

To: Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley
From: TE Joshua A Kines (MTW)
Date: June 10, 2013
Subject: Out-of-Bounds Annual Report (2012-2013)

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, from Bogota, Colombia. I hope this letter finds you all doing well as you shepherd God's people. It is with much joy that I can share with you how the Lord has been at work during this past year.

I continue to labor out-of-bounds with Mission to the World, and I am thankful for the privilege to do so. Last September, after the Lord demonstrated his faithfulness in bringing us to 100% of our support goal, we bought a one-way tickets to Bogota. Since touching down in Colombia, it has been an unforgettable journey filled with many joys, trials, and opportunities for personal growth and learning. We trust the Lord has used all of these experiences for our good and for His glory.

Our first year is dedicated solely towards language learning. Not only does that involve listening, speaking, writing, and reading, but it also includes developing the tools for learning a new culture. I long to be invested in the ministry in more intentional ways such as preaching, teaching, and planting churches, but we recognize this season of language learning must come first. Lord willing, this fall we will begin the second phase of the apprenticeship program by working with a new church plant, El Refugio (The Refuge).

At this point, my family, along with TE Nathan Bonham and his family, are scheduled to leave Bogota in the Spring of 2014 for our permanent ministry assignment in Latin America. We are excited to announce that we are now a team of three families. We have partnered with Nathaniel and Alicia Gutierrez, who are also serving as long-term missionaries with MTW. Nathaniel is a third generational missionary with MTW and grew up on the field in Peru where his parents and grandparents all served. We look forward with great anticipation to how the Lord will use our team to further His kingdom in Latin America.

I would covet your prayers in a number of areas. First, our family has faced a good bit of sickness since arriving on the field. I alone have contracted the flu three times (the Colombian flu is no laughing matter) and have struggled through four parasites since September. This very report arrives late because I have been down two weeks with my most recent bout with the flu. We would like a season free of illness in our house. Second, due to illness and other factors we are currently behind in our language studies and need the discipline and focus necessary to get up to speed. Third, our prayer has always been that the Lord would continue to guard our team from division and unite our hearts in vision and direction. He has been faithful thus far and we pray for His continued watch care over us.

My family and I would like to thank Presbytery for their generous financial support as we serve with MTW. We are grateful for the many churches that have partnered with us. We thank you for the opportunity and privilege of laboring out-of-bounds, and humbly request your permission to continue doing so.

You can always find more information about our mission at: www.CrossCollaboration.org

Grace and Peace

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