



CROSS COLLABORATION

MTW MISSIONARIES TO PERU

APRIL 2016

MISSIONS NEWSLETTER

**PLANTING CHURCHES
IN AREQUIPA, PERU**

**WILL YOU PARTNER
WITH US?**

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MEMO:
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**READ THIS LETTER
AND PRAY!**



3 DAY NOTICE

When we did ministry in the U.S., planning ahead of time was essential if we wanted to guarantee a good turn out. Here in Peru, we're learning that 3 months, 2 months and even one month is too much advance notice!

Last year when many of the church members asked if we were planning on doing a trip to the beach, we threw something together last minute that was fine, but left much to be desired. This year we decided to do better and start announcing the trip 3 months out. 3 people. 3 people raised their hands. So we decided to try again a month later, and a few more people raised their hands, but the original people didn't, so we were back to only 3 or 4.

Discouraged, we decided to cancel the trip and just go with a few of the church friends who had expressed interest. Admittedly we were excited about a much less involved trip to the beach. That is, until 3 days prior. 3 days before we left, many of the church members asked what time we were leaving. We expressed the church trip had been cancelled but they could join us if they wanted to. Soon more and more people expressed interest, then, before we knew it, we had a bus load of 35 people signed up the night before we were supposed to leave!

Many who were coming were already stretched so thin with their budget for lodging and transportation, some possibly having to sleep in tents on the beach rather than in the motel, so we decided to provide breakfast and dinner to help ease their burden.

That took on a whole other logistical side and the day before we left Alicia was shopping for the kind of food that could be stored in coolers and prepared in a makeshift kitchen (think camping food), while Nathaniel disassembled our gas grill to load in the van as well. While Nathaniel was preparing messages and logistics for what had just become a church retreat, Alicia was up late baking 100 muffins and just as many cookies for the trip and scrounging around for things like a first aid kit and even some games that we might



want or need while away.

Even though the last minute planning was a little busy, we had a wonderful time with the church. It was so fun to wake up in the same motel, come downstairs to “cook” breakfast together, have our coffee and have a time of worship and devotions before heading out to enjoy the beach or the pool. In the afternoons we laughed over blundered beach-volleyball plays or destroyed our feet playing soccer in the coarse wet sand. In the evenings, we made a light dinner (Peruvians eat their big meal at lunch time), and had another time of worship and a message after that. The theme of Nathaniel’s messages was on applying the grace God gives to us, to how we love and treat others, and many expressed that his talks were very helpful to them. Overall, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and we were thankful that the “low key, just a few people” weekend we were planning on turned into a much bigger event that could include most of the church community.

A week later, Nathaniel left for Abancay for Presbytery, which is 4 hours away from Cusco, Peru. This was an important meeting as he is now chair of a committee that will help direct this new Presbytery’s vision as we seek to develop and strengthen churches throughout Southern Peru. Nathaniel also had the privilege of being part of the ordination and installation of a new ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church of Abancay.

Alicia has continued to lead the women’s Bible Study and this month has also added counseling to her ministry. Since two of the kids are now in school during the day and Alicia has a little more time to serve the church, she has been counseling a few of the ladies in the church and is finding that to be an exciting and unexpected ministry, and an important way to serve the church.

We are excited about the growth of the church and the way that events like the beach trip are bringing the church members together to feel more and more like family. It is an exciting time in the life of our church and we are honored to be a part of it. Thank you for allowing us to stay here in Arequipa with your prayers and financial support.



BONHAM UPDATE ON “HOME MINISTRY ASSIGNMENT” (FURLOUGH)

After four months on HMA, or “Home Ministry Assignment”, the Bonhams are wrapping their time in the United States. So far, we have visited 13 churches and conferences to share the extraordinary ways the Lord is at work in Arequipa, and there are still several destinations left on our calendar. Nate has had the opportunity to preach in many of these churches, as well as the blessing to be able to participate in a few baptisms of family and friends.

The first weekend in April, we were also able to participate in the MTW LINK Conference. This 2-day event is designed to answer questions for those who are interested in becoming a missionary. Nate was privileged to give two of the talks on “The Missionary Call” and “The Missionary Challenge,” and Nikki was part of a Q&A panel on missionary life. We are all instructed to pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send out more laborers. Pray that those interested would sincerely pursue this calling.



We are certainly ready to return to Peru. It has been a joy to share what the Lord is doing in Peru with our family, friends and partner churches, but we are ready to get back to work in the field and see it again firsthand. Not to mention, our schedule and travel calendar have worn us out! Our children are so weary from travel that instead of playing “house” or “doctor,” they are playing “hotel receptionist.” Pray for our remaining few weeks in the U.S. We still have much to do and a lot of packing.