



THE BONHAM LINE

October 2021

30 SECOND UPDATE (see articles for more details)

- Iglesia El Redentor will begin Lord's Day services on October 31.
- We are so thankful for your partnership in the gospel.
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OCTOBER 31

It is no surprise that this date is of much historical importance in the church as it marks the anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. This year will mark 504 years of an event that changed the global church. Zooming down into Colombia, this date will also mark an important event in the life of Redeemer Church (Iglesia El Redentor). On October 31, 2021, we are hoping to have our first Lord's Day worship service. This will be a great milestone in the church plant.

When to switch to Sunday morning worship services can be a difficult question. We want to take advantage of the momentum that the Lord has catalyzed here in Rionegro, but we also don't want to begin prematurely. How do we determine when to do that?

First, we look back. In late March of this year, we started with a church plant "launch team." We met weekly to study the Word, to understand our vision as a church plant, to pray, and to enjoy fellowship. We were a group of 4 Colombian families, 2 missionary families, and a few students from a local Bible school. We were meeting in the

living room of our home and quickly realized we had no room to grow.

In June, we began searching for a new home for the congregation of Iglesia El Redentor, and in July, the Lord opened the door to a strategic locale just a few steps from the town center. After a few weeks of preparing the place, we began our public Bible studies on Saturday evenings in August. We've grown to have an average of about 60 people. The Lord is bringing the growth.



Saturday night Bible study

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

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El Redentor worship team

Second, we look to the present. Though there has been numerical growth, we don't want that to determine our next steps. Rather, we want to see the growth and commitment of the group. With each passing week, we hear the question more and more, "When are we going to start Sunday worship services?" It has been hard knowing that these individuals and families don't have anywhere to go on Sundays to worship. As we meet with other contacts in the community who are "investigating" Christianity, we are hearing that they won't be able to join us *until* we meet on Sunday mornings. But the recurring comment that is pushing us to begin Sunday services is this: "I feel like I'm with family." This is what we see the Lord doing. He is knitting a local family of believers united in the gospel and seeing it go out into the community. Like family, we see a willingness to commit to the ups and downs of ministry—to care for one another and love one another. We are seeing seeds of excitement for evangelism and mercy ministry.

Third, we look to the future. Worship is the cornerstone of what we do as a church. Without worshipping the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we are just another group or club in town. As we look forward to all of the exciting ministry opportunities here in Rionegro, we recognize it begins with gathering for worship on the Lord's Day.



Nikki leading the children's ministry

Please pray for our first Sunday worship service on October 31 (in just a few weeks!). There is much to be done!

THANKS AGAIN!

Nikki and I want to express our thanks for all of you who continue walking alongside of us in the ministry here in Rionegro. From your regular financial support, to sponsoring items for the church from our Amazon list, to your email and texts of encouragement, to your steadfast prayers, we are simply overwhelmed by your care for us in the gospel.



Fellowship time at El Redentor