



THE BONHAM LINE

TL;DR Version (see articles for more details)

- **A QUICK SUMMARY:** a whirlwind rundown of the events and happenings of the last few months
- **TRIPS and TRAVELS:** church visits, an anniversary trip, & the Global Missions Conference.
- **GRADUATIONS, BAPTISMS, NEW MEMBERS:** We've had lots of excitement at El Redentor!
+ LOTS OF PICTURES!

A Fall to Remember

It is never a good idea to get behind on newsletters, because then there is WAY too much to share! But here are a few of the highlights:

In August our church (in conjunction with City to City Latin America) hosted a **mercy ministry conference** for churches in our region who want to know more about how to begin mercy ministries in their communities. Randy Nabors from First Pres Chattanooga taught the conference & did a fabulous job helping pastors, lay leaders, & church members see the myriad of creative ways to be involved in reaching out to our communities. We received such great feedback from the event.

In September, we welcomed a short-term team from City Rev in Miami (a partner church of our teammates, the Bersaches). They sent down a group of Spanish-speaking members to help us provide special events for the local at-risk children that we work with. They led VBS-style events at two different local ministries as well as children's Sunday School at El Redentor. The kids loved it!

In October, we Bonhams were on the road again. More on that in the next article....

November was filled with catch-up after our travels, lots of meetings, & year-end gatherings. The school calendar runs from January to November, so it is full of graduations, recitals, & special events. We had a full calendar! And of course, Thanksgiving.

December is a month of celebrations and holidays in Colombia, which means a LOT of opportunities to spend time building Christ-centered relationships in our community. Check out the photo captions at the end of the newsletter for lots more specifics from the last few months.



A bonfire at the girls' home after a full day of activities with the short-term team. We loved providing a VBS for these girls!

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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Trips & Travels

In October, our family spent several weeks traveling to several different places for a mix of both work and vacation. We went back to the US to participate in MTW's Global Missions Conference and decided to take advantage of the opportunity to visit both of our families and a couple of supporting churches, and to take a little romantic getaway to celebrate our 20 year marriage anniversary. We were bouncing around to a ton of different cities during our trip, but it was great to fit lots of things into a just a few weeks of travel.



Our Colombia booth at the Global Missions Conference. We showcased bracelets made by the girls at the girls' home, and we were excited to raise over \$700 to take back to them! Thanks to all who donated to the care of these sweet girls.

At the missions conference, we shared about an upcoming initiative called the Colombia Company of Pastors (which we will share more about in our next newsletter!), hosted a Colombia-themed interest meeting for those considering missions, and taught a workshop on preparing your family and marriage for the mission field. Nikki also had the chance to share a testimony on “calling” during the Sunday morning worship service. It was a busy conference, but we were so thankful to share about what the Lord is doing here on our field and to encourage others to invest deeply in missions, either by going or by sending others.

Growth & Depth at El Redentor

The last few months have been filled with excitement at Iglesia El Redentor as well. We just wrapped up several months of small groups focusing on “Gospel-Centered Community.” We hosted a group at our home, and each meeting was so encouraging, convicting, and edifying. We praise God for this community, and we pray that it will grow to be more and more centered around Christ as He continues drawing others to Himself. It has been beautiful to see the relationships among the members of El Redentor deepen as they begin to open up their lives to one another.

We also welcomed several new members to the church, both by new families who joined as well as a new covenant child born into our congregation. Celebrating new members and baptisms is one of our favorite things! We hope the Lord continues to grow our numbers in BOTH of these ways!

We have also been excited to see the Lord continue to work in the lives of our pastoral interns. We have several seminary students who attend our church and two (Johan and Jehadry) who serve as official interns in pastoral ministry. Both of them graduated in November, and we are excited about their desire to continue learning and investing in El Redentor in deeper ways as they discern their ministerial callings.



Celebrating with Johan at his graduation from Seminario Bíblico de Colombia. We are excited to continue working alongside him as he moves into a more formal role.

Prayer Requests:

- **Looking towards 2025:** This next year, we are hoping to focus heavily on leadership development at Iglesia El Redentor. We still do not have our own elders or deacons yet, and we hope to begin the process of identifying and training potential candidates. We also hope to begin the process of discipling women who will help with forming and formalizing our women's ministry, and continue in the development of our children's ministry team leaders and teachers. Please pray with us that the Lord will raise up leaders in all of these areas, that we will be faithful to disciple and equip them well in what it means to love and serve Christ's bride.
- **General Assembly:** In January, the pastors and elders from our denomination (IREP, the Reformed Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Colombia) will gather together in the city of Barranquilla for meetings, encouragement, prayer, and the opportunity to go over a long list of issues concerning the denomination as a whole. Nate will be attending along with a couple of our teammates. Please pray for this gathering of pastors, specifically for wisdom, unity, steadfastness in ministry, and a vision for the future growth of our denomination.
- **Marriage:** Please pray with us for the marriages of El Redentor. Nate recently finished up a sermon series on Ephesians, and he spent several weeks particularly in Ephesians 5 on various aspects of marriage, the beauty of its design, the eternal reality it reflects, and the implications of it both in our earthly marriages and in our understanding of the church. In the weeks since, we have had a number of couples approach us asking for ways to dig deeper into this concept with them. We are praying about ways to respond to this opportunity and what that might look like in the new year (one-on-ones, small group, a broader class, etc.). Rejoice with us that this is a topic that the Holy Spirit is putting on the hearts of members El Redentor! And please join us in praying for wisdom to approach it well, for the health and continued growth of the marriages in our congregation, and for our marriage specifically as we strive to live out this truth as a testimony of God's goodness and grace towards us.
- **On the Home Front:** The new year always brings a surge of new ideas and opportunities for ministry. Pray with us that we will be able to wisely discern what the Lord is calling us to commit to as a family during this next year. We pray that He will give us the wisdom to know what opportunities are ours to respond to, which are best to delegate and develop new leaders for, and which are best to trust that the Holy Spirit will raise someone else up to respond to in the future. But in all cases, please join us in praying that the Lord will always keep the conviction fresh on our hearts that our family is our first ministry, and that we will always respond wisely, lovingly, and eagerly to the needs of one another both in our marriage and with our children. We pray that He will be glorified in how we live out the truth of the gospel within our family not only in public, but especially behind closed doors as well as we practice gospel truths in relationship with one another.

Thank you for praying with and for us!



The Mercy Ministry conference we hosted in August. Here, Anderson (a church member) is translating for Randy Nabors as he teaches. This was an amazing event!



In August, we also received a visit from MTW Coordinator Lloyd Kim and his wife Ida. It was great to get to show them a little around Rionegro and worship with them at El Redentor. Our team took them to lunch at one of our favorite spots.



At the beginning of August, the boys attended a retreat for high school MTW MKs (missionary kids) in our region. They had 5 days of fun, fellowship, bible study, and spiritual care from our MTW Next coworkers who are based in Bogotá. They had a great time!



While our boys were occupied at the retreat, Nikki took advantage of a few kid-free days to hop on a plane to go meet her newest nephew. Baby Art was born in May, and she was so thankful for the chance to snuggle him! She spent five days exactly like this.



In September we had a fun visit with our friends the Halberts, who serve with MTW in Honduras. We have known them since our college days, so it is always fun when we get to catch up. They were passing through Colombia and stopped for a few days in Rionegro.



Luis had another swim meet in September and won 3rd place! He received a medal for his performance swimming the butterfly. Go Luis!



During our October travels, we stopped by Covenant College to see Annelise McCall! It is strange not having her in Rionegro with us, but we are thankful she is loving her freshman year!



We were thankful for the chance to spend some time with Nikki's grandmother while in Mississippi.



Nikki and Kelly (her best friend of 36 years) in Mississippi.



Celebrating our 20 year wedding anniversary and thanking the Lord for the grace and blessing He has shown us through this relationship. We pray for many more years together!



Nate, his 3 brothers, and our 3 boys recreate this same photo every time they are all together (which is not that often). We call it the Bonham Boys 2.0 picture, and I love that we have it over so many years!



At the Global Missions Conference, Nikki had the opportunity to share a testimony during the Sunday morning service about the way the Lord called (and still calls!) our family to the field.



One of our favorite parts of the conference is always getting to reconnect with friends we don't see often, whether they are fellow missionaries in other regions, or supporters who love us well from afar!



Nate's mom and his brothers, Ben, came to visit us for Thanksgiving!



Our whole Thanksgiving crew for 2024. It was a full house!



The newest members of Iglesia El Redentor! Nate always says his favorite part of pastoring is baptizing babies. We also had several new families join after completing an 8-week membership course. We are excited to welcome all of them to the El Redentor family.



In November, Nate started a new sermon series on Hebrews. I have a feeling we will be in it for awhile!



Noah and Barrett continue to help with music whenever they are needed, and they're enjoying the opportunity to serve on the music rotation.



November and December were full of graduations and end of year programs! We have several seminary students in our congregation and we were excited to celebrate their graduation with them.



We also celebrated the end of year "graduation" program at a local ministry for at-risk kids. Several members of our church, including Nate, spend time with these kids on Fridays playing music, helping with homework, teaching a Bible lesson, and playing.



Enjoying an end-of-the-year ballet recital for one of our favorite little El Redentor members.



Some friends taught Nikki and the boys how to make a macramé plant hangers and hat displays. It was a fun project!



Another back porch sunset.



The El Redentor Christmas party was a hit! We had a packed house — over 100 people came this year! Many brought friends and family members. We also invited all of the girls from the local girls' home we work with (Angeles de Amor). What a fun night!



The girls from the home were excited to each receive a gift from one of our church members who owns a local clothing store.



Another of our little ones with a gift to take home. We love these girls!



We always have a fun craft and ornament-making area at the Christmas party so that everyone can make a keepsake ornament to take home. This year we made Christmas trees with gold foil and cloth scraps. They turned out so cute!



Noah regularly steals my phone to take pictures of birds or plants or animals that he spots.



The landlord rents the land around us to farmers for their cattle and animals. We never know what will show up. One morning we woke up and there were horses right outside! They've been there a few months now and are beautiful!



No matter what Noah is up to, Dorito is happy to be along for the ride.



Noah and Dorito (the bird) doing schoolwork on the porch.

Thanks for keeping up with us! Let us know what's going on in your family. We would love to hear from you and know how to pray for you!

Love,
The Bonhams (Nate, Nikki, Noah, Barrett, and Luis)

