the same week we arrived back in Colombia, and we resumed meeting in person.

During that time, the Lord was faithful to keep our group together. Beyond that, we were able to formally adopt a name for the church. Through a series of nominations and votes, we chose the name Iglesia El Redentor, which means Redeemer Church.



In the logo, you will notice that the cross is the focal point. The circular shape represents the global mission. The river is reflective of the name of our town, Rionegro, which means "Black River." The river is also loosely in the shape of an "R" to represent El Redentor.

Give thanks to the Lord for the fruit he has brought over these last few months to this excited group of 25+ people.

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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PHASE II

During Phase I of the church plant, we have focused on building biblical community amongst the launch team. Because all of us are coming from different backgrounds, it has been important to study our identity as a church. Each time we have gathered in person, we have made a point to share a meal together as a group.

Our tentative date for jumping into Phase II is August 21. What is Phase II? This is where we begin a public Bible study open to anyone. The hope is to have our launch team help with and invite others to these Bible studies. As the Lord calls people to himself, we will begin preparing for Phase III, which is beginning public worship services.

In order to move into Phase II, we need more space. Since March, we have been using the enclosed garage in our house. We have simply reached capacity to continue hosting from our home. Because of that, Lord-willing, we will be signing a contract to rent a space this week. It is certainly a step of faith financially, but we believe it is a step we need to take. As missionaries, we will be fully providing the financial resources at the beginning, but our hope is that the church will soon be able to begin taking steps towards financial sustainability.

If you are interested in helping out especially during this time of increased costs as the church gets off the ground, please reach out to us or go to <https://give.thebonhamline.org>.

Please pray for the process to rent a space and our movement into Phase II. There is a lot to do between now and August 21.



Help us stock the church! Using this link, you will find an Amazon Wishlist of the things we need to purchase for the ministry of the church. Amazingly, these items ship free to Colombia with a minimum purchase of \$35 (unless otherwise noted). Send us an email after your purchase so we can be sure to check it off the list (nbonham@gmail.com). THANK YOU!

www.iglesiaelredentor.com/amazon

IN OTHER NEWS

We try to keep our newsletters short and sweet, but there is always more to say!

Because Iglesia El Redentor doesn't meet on Sunday mornings yet, we continue to help with another church plant in downtown Medellin on Sunday mornings. Though its only 15 miles, it's almost an hour drive from Rionegro into the city.



The beautiful drive over the mountain and down into Medellin on Sunday mornings.

The seminary students we mentor in church planting just finished their semester and are visiting their hometowns during their break, but they will be back with us as we begin Phase II. They only have one more semester, and then they will return to their respective cities to serve their local churches.

Nate, in partnership with Redeemer City to City, is being trained in "Gospel Coaching." The purpose of this training is to begin coaching other church planters in Latin America. Also through City to City, Nate is beginning to meet regularly with other church leaders of various denominations in order to promote church planting and gospel ecosystems in our region of Colombia.

And finally, the Bonham boys just wrapped up their school year and will have a break for a few weeks. Nikki continues to teach them in our homeschool (aptly named Bonham Academy International), and she is praying about the possibility of working towards a community co-op with other local homeschoolers in the area.

Pray for us as we continue to seek inroads into the community!