



THE BONHAM LINE

July 2023

TL;DR Version (see articles for more details)

- Nate has had the opportunity to build and deepen connections with pastors and church planters across Colombia.
- Nikki has been participating in regional ministries to pastors' wives and women in ministry.
- Several personal family updates, and LOTS OF PICTURES!

Nurturing Church Planting Networks

During our time in South America (almost 11 years now!), we have had the opportunity to build relationships across regional lines as well as in our local contexts. Through these connections, the Lord has given us the privilege to minister to other pastors and their families serving in other Latin American contexts. We have found that many pastors and their families in Peru and Colombia have struggled with isolation, lack of accountability, and a longing for discipleship and connection in ministry.

Thankfully, the Lord has given us several outlets for being able to continue building relationships with other Latin American pastoral families in order to equip, encourage, and be encouraged by them.

Nate has been participating in “incubator” groups with a network called City To City, which focuses on encouraging and equipping church planters across Latin America. In May he spent several days in Medellin studying Cristo-centric preaching with a group of local planters, and in June, he was able to attend a conference for church planters all across Colombia. Through these networks, we often have

pastors contact us about visiting our area and staying with us in order to deepen those relationships and talk more intentionally about their specific church-planting contexts. It has been a blessing for our family to open up the guest room for these types of visits, and we hope that the Lord continues giving us these opportunities in ministry.

Please pray that the Lord would continue to grow His church here in Colombia and for the hearts of the pastors who are laboring in this ministry.



Nate speaking on a panel at the City to City Conference in Bogotá.

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 (Rionegro), Colombia.

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Women in Ministry

Thankfully, these regional connections have also proven to be a great way for Nikki to get to know other women in ministry across Colombia. The Lord has opened up doors for her to participate in two regional ministries for pastors' wives. One is made up of women who serve in the Oriente (our region of our state of Antioquia), and the other, called Parakaleo, is for pastors' wives across Colombia.

You may have heard of Parakaleo, as it was started by in the US by the PCA as a ministry to church planters' wives. It has since developed into a global ministry to pastors' wives, and we are excited to see it's growth here in Latin America. In May, a 4-day training conference was held here in Rionegro, and Nikki was able to attend. The group of around 25 women spent time studying gospel principles and learning how to apply them in their own hearts as well as in their ministries. It was a refreshing and encouraging time focused on the beauty of gospel, and we praying that this ministry continues to grow here in our area. We are hopeful that these inroads into ministry to and relationships with other pastors' wives in our region will be a means of further encouraging and serving the church here in Colombia.



The ladies at the Parakaleo training conference in May. Our teammate Lorena McCall also attended, and our teammate Amy Robertson is one of the trainers!

On the Home front

While Nikki was at the Parakaleo retreat in May, Nate received the news that his grandfather, Roland Carbaugh, had passed away. Nate flew to Pennsylvania for a week to be with his family and to administer the funeral for his grandfather. We are thankful for "Pappy," for his influence in our lives, and for the way he loved his family so fiercely. Please pray for us and for Nate's extended family as they grieve the loss of a man we all dearly loved.

In other Bonham family news, we were recently told that our landlord has decided to sell the house, which means we were suddenly thrust into a house hunt! But we know that the Lord will provide just the right place that can serve both as a home for our family and as ministry base. We have recently found a great option and we are hoping to get the details worked out soon so that we can begin making plans to move. Pray that the Lord will give us a smooth transition and LOTS of patience along the way!

And lastly, summer is for Bonham birthdays! Nikki celebrated on May 4, and the twins on June 3. Nate will celebrate on July 20, and Luis on July 28. We are thankful for another year of life and ministry and growth as a family!



For Noah and Barrett's birthday, we took a group of middle-school boys to play paintball. It was a blast! We have yet to see what Luis will choose to celebrate his in just a few weeks!



Another shot of the City to City Conference that Nate attended in Bogotá in June. If you look closely, you might spot him!



Nikki's small group at the Parakaleo retreat.



Nikki's with the kids in her lower elementary class in their little homeschool group. She also teaches a few Jr. High level classes on English literature and grammar.



A couple of months ago our teammates kept the kids so that we could sneak away for a night. We went to a "tiny house" style cabin about an hour away up on the mountain. It was wonderful!



The adults on our team here in Colombia. The McCalls and Bersaches are here in Rionegro with us. The Robertsons live down in the city of Medellin. We are so thankful for the people at this table!





Children's Sunday School at El Redentor. We are thankful to have awesome volunteers with this group! Nikki has been leading a monthly training for children's ministry volunteers.



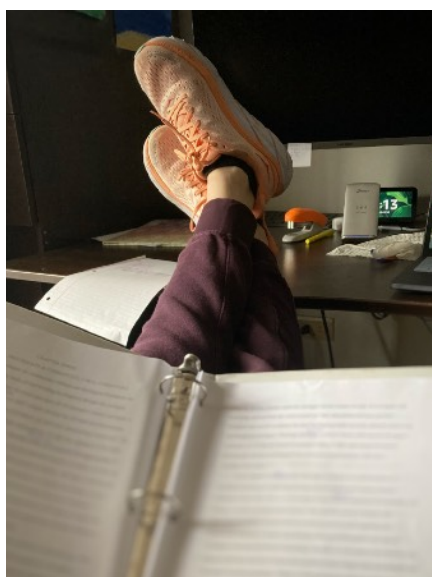
We've practically been living at the dentist lately as Barrett has had several appointments to get some dental work done. But we are thankful to have found a pediatric dentist we love!



An eye doctor visit ended with all 5 of us in glasses.



Luis was able to try contacts for the first time!



This picture represents a couple of "typical" views around here. Nikki badly sprained her ankle and ruptured some ligaments in March, so she spends more time with elevated feet than she would like!

The document in her lap is Nate's thesis, which he is steadily plodding away on. Thankfully we can see the light at the end of the tunnel in both of these issues — ankle healing and thesis writing!



Our front gate came off the track and fell over...right onto the car. This was a fun ordeal to get fixed, and the story includes policemen and almost having the car impounded. But thankfully it turned out well in the end.