

MISSIONS NEWSLETTER **MARCH 2016**

OUTREACH | AREQUIPA

Take the sheets off the bed, throw them in the wash, make the bed again, wait for the next guest to arrive, and repeat. This has been a month full of hospitality and counseling. Our guest room has housed the constant stream of visitors over the last few months, some expected, while others unexpected. This month we've received people who were in need of a safe place to stay until things could be figured out, and also people coming from other Peruvian cities in need of deep counseling during very difficult times.

Our hearts have felt the weight and heaviness of broken families around us – some within our own church amongst



Christians and some outside the church, and our counseling abilities have been put to the test now more than ever before. It is heartbreaking to see the trend of broken families and marriages grow, and we are clinging to the Lord for wisdom on how to love our neighbors here and how to counsel them when they are in the midst of such sadness.

Not only have we been emotionally busy, we have been physically busy too. At the end of the year, we hosted a "Chocolata" (or a hot chocolate event) at our church. We planned to have a very simple evening with hot chocolate, popcorn

and Peruvian Christmas bread, "Panettone" but then one of our recent converts/

Surprise dinner

members (who was baptized earlier in December) surprised us all with a full turkey dinner for the

whole church! This kind of gesture means so much in this culture – often times it is the missionaries who are expected to host/pay for/organize events like this, but to have a

> new church member, on their own initiative and dime, pay for a dinner like this was an incredible sacrifice and very encouraging.



Pastor Retreat (Cusco)

In January Nathaniel had the opportunity to preach at a pastor's retreat in Cusco, which was a wonderful opportunity. A few weeks after he returned, we participated in a medical campaign with MTW missionaries from Cusco and a medical mission here in Arequipa. The campaign was held near the Peruvian coast, which is only a few hours

drive for us, and Nathaniel was able to help out each day of the campaign by triaging the patients and praying for them as they waited to be seen. It was wonderful to see and participate

Medical campaign

in this medical ministry and to make contacts that may lead to more intentional partnerships with local medical ministries.

Two weeks ago, we hosted our second annual Valentine's "Italian Dinner" at the church. Last year we were able to host it in our home, and had 25 people. This year, we had to use the church facility because we had almost doubled the amount of guests. Our goal was to put on an elegant and relaxing evening for the families in our church – so that no matter their financial or marital status, everyone could celebrate Valentine's Day together. It was a fun evening with way too much food and great games and Nathaniel shared a small devotional, which we pray impacted many of the non-believers in attendance.



Italian Dinner

U.S. MINISTRY | THE BONHAM FAMILY ON HOME MINISTRY ASSIGNMENT



It is only the beginning of the year and the ministry is already overflowing with so much hope and promise. As we hold down the fort during the Bonham family's furlough, we know that much of their work in the US might go unnoticed as it is less exciting to write about. However, since December they have travelled to church after church to communicate what the Lord is doing here in Arequipa, and to continue to engage the church in the US with what God is doing here. On top of all this, the Bonham's are actively seeking out more missionaries to help us in this work in Arequipa. Nate will be speaking at an upcoming MTW Vision Retreat for people who are interested in pursuing a call with missions. Please pray for more missionaries and also for the Bonham family as they travel and speak with hundreds of people about this mission.

Thank you for praying for our team as we serve Arequipa, and thank you for your continued support and encouragement.

Bonham Home Ministry Assignment

CALENDAR | UPCOMING EVENTS

The Bonham family is thankful for a calendar packed full of opportunities to share about the ministry in Arequipa, and would love to see you at any of the upcoming events!

Mar 6-9: First PCA (Gulfport, MS)

Mar 13: Peace Lutheran (Gulf Shores, AL) Mar 18-20: Trinity PCA (Jackson, MS) Apr 3: Covenant PCA (Nashville, TN) Apr 9-10: Trinity PCA (Murfreesboro, TN)

Apr 17: First PCA (Louisville, MS)



Missions display table



Thank you for your continued prayers and financial support!
-The Gutierrez & Bonham Families

Would you consider becoming a ministry partner?

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

Donations: Mission to the World, PO Box 2589, Suwanee, GA 30024

Memo Line: Bonham (10788) and Gutierrez (12762)