



THE BONHAM LINE

TL;DR Version (see articles for more details)

- **US & COLOMBIA IN THE NEWS:** pray that international relations stay smooth!
- **D.O.M.E REPORT:** (Department of Missions Efficiency) *How are we stewarding your support?*
- **BOLO!** (Be On the LookOut!) A quick teaser of what's coming up in our next newsletter.

+ LOTS OF PICTURES!

D.O.M.E.

The political landscape has changed quite a bit since our last newsletter. In the U.S., a new president was inaugurated. And perhaps you caught in the news that just a few days later, a very public and international spat occurred between the president of the U.S. and the president of Colombia regarding deporting Colombia nationals from the U.S. I'm sure there are continuing implications under the surface, but fortunately the public spectacle has seemed to subside for the most part. Please keep US-Colombia relations in your prayers since they are very delicate and have direct implications on our ability to live and serve in Colombia.

Other political news that has made waves internationally is the formation of the Department of Government Efficiency (D.O.G.E.), which has drawn opinions from all points of the political spectrum. I'm sure the readers of our newsletter come from all different perspectives.

We have no desire to delve into this topic as it pertains to U.S. government and politics, but I think everyone is in favor of accountability when it comes to spending. If we work hard for our money, and it is

going somewhere, we want to know how it is being spent. In fact, we know that those of you who partner with us financially probably have the same question. *How is that money being used?*

With this in mind, this newsletter will be a report of sorts from our own Department of Missions Efficiency (D.O.M.E.). It is important that you have an idea of where your financial support is going. It is also important that we, as your missionaries, think about this as well. Why? Two reasons. First, we need



Sunday mornings at El Redentor

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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to be good stewards of the resources that the Lord has entrusted to us (i.e., your financial support). Second, this reflection allows us to look back and remember God's faithfulness. It is easy to get caught up in the worries of today and tomorrow and forget how God has been steadfast in the past. Therefore, what follows is a summary (in no particular order) of some of the ways that the Lord has used your financial support for his Kingdom purposes just in the last few months. Note that some items are intentionally vague as to protect the privacy of others.

Your financial support...

1. Allows us to minister in a local home for at-risk girls on a weekly basis where we help with deed ministry (homework help, food assistance, life management, etc.) and Word ministry (Bible studies, counseling, etc.).
2. Allowed us to have all the girls and staff come to our Christmas party where they could enjoy fellowship with the congregation and hear the gospel.
3. Helped a young couple who fled a devastating situation in a neighboring country with the birth of their first child and bringing a family member to help.
4. Paid for two young pastoral interns to travel and attend the General Assembly (annual denomination meeting) of the denomination that we work with.
5. Helped to establish the formation of Spanish Reformed Translation Society, a group of like-minded men and women from three continents who desire to see more resources translated for the blessing of the Spanish-speaking church.
6. Purchased countless cups of coffee over which gospel-based conversations and counseling were had with believers and non-believers.
7. Helped a pastor to take a sabbatical after his wife died due to a human error in a hospital, leaving him to care for his two young sons and pastor a church. Furthermore, this pastor has been threatened by the lingering para-military groups in Colombia.
8. Allows us to disciple another pastoral intern who has a heart to serve the local church.
9. Helps a church-planting intern to gain experience in the church, and, Lord-willing, to be sent out in the next year or two to plant a church.
10. Provided a modest Christmas gift to youth from a difficult part of the city who have participated in weekly Bible studies all year.
11. Will help us hold a national conference in Bogotá later this year that will bring several denominations together.
12. Helps us continue discipleship relationships in Peru (where we served from 2013-2019).
13. Has allowed Iglesia El Redentor to enter its fourth year of ministry.
14. Helps us dedicate time to the behind-the-scenes work of the local presbytery (region of churches) and denomination.
15. Facilitates a network of church leaders that crosses denomination and traditional lines for the expansion of the church.
16. Contributed to an Evangelism workshop that we held in the church.
17. Affords materials for our upcoming elder and deacon training.
18. Enabled us to continue into our 13th year on the mission field in Latin America.
19. Allows us, above all, to continue administering the ordinary means of grace that the Lord uses to expand his church. From sermon prep to prayer meetings to fellowship and Lord's Day worship, your financial support is used in myriad of ways for the glory of God.

This is just a meager sampling of how the Lord uses your financial support on the mission field. We could continue with many more pages of a list, but it would be overwhelming (for you and for us). Instead, we hope this brief list helps you recognize what part that you have in this great mission of God. As we often tell people, partnering

with our family in the call to missions doesn't just mean you are financially supporting a single family. You are supporting a local church and everything it is involved in (discipleship, evangelism, mercy ministry, etc.).

As for "efficiency," how can we measure that? The only answer we have is that the Lord is doing his will. There are people coming to a saving faith in Jesus and growing in sanctification. There are also others that continue in their rebellion against the lordship of Christ or who left the faith after a time. Though we can't control what the Lord will do in the hearts of each person, we seek to remain faithful to the calling he has given us and to the stewardship of resources that your partnership provides.

Nikki and I are extremely humbled by and very grateful for those of you who have sacrificially partnered with the ministry here in Colombia. The fact that you entrust us to use your financial support wisely is not something we take lightly. We do not take that trust for granted, and we ask that you would continue to pray for us as we continue in this mission.

B.O.L.O.

Be on the lookout! We can't fit everything going on into one newsletter. Therefore, in future editions we will inform you about various areas of ministry: The Colombia Company of Pastors, the training and evaluation of church officers (elders and deacons), university ministry, and future church plants.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- **A BUSY SEMESTER** — We are thankful to have a full ministry calendar this semester, but it always brings us back to asking for prayer that we can keep healthy family rhythms in place within our family. We always pray that the Lord would keep on the forefront of our minds and hearts that our FIRST ministry priority is to one another and to our children, and that we will be quick to notice each others' needs so that we can intentionally minister to one another. Pray that all five of us would constantly be pointing one another to Christ.
- **SUNDAY SCHOOL** — We added a new class this semester for parents of young children. We have several families with toddler, preschool, or young-elementary aged kids, and we have been looking for ways to more intentionally walk alongside them during this stage of life. Nate and Nikki are co-teaching a class on cultivating little hearts for worship, with a focus on building devotional habits and worship patterns as a family.
- **ECO GROUPS** — Our small group ministry started back up in February. This semester, we are divided by gender, so Nikki is teaching the ladies and Nate is teaching the men. Both groups are going through *The Meaning of Marriage* by Timothy Keller. We are excited about this study because following the preaching series on Ephesians, we received a lot of questions and interest about doing something marriage-focused both for couples and singles. Please pray that the Lord would reveal the beauty of the gospel through this study on the relationship between Christ and His bride.
- **LEADERSHIP TRAINING** — In a few weeks, Nate will start a training series for men who have been nominated for elder or deacon roles in the church. This process of training our first class of officers will take almost 2 years, and we are excited to see what the Lord does through this time. Pray for our church as we are currently receiving nominations, for Nate as he plans and leads this study, and for the men who the Lord is calling to potentially serve in this capacity. We praise Him for bringing us to this place in the life of our congregation!
- **REGIONAL MINISTRIES** — Please pray for healthy growth (both spiritually and numerically) within our denomination. Nate continues to invest in the training and development of young pastoral candidates as well as in administrative and organizational areas for the denomination as a whole. Pray that the Lord would bless these pastors and churches so that His kingdom would continue to be advanced here in Colombia!



Christmas Eve at la Casa de los Bonham... the 24th is the "big" Christmas celebration day here in Colombia, so we hosted a dinner for anyone who didn't have family nearby to celebrate Christmas with. We had a full house and a great Christmas celebration!



Over new years we kept our annual tradition of the Lord of the Rings trilogy over several days, and we also broke in our new homemade Settlers of Catan board that we built and painted. It turned out pretty good! It was nice to have a low-key New Years celebration as a family after a busy Christmas season.



Nate continues preaching through Hebrews this semester.



Sunday School started back in February. This semester we have 4 classes: Adults, Children, Youth, and a new class for Young Parents that we (Nate and Nikki) teach.



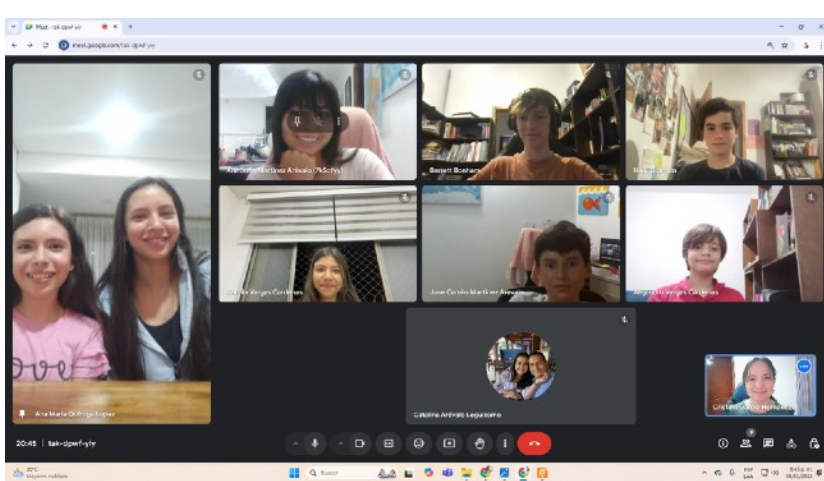
Our men's and women's groups started back in February as well. Both groups are studying The Meaning of Marriage by Keller.



The church recently hosted an Evangelism Explosion workshop, and hopefully we will soon be able to start the more in-depth training classes as well. We are hoping this will be a great way to get our congregation involved in intentional evangelism here in Rionegro.



We started back up with our homeschool small group. Nikki teaches Shakespeare (we just started Macbeth!), and another mom teaches Colombian geography and Spanish literature. We've been studying weekly with these friends for about 3 years now. It is such a blessing!



The twins participate in a homeschool science and literature course for middle and high schoolers (also in Spanish). This semester they're reading Journey to the Center of the Earth and learning about ecosystems. Another Colombian mom and educator teaches the course, and it has been a great addition to our school year.



Noah and Barrett with a few other youth and young adults playing soccer at a field near the church.



Noah twinning with our teammate, John McCall, instead of with his ACTUAL twin!



You never know what might show up at our house. This one made it into the yard. Our pup, Bruno, was NOT a fan of the invasion, especially since we'd also had a middle-of-the-night cow intrusion the night before!



Dorito (Noah's bird) continues to rule the roost at the Bonham house.



Instead of a back porch sunset pic, here's a front-door sunrise pic. It's often so foggy in the early mornings that you can't see the view, so getting a glimpse of the sunrise is always a treat!



We've had a new baby horse show up in the last couple of weeks. We have loved living next to all of this land that is rented to cattle farmers. It is always fun to see what is outside our fence on any given day.

Thanks for reading along! We always love to hear from you as well. Please reach out and let us know what your family is up to.

Nate, Nikki, Noah, Barrett, and Luis