

THE BONHAM FAMILY

2017 ANNUAL UPDATE

For those of you who have followed our missions newsletters and Facebook posts, it is no surprise that 2017 has been a very challenging year. From a personal standpoint, it has been our family's most difficult year on the field. In April, Nikki's sister, Lacey Madden, was diagnosed with Stage 4 Glioblastoma (an aggressive malignant tumor in the brain). In the midst of this lingering cloud of uncertainty and grief, we have seen the Lord do some amazing things. We felt that it would be appropriate to share some of these realities with you for a couple reasons. First, many of you who read this letter financially support us and pray for us, so we want to give you a more personal glimpse into our lives. Second, and most importantly, we want to give glory to God during this Christmas season for how he is at work.



Nikki with her sisters in November. (L to R: Janie, Lacey, Nikki)



Teaching at Iglesia La Roca (The Rock Church)

reminds us of why we are in Peru. We want to see the local church in Peru serve Christ and each other the way the local church in Mississippi has served the Madden family. *Would you pray with us to that end?*

The first testimony we want to share is how we have seen Christ's church at work. It is difficult to live in another continent when you know that you have close family who is walking through a very difficult and trying time. We long to be near our family to be able to serve them in whatever way we can. But even from a distance, we have seen the church work in incredible ways. I have never seen the church rally around a family as I have seen the church rally around Lacey, Brad and their family. Bringing meals, babysitting the children, taking Lacey to treatments, and unceasing prayers are just a few ways we have seen the church at work. Watching this from afar has not only been encouragement to our hearts as we are far away, but it also

The second thing we wanted to share is the Lord's faithfulness as he continues to confirm our call. As you can imagine, along with the sense of sadness we feel in being so far away at this time comes a sense of guilt. Why would we be a continent away when our family is experiencing this? It is honestly a question that comes to mind often, but it is quickly followed by the Lord's grace in assuring us that we are where we need to be. Many have asked us, "So, are you going home?" The Lord continues to confirm our call to the foreign mission field, and we have no plans of moving back to the U.S. at this time. He has also graciously provided us with the opportunity and means to travel back to Mississippi several times for short trips to spend time with Nikki's family during this difficult season. *Would you pray that the Lord would continue giving us clarity and joy in our calling?*



New Members Class



Putting in a little elbow grease at the Seminary offices.

The third testimony we want to share is that Christ continues to work here in Arequipa, Peru. Even in the midst of many tears and moments of anxiousness, the Lord continues to carry us through as he builds his church in Peru. As these events in our personal lives have unfolded, our team has also been in the planning stages of planting a seminary. It is by God's grace that we are set to launch *Seminario Bíblico Reformado* in March where we hope to train and equip church leaders through theological education and hands-on experience. As we launch the seminary, we also see it as a tool to equip the local church, Iglesia La Roca, that we have been

working with for the past 3 years. *Would you pray for the Seminario Bíblico Reformado as we prepare to open in March 2018?*

Finally, we want to close this letter with an open and honest plea. This year marks 5 years on the mission field. For the majority of that time, we have not had to worry about our finances. But this year we have seen a monthly net loss of close to \$1,000. This is due to several individuals needing to end their giving over the past year or so, and it also comes from increased expenses as we get deeper into ministry with the church and the seminary. As we mentioned earlier, the Lord continues to confirm our call and we want to be faithful in that call. But it also takes the faithful financial sacrifice of His people to keep us on the field. To those who have faithfully supported us, we are profoundly grateful and give thanks to God. Please know that we don't take your generosity for granted. *We want to extend an invitation both to those who support us and those who don't, to consider starting to financially support us or increasing you support for the growth of the church in Peru.* (giving information below)

We hope this letter has encouraged (and maybe challenged) you during this Christmas season. We are strengthened in the knowledge that God became man in Christ Jesus to defeat the Enemy, to take away the bondage of the fear of death, and ultimately to reconcile us with himself (Hebrews 2:14-17). "For the Lord is good and his love endures forever." May the Lord bless you this Christmas season and into 2018.

Your fellow servants in Peru,
Nate, Nikki, Luis, Noah and Barrett



Supporting both Colombia and Peru during the 2018 World Cup Qualifiers. Both teams will go to the 2018 World Cup!!!



The Bonham Boys decorating our Christmas tree in Peru before we found out we would be able to take an unexpected last-minute trip to Mississippi for Christmas!

PS. If you would like to financially partner with us, you can email us (nbonham@gmail.com) or visit the sites below:

- To support our MTW family account:
<https://tinyurl.com/y9a4c4ck>
- To support the Seminary:
<https://tinyurl.com/y7aajlln>