

To: **Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley**
From: **TE Nate Bonham (MTW)**
Date: **June 07, 2018**
Subject: **Out-of-Bounds Annual Report (2017-2018)**

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

I send you greetings from Arequipa, Peru, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Not only do I greet you on behalf of my family, the MTW team in Arequipa, and our local church, but I also send you greetings on behalf of the Presbyterian and Reformed Evangelical Church in Perú. Below you will find a summary of what the Lord has been doing as I labor out of bounds with Mission to the World. In September, I will have completed 6 years serving in Latin America.

Iglesia Presbiteriana La Roca. Although this mission congregation has been in existence for many years, I am entering my fourth year of serving this body. To be honest, it has been a very challenging year. Among the challenges we are facing is the excommunication of the former/founding pastor of the congregation, a lack of male leadership in the church (which is a common cultural struggle) and an unwillingness to be self-sufficient, economically-speaking (also a common cultural struggle). On top of this, we have literally seen the struggles of 1 Corinthians come to the surface in this congregation. We are thankful, though, for a remnant that is committed to serving the Lord both inside and outside the church. We are searching for a Peruvian pastor that would be willing to come and lead this congregation in a process of revitalization. Earlier this year, I have taken more of an “assistant pastor” role in order to focus more on the Seminary (see below), and my colleague has taken a “senior pastor” role in the church. I continue to help in the preaching, teaching, and administration of the sacraments at La Roca. Please pray for this congregation as there are many difficult decisions that will need to be made in the near future.



Seminario Bíblico Reformado (Reformed Bible Seminary). After more than a year and a half of planning, we launched Seminario Bíblico Reformado (SBR) in March of this year where I serve as Director and Professor. We were hoping to start with a modest group of 4-6 students since the Reformed community is so small in Arequipa. To our surprise, we started our first module with 16 students. As we went into our second module, we grew to 20 with many others interested who didn't apply on time. We also launched a virtual classroom where

students can attend via internet. Through a partnership with Third Millennium Ministries and Birmingham Theological Seminary, we are able to bring Reformed theology to new soil. We are seeing students from all backgrounds (Lutheran, Baptist, Independent, Charismatic) hear the doctrines of grace for the first time and take hold of them. There is even one case of a pastor wanting our help as he leads his entire congregation from the darkness of the prosperity message to the light of the gospel. I wish I had the space to share the full story, but I would refer you to our May newsletter found here: <https://bit.ly/2JoFTa6>

Extensions. A part of our vision as a Seminary is to open up extensions in various parts of Latin America. A model of having a large seminary where potential pastors go and spend years to be trained is simply not feasible. As a part of this dream, we are excited to announce that SBR will soon be launching an extension in Venezuela, Lord-willing. Although the situation in Venezuela doesn't make the airwaves much in the U.S., a simple Google search would reveal the atrocities taking place. Opening an extension in Venezuela opens a door into Venezuela where MTW does not have a presence. We are also in conversations to open two other extensions, one in Spain and one in another part of Peru. The brevity of this report does not allow me express everything the Lord is doing, but in these past 3 months, the Lord has greatly blessed the ministry of SBR. Please be in prayer for the rapid expansion of SBR. Truly we lack the resources (both laborers and money) to keep up with the growth. Please get in touch with me if you would like to consider partnering with us. We need partners who will pray for us, support us financially, and send their best to come and teach week-long modules.

Partnership. I want to express my gratitude for the financial support of the Presbytery through the MTW Committee for our first four years on the field. We also give thanks to God for the churches of the PMV that continue to partner with us: Madison Heights, Highlands, FPC Louisville, Pear Orchard, Providence, and Pearl PCA. May the Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley continue to be a presbytery that sends out laborers.

Laboring Out-of-Bounds. Brothers and Fathers, again I thank you for the privilege of laboring out of bounds with Mission to the World as we complete our 6th year in Latin America. Please continue praying for the ministry here in Arequipa. At many times it is abundantly clear that the desert climate of Arequipa reflects the spiritual climate of its inhabitants. Brothers and fathers, I request your permission to continue laboring out-of-bounds under the Presbytery of MS Valley, and I plead with you that you would beg of the Lord for more laborers.

May the Lord continue to bless you, the Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley, and the PCA.

En la gracia del Señor,
TE Nate Bonham

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