



THE BONHAM LINE

April 2024

TL;DR Version (see articles for more details)

- We are growing! We will welcome a new teammate in a few weeks!
- We welcomed the MTW Path270 interns this week. They'll be with us for the next 3 months.
- We are hosting an upcoming event to help equip MTW Women working in the Americas. **+ LOTS OF PICTURES!**

We are growing!

This spring we have several changes happening with our team here in Rionegro, some temporary and some more long-term. First of all, we are so thrilled to be receiving our newest long-term teammate, Chris Andino! He will hopefully be joining us here in Rionegro later this month. Chris is a graduate from Westminster Theological Seminary and grew up in Boston, and due to his

Dominican roots, he has a passion for seeing the growth of healthy church plants, discipleship, and theological education throughout Latin America. We are excited to have him here to work alongside us not only at Iglesia El Redentor, but also on a regional basis with other Reformed churches in our networks and in the denomination across Colombia.

Welcome to the team, Chris!



Path 270 Interns

In addition to a new teammate, we have welcomed a few other new faces to our group, except this time on a more short-term basis.

There is a program within MTW called Path270, which takes interns through three 90-day internships across 3 different regions. This 270-day program gives them a taste for different teams and different ministries in completely different areas of the globe. The four interns have already spent 90 days in Azerbaijan and another 90 in Thailand, and this week they arrived freshly jet-lagged for 90 days here in Rionegro with us. Their goal is to get a feel for the local culture (both the Colombian culture and our team culture) in order to help them discern a

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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call to long-term missions. We also invited another seasoned MTW missionary to come and serve as the day-to-day point person for the interns as they adjust to yet another field. Pray with us that these new additions would thrive during their time with our team and that the Lord would do mighty things in and through them.



The Path270 group: Carrie, Michael, Isabel, Andrew, and Mason, with our International Director, Steve Robertson.

Women's Development Gathering

You may remember that Nikki has traveled a few times over the past year related to women's ministry training and development as she has looked for tools and resources to come alongside Colombian women who have asked for discipleship or mentoring in these areas. As she has found resources that have helped her in this role, she has recently been given the opportunity to explore how these resources might be helpful for other MTW women across the Americas and the ministry partners they serve with.

In May, around 30 women from countries across the Americas will come to Rionegro for a three-day "development gathering." During those three days, Nikki will teach through the material she has been using and lead some brainstorming sessions for how they can better contextualize this material for use across Latin America and indigenous regions. Our hope and prayer is that this material would be a blessing not only to our field, but to many other fields and teams that we serve alongside of in our region. Nikki will be teaching the content from the

PCA Women's Ministry Training Manual, "Thinking Biblically & Living Covenantally," which walks through the 5 foundational pillars of Covenant, Church, Womanhood, Discipleship, and finally, Women's Ministry. The group will then use those themes as a launching point for discussing how to better communicate and contextualize these truths in the specific contexts of our individual fields.

Will you commit to praying for this event?

Planning the logistics, schedule, materials, and other administrative details on top of the content itself is no small task! Please pray that it goes well, that our partners in ministry are encouraged and equipped, and that it is a time of refreshment and rejuvenation for the women involved. And please pray for Nikki's ability to plan well and teach clearly. The event will take place May 8-10 here in Rionegro.

We are trying to make this gathering as cost-effective as possible for the women who are attending. **Would you consider contributing to the cost of the event?** While each missionary is covering her own travel expenses to Colombia, we would love to off-set the cost of accommodations, food, and materials as much as possible. If you would be interested in donating to this event, [please click here](#). (It will open a link to a pop-up donation window on the MTW site for "Americas Women's Development and Care.") **If you would like to sponsor some specific aspect of the event, please reply to this email!**



Prayer Requests:

• **Praise the Lord!** A few weeks ago, Nate successfully defended his doctoral thesis and was approved for graduation! He has been steadily working on this degree and project through Westminster Theological Seminary for the past 6 years, and we now have an end-date in sight. **Lord-willing, Nate will graduate with his Doctorate of Ministry in Biblical Counseling on May 23, 2024.** We are so thankful for the Lord's grace towards our entire family during these past 6 years. May He use this project and degree for the advancement of His church, and for His glory!

• **Church Leadership:** Our pulpit committee continues to meet almost weekly to work out the details surrounding our search for a Colombian pastor for Iglesia El Redentor. Nate has consistently been encouraged not only by the meetings themselves and the extended prayer time during each meeting, but also by the group of members that the church selected to represent them in the search. Please continue praying for this group as they discuss the qualifications and profile of a desired pastor, and especially as we get closer to actively receiving applications. Pray that the Lord would raise up just the right man for this role.

• **Water Struggles:** Please pray for rain! Colombia has been in a season of severe drought for the past several months due to the "El Niño Phenomenon," and we are seeing affects of the water shortage across the country. Since we moved to a more rural home a few months ago, this affects us more drastically than it would have if we were still within city limits. Our area's water supply is from a small reservoir which has dried up due to the lack of rain. For the past 3 months, we have been pulling water from a neighbor's well and a small natural pool down in the valley behind our home and trying to make it stretch as far as possible. However, in the past few days, both the well and the pool have dried up. We are rationing the small amount of water that is still there and praying for rain! Within the city of Rionegro, there is still water, so thankfully we can go to a teammate or church member's home for showers or laundry when we need to. But living without a regular, constant water supply (and sometimes resorting to treating dirty water as best we can) proves to be a frustration and sometimes time-intensive. Pray for rain, but also that we would have contented hearts even in the frustrating parts of this season. We are grateful for the resources to purchase drinking water and for friends who offer their washing machines and showers when needed. We know there are many who don't have that luxury.

• **Bonham Academy:** We continue plugging along in our school year here at Bonham Academy, but by this time of the year we all start to get weary. We don't follow a traditional schedule, but rather we start sometime in August and then schedule breaks as needed according to our schedule. Right now, we are ending our 2nd term and ramping up for our 3rd and final term of the year, with hopes to finish by the end of July. Pray for curious minds, attitudes of diligence, supernatural patience, and postures of graciousness towards one another. Additionally, this year is the first where we have done some standardized testing to prepare for the high school years. Noah and Barrett did great on the National Latin Exam, and their first attempt at the CLT (Classical Learning Test) will be coming up soon. Pray also for Nikki as she maps out the upcoming high-school years at Bonham Academy (and for her heart as she comes to terms with how few years are left...).



Every couple of weeks, a group of guys from the church get together to play soccer on Saturday night. The Bonham boys have loved this new tradition! The younger guys play hard and come off the field sweaty and red-faced. The older guys come off the field injured recognizing they're not as young as they used to be. But all of them have a really good time.



In February, Nikki traveled to Atlanta to attend the PCA's Women's Leadership Training event, and she was thankful to connect with many other MTW missionaries, friends from across the US, and to have the opportunity to meet Susan Hunt, a woman from whom Nikki has learned much over the years!



Lunch with several local pastors



Guess who came to visit in March? THE MADDENS! The boys were so excited to have their cousins here to visit. These kiddos might not all live on the same continent, but they never miss a beat when they're together.



Nate just a couple of minutes before launching into his thesis defense. It went very well. We are thankful for this milestone!



Our fun children's Sunday school class. It has been such a joy to get to know these kids over the past several years and to watch them grow. May they keep growing in their knowledge, understanding, and love for the Covenant King, for His Word, and for His Church!



Don't worry, I won't deprive you of another good Colombian sunset.



Children's Sunday school. It's always hands-on and all-hands-on-deck!



The little pool at the bottom of the valley near our house where we have been pulling water from for the past 3 months. It has dried up now, and we are praying for rain!



Colombian critters who turn into pets for a day.



After several weeks of practicing alongside the music team at church, Noah and Barrett were invited to play during the service on an as-needed basis. They both love music and had hoped one day to play along at church, so this was an exciting (but intimidating) step for them. Though they were extremely nervous the first time, they did a great job and have been able to play several times since. In this group, Noah plays piano and Barrett plays guitar and cajon (a box drum).



Nate preaching on Palm Sunday. We finished the last chapter of Acts on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, which was a really beautiful way to wrap up this series. Next up, a short series on stewardship during the month of April, then on to Ephesians! Pray that the Lord will continue to bless the preaching of His Word!



A beautiful floral arrangement made by a florist in the church especially for Easter Sunday. Each flower has a special significance in the Resurrection story, and it was amazing to hear the thought behind the design as she put it together.



A fun week with the Maddens! We took them to visit a small town about 2 hours away called Santa Fe de Antioquia. It's not that far, but because you have to go down the mountain to get there, the climate change is drastic. It was about 95 degrees there! We had a few very fun summery days in the pool while exploring a new traditional Colombian pueblo. Here are a few pics from around town.





Bruno the brave, who puts up with way too many shenanigans.



Barrett taking the National Latin Exam. He and Noah both did great! I had a pic of Noah as well, but my phone ate it.



One last pic from the Maddens' visit. The top picture is from 2016 when we lined them all up by age on a family beach trip.

We decided to recreate it (without the beach) to see the difference 8 years later. How they've grown! Now that we have three new little cousins on the Boersma side (well, two plus one on the way), we need to recreate it with the whole cousin crew!

I am forever grateful for the bond my boys have with my two sisters' kids, even a continent away.



Holy Week is filled with all sorts of religious and cultural events. This processional passed by in front of our teammate's apartment while we were having a team meeting, and we were able to watch it. These come with a mix of religious influences and superstitions, and it reminds us of the deep need for the gospel in dark places.