

MISSIONS NEWSLETTER APRIL 2015

## MARCH WAS A MONTH OF MANY NEW THINGS IN AREQUIPA...

#### A New Presbytery

In March, we were privileged to be a part of the birth of a new Presbytery of the I.E.P.R.P. (The Presbyterian Church in Peru). It is called The Presbytery of the South and we are in the process of having our congregation in Arequipa be a part of this presbytery. A presbytery is a group of churches in a region that come together to pray for one another, encourage one another, and deal with matters of the church. The fellowship, support, and accountability of these other churches will be vital as we continue to grow, and we are thankful that we are no longer quite as isolated as we were before. We are still an 8-hour drive from the nearest Presbyterian church, but now, we are connected with a Presbytery and the denomination. This will also put us in closer connection with our colleagues with MTW that work in Cusco, Peru. Lord-willing, one day we will see Arequipa have its own Presbytery.



The Pastors of the "Presbiterio Del Sur."

#### **NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL**

This month, we also began Sunday School at our church, Iglesia Presbiteriana La Roca (The Rock Presbyterian Church). This is the first time that this congregation has had Sunday School and provides another opportunity to disciple and teach. We are currently studying the Westminster Confession of Faith to teach the basics of our faith. The class is taught by Nate and Nathaniel, plus one other young man who has begun training to become a future pastor. We also offer two children's Sunday School classes, which are taught by Alicia, Nikki, and a few other ladies from the congregation.



Children's Sunday School

### **NEW GROWTH**

Easter Sunday marked another Sunday in which our sanctuary was completely full. If even one additional family had shown up, we would have been placing seats outside! The Lord has greatly blessed this small church over the last couple of months. This growth is coming from new believers and those who have left the church in the past for one reason or another. Please pray for us in two ways: First, pray for us as we plan to expand our worship space to accommodate for this growth. We want to do so with wisdom and good stewardship. Second, pray for us as we focus our resources (time, energy and finances) into spiritual growth to meet the numerical growth. We must have our discipleship keep up with those walking in the doors. This month, we are hoping to have our first New Members, Baptism, and Lord's Supper classes. Pray for us as we shepherd God's people.



Nathaniel preaching on Easter Sunday

### **NEW WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

There are also many exciting things going on in the Women's Ministry of the church. This year, Nikki and Alicia were asked to help lead the women's ministry by providing vision and teaching. Although the group has been meeting for a couple of years, they have never studied the Bible together and didn't know where to begin. Nikki and Alicia have recently begun a new study, where they will dig into the Word of God together and explore it for the first time. These women have expressed their excitement about learning God's Word, but also learning HOW to study God's Word. Please pray for them as they study the book of Galatians.



A few ladies from the Women's Ministry

# **NEW TEAMMATES**

No, we do not have new teammates, yet. But we have begun the process of finding new missionaries to join our team in Arequipa. Specifically, we are looking for someone who has the gifts and desire to lead a university ministry, direct mercy ministry, and/or manage administration and communication for the team. If you know someone who is considering the foreign mission field and wants to be a part of a church-planting work, please put them in touch with us. Perhaps that person is you!





Would you consider becoming a ministry partner?

Please visit: www.crosscollaboration.org/partner-with-us

Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support!

-The Gutierrez & Bonham Families

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