



THE BONHAM LINE

April 2023

TL;DR Version (see articles for more details)

- Thank you for continuing to pray for our family after the recent and unexpected passing of Nikki's dad.
- In February, we began men's and women's small group ministries at Iglesia El Redentor.
- Nate has begun teaching "Covenant Counseling" at two seminaries as he prepares to finish his doctoral studies.

Grieving from Afar

We haven't sent out an update since January when we asked for prayers regarding Nikki's dad's accident. The trip to Mississippi was an intense emotional whirlwind, but we are thankful for the way the Lord sustains us, even in such immense loss.

One example of His sovereign care in all things is the fact that only a few days before the accident, Nikki had signed up to participate in a local women's retreat focused around grief and trauma healing that would take place in March. Little did she know how much she would need it by the time March rolled around, but the Lord knew. The retreat helped her to focus on the importance of healthy grief and healing rather than her tendency of pushing it to the side to focus on the busyness of ministry.

As we once again navigate the messiness of grief from far away, please continue praying for us. We are so thankful to have had Nikki's parents visit us here in Colombia just a few weeks before the accident, and we treasure those fresh memories with him. He was truly an amazing father, father-in-law, and grandfather, and we are thankful for the deep

imprint he left on all of our hearts. We covet your prayers as we mourn his loss and long for heaven.

Please pray for the other ladies from our church who attended the retreat as well, as they all, along with Nikki, continue processing their own grief.



John's grave. We buried him next to Lacey.

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 (Rionegro), Colombia.

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ECO Groups for Men and Women

In February, we began our new cycle of small groups, which we call “ECO groups”. ECO stands for Edification, Community, and Prayer (in Spanish). These groups meet weekly to study the Word of God, spend time together, and pray. For this cycle, we divided into groups for men, women, and youth. Nate led the men’s group through the beginning of 1 Peter, and Nikki led the women through the first half of Jen Wilkin’s book, *None Like Him*, which studies the incommunicable attributes of God. In both studies, the groups were able to dig deeper into their relationships with the Lord and with one another in a smaller, more intimate context. This month (April) we are on break, but we will pick back up with small groups again in May.

Please pray that these groups will truly be a place of edification, community, and prayer!



Women’s (above) and Men’s (below) ECO groups.

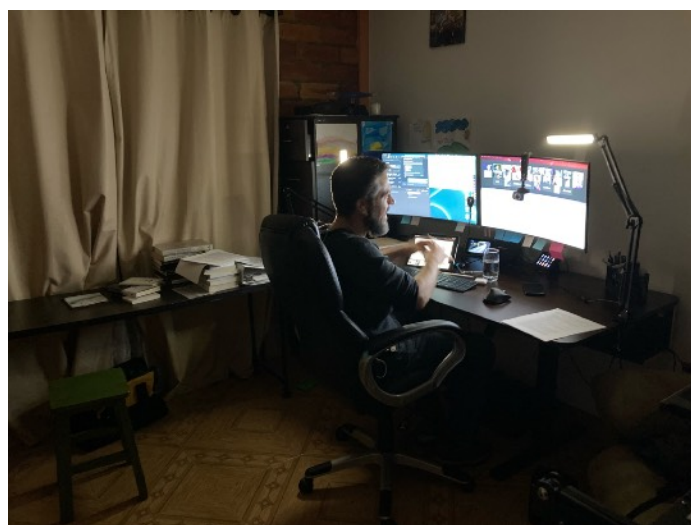
Covenant Counseling

As many of you know, Nate has been steadily plugging away at his doctoral studies in counseling for the past 5 years. As he nears the end, he has had the opportunity to teach the content of his thesis focus at two seminaries here in South America.

On Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings, Nate has been leading classes of 30-40 students through a course on biblical counseling through the framework of Covenant Theology. One of the seminaries is based out of Lima, and we were excited to see several of his previous students from Arequipa register for the course! The other seminary is in Medellin and is where both of the interns from Iglesia El Redentor are studying.

For many of these students, this class has been their first introduction to Reformed theology, Covenant Theology, and counseling... so you can imagine that it is a lot to take in! Pray for them as they wrestle with these new concepts and seek to apply them in their relationships and ministries, and for Nate as he walks alongside them in their journey to learn to counsel to the glory of God.

Please pray for Nate as he tries to “finish the race” with his doctoral studies. He hopes to have a completed thesis by the end of this year.



Nate teaching the Wednesday night class to mostly Peruvian students.