

October  
2019

## ABOUT US

Nate & Nikki Bonham are long-term missionaries serving with Mission to the World ([www.mtw.org](http://www.mtw.org)). They have been serving in Latin America since 2012 and are currently based out of Arequipa, Peru with their three sons.

## MORE INFO

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# THE BONHAM LINE



## 30 SECOND UPDATE (see articles below for more details)

- This is our last Missions Newsletter from Arequipa, Peru!
- Through many tear-filled farewells, we left Arequipa, Peru, and are looking forward to serving in Medellin, Colombia.
- During this time of transition from Peru to Colombia, we will be on a 6-7 month Home Ministry Assignment (HMA) in the United States. We will be traveling the US to visit partner churches and individuals.
- Before we left Arequipa, we celebrated the graduation of 17 students of Seminario Bíblico Reformado, and turned the Arequipa extension to local leadership.

## Hasta Luego, Arequipa

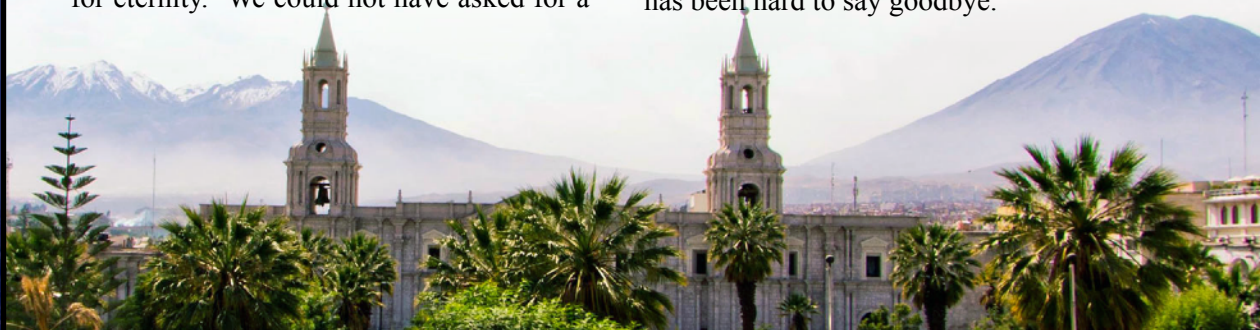
We are writing to you from about 30,000 feet. Just a few minutes ago, we stepped onto our last flight leaving Arequipa for the foreseeable future. A group of our closest friends were there to bid us farewell. Our three boys were able to play with their friends one last time, albeit at the ticketing counter of the airport. Usually we would tamper down their craziness, but this time we let it slide.

It was a harder goodbye than we had anticipated. Over the last almost-6 years of our lives in Arequipa, Peru, we have experienced many ups and downs as a family in ministry together. But the Lord has been gracious to allow us to close our time in Arequipa on such a high note. We have forged friendships that will not be forgotten. The Lord has given us brothers and sisters in ministry that will literally last for eternity. We could not have asked for a



*Saying farewell to dear friends*

sweeter departure. We are utterly exhausted from packing, selling our belongings, meeting government requirements for our departure, turning over ministry responsibilities, preparing for our Home Ministry Assignment (HMA), and saying goodbyes, but we are glad that it has been with many tears. We are glad that it has been hard to say goodbye.



So we leave Arequipa in somewhat of a paradox. Grieving the end of this chapter of our lives in Arequipa, but also fully confident in this next chapter the Lord is opening for us in Medellin, Colombia. Once again, we find ourselves homeless, both literally and figuratively, being reminded that we truly are pilgrims in this life.

When we left the U.S. seven years ago, we said in our commissioning service that we were taking our partner churches to the nations. Last Sunday, we shared that same sentiment with the church in Arequipa. We now carry the Arequipa church with us as we start this next chapter. They have left an indelible mark on our lives. We have been encouraged and challenged, have seen failures and victories. The Lord has used all of these to shape who we are, and for that we will be forever grateful.

We also want to thank all of you who have partnered with us over the past 7 years in South America. Without your financial support and intercession before the throne, our time in Arequipa would not have been possible.

## Hola, Estados Unidos

Though we write to you from the airspace of Peru, this newsletter will likely hit your inbox as we are landing in the United States. What lies ahead? We will be spending the next 6-7 months in the United States on Home Ministry Assignment (HMA... the thing formerly known as furlough). We will be visiting our partnering churches and supporters, seeing family that we have not seen in years, putting a lot of miles on the car, and catching up on our Chick-fil-a intake.

In the coming months, we will share our calendar with you about where and when we will be. Without skipping a beat, our first missions conference is this coming weekend. We will land in New Orleans on Wednesday, repack our lives on Thursday, and drive up to

Chattanooga, TN on Friday for the Missions Conference of First Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga. We are looking forward to our time with FPC, as they are a new ministry partner with us. If you are in Chattanooga over the next week or so, we'd love to catch up. If not on this trip, we will be in Chattanooga throughout our HMA.

## ¡Felicidades, Estudiantes!

We would be remiss if we did not mention that last night we celebrated the graduation of 17 students of Seminario Bíblico Reformado (SBR). If you've done the math in this newsletter, you'd realize that, yes, we did have our graduation the night before an international move. Looking back on it now, it seems like it was a crazy decision to pack that into the calendar, but it was such a sweet way to end our time in Arequipa. We were able to see dear brothers and sisters receive their Certificate for completing our program at SBR. Some were friends we initially met when we first arrived in Arequipa, and others were those we had just met in the past year and a half.

The graduation was beautiful, full of laughs and hugs, complete with testimonies of how SBR has affected the lives of the students, and how they hope to use it in the Lord's mission.

Not only did we graduate 17 students, but we also formally turned over the Arequipa extension of SBR to local leadership. They were charged with the responsibility of teaching and preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ and equipping others for the ministry. It was a delight to see people's astonished looks to know that SBR would continue in Arequipa with presencial courses as well as virtually transmitted ones. Please pray for these men as they continue the ministry of SBR in Arequipa, and for us as we continue to develop courses and materials for this campus and mentor the leaders.



*SBR Class of 2019*



*Nate & Rodny with SBR Arequipa Leaders: Gustavo, Jesús, William*