



THE BONHAM LINE

June 2020

30 SECOND UPDATE (see articles for more details)

- In light of Coronavirus, Colombia has declared a tentative date for opening their borders: August 31.
- Though we are based in the USA, ministry has not skipped a bit, although it looks quite different. We are still able to minister to brothers in sisters in South America.
- Check out our update on our teammates: the McCalls in Costa Rica for language studies and the Camps who are itinerating out of Pensacola, Florida.

Pens to Pencils

I must admit that I was a bit discouraged as the month of May came and went. Our original plan when we came back to the USA for a Home Ministry Assignment was to depart for Colombia in mid-May, but as May came into focus, we new that would be postponed.

As May came to a close we were hopeful that July would provide a window of time to move to Colombia. But then the President of Colombia formally decreed that the “Emergencia Sanitaria” (Health Emergency) would be extended until August 31. Though much of the US has been under voluntary quarantines, Colombia has been

under strict, mandatory quarantines. Along with that are international travel restrictions which effectively close the borders to international flights and pause visa processes.

At this point, we have switched from pens to pencils as we write in a departure date on the calendar. (We’ve even given up on keeping up with our HMA calendar.) Our hope is that the international travel restrictions will not be extended beyond August 31. That would mean it will take a few weeks for international flights to resume, and hopefully we will be on one of them soon afterwards. *Please continue to pray for Colombia (and all of South America) as the Coronavirus continues and intensifies. We are eager to get down there to be amongst our Colombian brothers and sisters.*



Leading worship and preaching for a church in Peru.



MTW Team Medellin meeting

ABOUT US

Nate & Nikki Bonham have been serving in South America with Mission to the World since 2012 in the area of church planting. With their three children, they are based out of Medellin, Colombia.

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In the Meantime

Even as our departure date is postponed, we do not find ourselves with a shortage of things to do. As one colleague told me, during this time of pandemic and quarantine, we can be just as affective, if not more, from the USA than we could be on the field. Even though toilet paper has been in short supply as well as a few other items, we are able to go to the store and get what we need. Unfortunately, those in Colombia and Peru struggle daily with finding supplies and using their very limited time to go to stores. This gets us out of survival mode for our own family, and it allows us to serve them.

We find our selves meeting virtually with many dear brothers and sisters for counseling and mentoring. We get to be on the front lines of marriages being tested and healed as couples are quarantined and must work out issues that have been ignored. We get to walk alongside fathers who have been woken up by the pandemic with the realization that they need to be shepherding their families well, and they've begun seeking guidance. We get to help pastors and church leaders looking for help as they try to shepherd their congregations during this trying time.

This additional time in the US also allows us to work with our teammates (see below) to begin to lay a groundwork for ministry in Medellín. Over the past few months, we have met regularly to develop vision documents and ministry strategy that we hope to implement on day one.

This time certainly looks different than what we expected just a few months ago, but we continue to see how the Lord is blessing this time. *Please pray for continued opportunities to minister during this extended period of transition for our family.*

Teammate Update

As some of you have asked about our teammates, we want to update you with what they are up to.

John and Lorena McCall and their children continue their language studies in San Jose, Costa Rica. Though Costa Rica has one of the more relaxed quarantine measures in Latin America, they have had to move to virtual classes—both for John and Lorena (in Spanish classes) and for their kids schoolwork. The pandemic has also afforded them some opportunities to serve Costa Ricans who are struggling with joblessness.



John & Lorena McCall with their children.

You can read more about them on their website: <http://www.vale-la-pena.com>.

Brenden and Ashley Camp and their girls continue the itineration process based out of Pensacola, Florida. Stepping out in faith, they stepped away from their full-time jobs to become full-time support raisers right before the pandemic hit. As you might imagine, they are facing the challenge of making contacts and raising up ministry partners during these times of uncertainty, but they continue to push forward. Find them on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/Campenroute/>.



Brenden & Ashley Camp with their children.



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