



CROSS
COLLABORATION
MTW MISSIONARIES TO LATIN AMERICA

BONHAM, GUTIERREZ & KINES FAMILIES



Missions Newsletter

February 2014

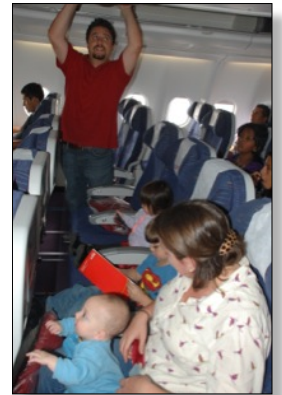
“Month One in Peru”



Our 17 passports!

Well we made it! After much anticipation, excitement, and no small amount of work, we are on Peruvian soil. Actually, the “no small amount of work” part would be why we are writing you this newsletter a month after arriving in Peru. It has been a bit of a whirlwind, but we feel overwhelmingly blessed to be on the ground in Arequipa, Peru, where the Lord has called us to serve long-term. Thank you for your prayers and support as we have needed every ounce of it during this difficult transition. The Lord has truly been gracious to us.

Having closed out 2013, it is normal for folks to do a “year in review” type look at the last year. Quite frankly this past month has felt like a year’s worth of labor, so we are just offering you a “month in review”.



Gutierrez family ready to fly to Peru

Touching Down In Lima



Arriving to Lima

Lima with 17 people and enough bags, bins, and baby paraphernalia to fill a plane all by ourselves. Thankfully the flight went smoothly and Nathaniel’s extended family was waiting on us when we touched down in Lima. They were a Godsend! As soon as we passed through customs they were there taking our baggage and greeting us with hugs and hospitality. There is just something about having someone on the other side of the customs wall when you arrive in a new country that brings great comfort to weary travelers.

Closing out our time in Bogota and boarding a plane to Lima, Peru was no small feat. The Lord was gracious in helping us sell our three cars and things that we could not bring with us. Closing out our houses and business in Colombia went as smoothly as we could have hoped. And for nostalgia sake, we ended our time in Colombia where we began....in the Baptist Missionary House.



Transportation in Lima

We then boarded a plane to



Kines family packed into a cab!

Our week in Lima did not yield the result we had hoped and we are still without our official documentation, but we are getting used to the process of “rinse and repeat” when it comes to official paperwork.

Arriving in Arequipa: Home Sweet Home

We arrived in Arequipa late in the evening on Wednesday, December 18th, and it was everything we could do to get pizza ordered, kids fed, and in the bed. Our first several days were filled with taxis and house hunting as we sought to get a head-start on the house search before Christmas. We finally called it quits a couple of days before Christmas and tried to enjoy some time with our families and each other as a team.

Our families are missionaries with Mission to the World, the missionary-sending agency of the Presbyterian Church in America, serving in Arequipa, Peru.

Find more info at: www.CrossCollaboration.org

Christmas day started for most of us at midnight on Christmas Eve. To say that Arequipeños know how to do fireworks would be a gross understatement. We have never seen a city of over a million people all shoot large, beautiful fireworks off at the same time, but it is an experience we will not soon forget. Absolutely amazing! After enjoying some time with our families on Christmas morning, we gathered for a somewhat traditional Christmas meal late that afternoon. We were blessed to spend this time together in the country we have long anticipated starting ministry.

The New Year started pretty consistently with the way most of 2013 went: a chain reaction of sickness among the members of the team and we all managed to stay pretty close to home for a few days.



Bonham family in the town square
(Arequipa)



After a somewhat tumultuous ending to 2013 and sickly start to 2014, we are happy to report that we have all found homes close to each other and are settling in nicely. We anticipate our container arriving in the next few days, which will allow us to fully and finally get settled. We have a lot more left to do to get underway here in Arequipa, but we feel overwhelming blessed and encouraged as we look back at the road that brought us here. The Lord has handled every detail and we are left rejoicing at His handiwork. We are also thankful for all of you, our supporters, friends, and family, for your consistent support, prayers, emails, and calls. We have felt loved and supported in ways we cannot describe and for that we are grateful!

Visit our newly updated website: <http://www.crosscollaboration.org>

What's Ahead For The New Year?

Some of you may be wondering what this first year on the ground will look like. Since we are starting a new work, it is not simply a matter of sliding into already established ministries on the ground and getting to work. We are spending this first year learning the culture, the city, and thinking and praying through ministry vision together as a team. Of course, learning a city requires meeting people and building relationships, which we trust will serve as the foundation of our future work, but we certainly plan on being intentional in the learning process our first year. We covet your prayers as we spend this year building relationships and learning the culture here in Arequipa. Our long-term ministry depends on this foundational work and our prayer is that the Lord uses it to give us a clear picture of how to reach the people of Arequipa.

PRAY

- Praise the Lord for our safe arrival to Peru along with all our kids and luggage!
- Praise the Lord for giving the entire team great rentals!
- Please pray for our visas and government paperwork to be approved and no longer delayed.
- Please pray for our health and safety.
- Please pray for us as we search for cars (many of the used cars that look great are actually cars that have been imported here from the US after being totaled!)

PARTNER

Tax deductible donations may be sent to:
Mission to the World
PO Box 116284
Lawrenceville, GA 30368

Note in the memo line:
10788 Bonham, 12762 Gutierrez, 14043 Kines

For other ways to give, visit:
www.crosscollaboration.org/partner-with-us