



The year 2017 brought many changes to our lives; we tried to crunch them into one page for you.



JOB CHANGE

In April of 2017, we officially began working for Barnabas International (BI); this move allowed us to concentrate all of our ministry on missionary care. We have been beyond blessed with BI; the leadership is very pastoral, we have a resource pool that is both broad and deep and the peer community has been collaborative and welcoming. We look forward to many productive years with BI.

PERSONAL CARE OF MISSIONARIES

To truly understand what is going on in a missionary's life, there is nothing like visiting his/her world. In 2017, we spent time with missionaries in Lima, Peru; Huancayo, Peru; Arequipa, Peru; Stellenbosch, South Africa; and Concepcion, Chile. Another weekend was dedicated to missionaries heading up a domestic church plant near Austin, TX. In some cases, we were unable to travel abroad and therefore spent time with missionaries who were in the states. That was the case with a Russian couple passing through San Antonio, TX and a couple preparing for work in the Dominican Republic while they were in Chattanooga, TN. When we were not traveling to be with missionaries we spent time calling, skyping, emailing, Zoom-ing, What's App-ing and using just about every other type of media possible to stay in touch with these wonderful servants.



Sometimes a good visit requires creative child care.



Great things can happen when you get missionaries on a hike.

RENEWAL RETREATS

The photo below is the lake at the retreat center in Atibaia, Brazil where 50 missionaries gather every other year for renewal; this year Gary led the retreat. One month later, Frances helped conduct a renewal retreat for Spanish speaking women in Guatemala. Together we conducted renewals in Curahuasi and Lima, Peru.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In order to add more "tools" to our toolbox this year, we went through Risk Assessment and Management training and began certification for the Prepare & Enrich Marital Assessment. Frances attended training for conducting silent retreats and also attended the Pastors To Missionaries conference. Gary presented three times at the International Conference for Missions. Both of us attended a special seminar conducted by Missions Resource Network featuring author Neal Pirolo.

FAMILY

We added two sweet young ladies to our family in 2017. Lucas and Abbey (wedding photo to the left) were married on August 5 in Maine. Travis proposed to Mary two months later; their wedding will be later in 2018. In addition to these weddings, our small house church had an additional two weddings as well.



We also said goodbye to Frances' dad in 2017. Ray was an exceptional man who raised a great family, served as an elder for 30 years and started multiple ministries. We were blessed to live with him from the time his cancer was diagnosed at Thanksgiving till he went home on Christmas day.



We are grateful for your prayers and support as we enter into 2018. We are excited about many new opportunities as well as the continued development of existing ones. If you would like to contribute to our ministry, you may do so on the Barnabas International website by [clicking here](#).

