

# La Luz de Cristo para Perú

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## Kites and Heroes

In the beautiful, crisp, gentle breeze dozens of small kites dance in the sky over a community in Brazil. The brightly colored “pipas” make spastic dives and swirls in the air and bring back memories of childhood for Billy and I. As we walked through the favelas (poor communities), each day, we smiled as we watched the kites playing above our heads. It wasn’t until several days later that the story of the kites became a sad representation of life in this area.

On one of our favela walks, we visited the public school for the area. Children can attend the school for a full school day, free of charge, if their parents have jobs in the city. If their parents are not employed, children must find a private school and can only attend half days. We were able to speak to the teachers and the school director (with the help of a Portuguese translator) and ask many questions about school in Brazil, and about life in the favela. One member of our team asked, “Who are the children’s heroes? What do they want to grow up to be?” The answer was chilling... “Drug lords or policemen”, answered the leaders of this school. The sad truth in this community, and in several others just like it that we visited, is that drugs and drug sales rule the favela. The director explained, “The children see that the drug lords have all the money. They are the only people who are successful in this community.” The children who want to be policemen are not interested in justice - they are interested in the glamour and excitement of carrying a gun and having shoot-outs, a reality that they see in their everyday life.

And here is where the kite story ties in... In many favelas, kite flying is an effective way to warn the drug-dealers in the neighborhood that the military police are in the area. As the police enter the community, up go the kites. What we were viewing as an innocent childhood pastime suddenly took on a terrible reality for us - children were protecting drug lords, their heroes.

On another day, as we walked through the oldest favela in Rio (over 100 years old), a Brazilian friend stooped down to move some kite string from our path and warned us, “Don’t grab any hanging strings or pick up any discarded string. It is coated with crushed glass.” Children crush bottle glass and mix it with glue, then coat their kite string. True kite-flyers use this as a method of kite battles, diving after other people’s kites and cutting their strings, then taking possession of the fallen kite. But this coated kite string is also a cheap weapon in the favelas, strung across pathways at throat-height. Almost invisible, it effectively wounds many each year. Our translator said it is often deadly or fatal.



Does this mean all hope is lost in these favelas? Not at all. We saw God working there. He hasn’t left these people without hope. We saw Him in a doctor who has chosen the oldest favela in Rio (Providencia) to be in ministry. Dr. Wilson Bomfim practices at the EvangeMed clinic and school in Providencia. While walking through the neighborhood with Wilson, it was so obvious that his heart is filled with the hopes of these people. You can always tell when someone is working within “their call”. Wilson is definitely within his call... he beams when children from the area wave and call his name. He didn’t hesitate to stop along the way and look at a woman’s x-rays by the light of a bare bulb and give her medical advice and comfort. He joked with men and women and youths of the area as we walked up the mountain together. His heart is at home among these people - his people. He knows their stories, their heartaches, their struggles. And he loves them, regardless.

We also saw God at work within the school that we visited. We saw true passion in teachers who know the reality of the area they serve. They know their students and the lives they struggle to live, and they love them regardless. The school was spotlessly clean and happy and bright. The children were happy. “The school is a safe-haven within the community,” says the director. “We have an understanding with the drug lords. We are here to help the community and they leave us alone. School is off limits to them, and they respect that.” With tears in her eyes, the director explained that she could work somewhere else, but, “I love these children,” she said, placing her hands over her heart.

God is working here, through the lives of his servants. Please pray for God’s hands in Brazil. Your prayers are powerful. Pray for the hearts of the children of the favelas... may they regain their childhood innocence and find heroes in Godly men and women who love them.

## News from the field... ministry in Peru

The following is an excerpt from The Ivey family's newsletter. The Iveys are currently serving in Huancayo, Peru (where we will serve when we arrive in the field):

*We started the month of June with a mission team from Lewis Memorial UMC. This team of eleven helped with the start of the construction of a classroom building for the Casa de Oración Quechua Church in Chilca. The team helped to construct the foundations for the building, cutting and placing steel reinforcing bars, and pouring concrete. They also helped to start a new Kid's Club in Chilca. By the end of the week there were over 400 children coming to the event. The team participated in services in the church throughout the week encouraging the members of the congregation and sharing the gospel with visitors. Please be in prayer for this new Kid's Club and the young adults from the church that will continue to minister there on a weekly basis.*



Lines form to see a medical mission team visiting in Peru. Some people waited overnight to see a doctor and get help.

*We had a combined team from Morehead UMC and Roswell UMC, come to work with us and with our ministry partners, Obed and Cynthia Alvarez, in Huamantanga. This was a medical team. They came prepared not only to provide medical care, but with a prayer team, children's ministry, and evangelism groups. The group provided medical care, dental care, and eye care. Approximately 700 patients were seen...*

Wonderful things are happening in Peru! Please be in prayer for the Ivey family and the many ministries that they have in progress. They are fabulous people and they really have their hands full. Pray for peace and wisdom for them as they continue to work with Kid's Clubs, discipleship groups, short term mission teams, and daily evangelism.

**Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Providencia favela) After lunch, preschool children at the EvangeMed Clinic and School go outside for recess.** →



Sarah found a Brazilian friend named Sarah. ↑



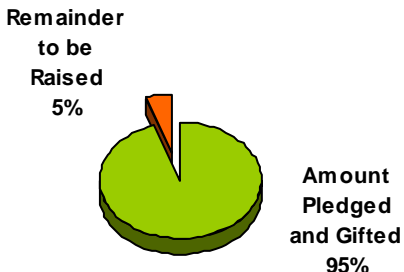
## A new language for two weeks -Portuguese!

Wow! Learning a few words in Portuguese was a struggle while we were in Brazil! Some of the language sounds Spanish, some of it appears French... but it isn't either one! It was very confusing to those of us who are learning Spanish!!! A phonics lesson would have been much appreciated. Even Sarah mastered a few of these...

Good Day (Good Morning)	Bom Dia	(pronounced "bom zheea")
Yes	Sim	(pronounced "sim")
No	Não	(pronounced "no")
Thank You	Obrigado	(pronounced "obreegado")
Good Bye	Ciao	(pronounced "chow")
Christian	cristão	(pronounced "krischiow")
I do not understand.	Não entendo.	(pronounced "No intindo")

## Funding Update

We must have 100% of our funding pledged in order for us to go into the field full-time. We are currently in our training phase. We just returned from training with missionaries in Brazil. We soon leave for Mission Training International for 5 weeks of intensive training in language acquisition and cross-cultural integration. On August 26, we begin nine months of full-emersion language training. We still need people to partner with us in prayer and funding. Together with God, you can make a difference and spread the love of Christ around the world.



## Prayers & Praises

### Praises:

- ◆ Woo Hoo!!! Praise God for the amazing surge in funding over the past month!!! We jumped from 71% to 94% literally over night in early June! God showed his power and faithfulness in a HUGE way to MANY people. Praise Him for this amazing turn of events!
- ◆ We have an offer on the house!!! While we were in Brazil for training, we received an offer and we hope to close before we leave for training on July 18th.

### Prayers:

- ◆ Pray for all of the people who have stepped up and partnered with us to make all of this ministry possible. We are so blessed by the sacrificial giving of others. Pray that they are blessed abundantly in return for the love they have shown to us and the people of Peru.

- ◆ Pray for us as we go through training at Mission Training International in July & August. Our entire family will be in intensive training for language acquisition and cross-cultural integration. This is excellent and important training, but very emotionally draining and exhausting. We go into this phase already tired from the strains of finishing the school year, selling our home and belongings, and moving away from family and friends. Pray that we stand strong and learn all that we need from this training.
- ◆ Pray for the couple who is buying our home. Pray for peace in their move to a new town. Pray that they make wonderful friends in Navasota, just as we did. Pray that their marriage grows and flourishes in their new home, just as ours did. And pray that someone comes alongside them in discipleship, to help them grow in Christ and nurture them in their new hometown.

**DEAR BILLY AND LAURIE,**

I will pray for you. Please send me your prayer letter.

Update me by email: \_\_\_\_\_

As God provides, I plan to partner with you by giving \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month / quarter / year for \_\_\_\_\_ years. (circle one)

I would like to donate a one-time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name (PLEASE PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

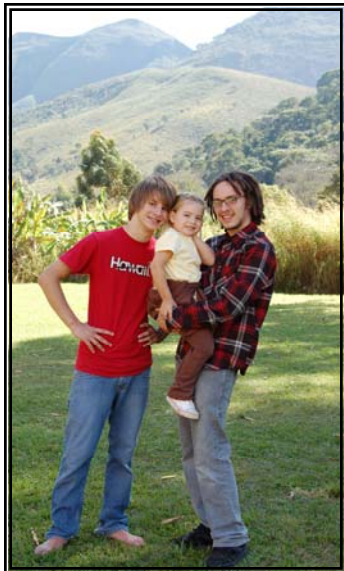
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Church \_\_\_\_\_

**TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS MAY BE SENT TO:**  
 The Mission Society  
 PO Box 922637  
 Norcross, GA 30010-2637 USA  
**DESIGNATE GIFTS: "DRUM SUPPORT 5/321"**

**“If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”**

**~ Jesus**

**Matthew 21:22**



The Drum Kids in Brazil... Miles (16), Sarah (3), and Ryan (19)

# The Drum Family

## Serving Christ in Peru

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The Drum Family attended training in Teresopolis, Brazil with 60 other missionaries in preparation for their career assignment in Peru.



Laurie with 3 new Brazilian missionary friends...  
Sylvana, Claudette, and Alessandra.

## New Friends - Peers in Christ

We spent 2 weeks in training for cross-cultural ministry with 60 other career missionaries... 40 Americans and 20 Brazilians training together to go out into the world and share the love of Christ. It was been an incredible experience! Soon we will scatter around the globe in ministry. Represented in our group were missionaries to Kazhakstan, Kenya, Senegal, Tanzania, Malaysia, Mexico, Brazil, Peru, Mozambique, Paraguay, USA muslim population, Ghana, USA inner city, and world agrimissions. Texas is well represented - we were in good company with Mark & Leslie Benton (Tyler / Brazil), Doug & Becky Neele (Houston / world agrimissions), and Katie Waser (Aggie! CUMC / Kazhakstan). We also met up with Jennie Clements, a career missionary to Mexico who recognized us from Mission Discovery days. She got her mission start as a MisDis kid! Possibly the very best part of our time in Brazil was the time we spent making new friends and meeting new peers in Christ. A Brazilian doctor in ministry in the favelas of Rio (Wilson serves with EvangeMed clinic); Claudette, a Brazilian in ministry in Northeast Brazil and the Amazon; Juao Carlos Lopez, the President of the Council of Bishops in Brazil; Sylvana, a Brazilian in ministry in Rio (our sweet, patient friend who never tired of us trying to learn Portuguese and speak Spanish at the same time); Selma, the Executive Director of UVMIM Brazil, who comforted me when I was overwhelmed with emotion for the poor... And that doesn't even scratch the surface! We are so blessed and honored to have the opportunity to be in the same room with these people. They are all awesome men and women of God. Rest assured - The Good News is being spread by incredible people!