

August 2007

Volume 2, Issue 8

## A Season of Change

Dear Friends,

We are currently at Mission Training International (MTI) in preparation for our departure to the field on August 26th. We have spent the past two weeks in Programs In Language Acquisition Techniques (PILAT). We have been learning how to hear different sounds and phonetics in other languages... the English language only uses 44 sounds, but there are literally thousands of phonetic sounds out there in other languages! Our English ears aren't trained to even hear and distinguish them!!! I have been amazed to *listen to* and *learn to* make my mouth produce these other sounds. We have also been learning about many techniques and ideas for getting out there and actually learning our new language. I so wish that I had known all of these ideas and could have put them into practice while we were working in Mexico! Even more so, I wish I could have helped my ESL students with their language learning by using these techniques.

We have met many new missionary friends, all here training to learn their new language or preparing to serve in a new culture. Rest assured - the Lord is sending people out to meet the needs of others all over the globe! We have new friends serving Christ in Senegal, Cameroon, Indonesia, Japan, China, Sweden, the Navajo nation, Hungary, Mexico, Brazil, Honduras, South Africa, Gabon, India, Dominican Republic, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, Latvia, Tunisia...

August begins a new training session for us. We will spend 3 weeks in SPLICE training. We will be working on relationships in the field, stress management, conflict resolution, crisis situations, and everything else you can think of. This training comes highly recommended by The Mission Society and by our fellow missionaries. Although we hear it is difficult and emotionally draining, we are looking forward to our time this month.

August will end with our departure to Costa Rica on August 26th. We have already secured our living arrangements for the next 9 months and look forward to finally getting to language school. We have a "Big Brother / Big Sister" family already in Costa Rica and they are working so hard to make our transition a relatively painless one. Ryan and Gretchen Rought and their two daughters are currently enrolled at The Spanish Language Institute and are in ministry in Costa Rica. Ryan, a retired peace officer, works in ministry with the police force of Costa Rica and Nicaragua. We are so thankful for them already!



Laurie and Billy Drum are currently in the final stage of their training and preparation for mission service. Upon completion of their training at Mission Training International, they will depart for Central America and begin their language learning and ministry.

This summer has been a season of change for us.

- \* We left our teaching positions in Texas. Laurie has been a teacher for 14 years, Billy for 5. It is strange to not decorate a classroom or plan lessons in August!
- \* The boys left their schools and friends. Ryan has left college and his job in the Natural Toxins Research Center lab for a year, and Miles has left his high school and friends... both will be attending school at The Spanish Language Institute this year.
- \* We sold our home of 14 years. It really was our dream home - a 1884 Victorian farmhouse with a white picket fence. It needed TLC, but we loved it. If you have never packed up 14 years worth of "stuff", you cannot imagine what that entails!
- \* We left our family and friends from school, work, church, Friday morning men's group, bible study groups, the Keno girls, the Force, the backyard cookout bunch, our Home Team, etc. Very difficult and painful...
- \* We traveled to Brazil to train for cross-cultural ministry, then traveled to say goodbye to family members all over Texas, then traveled to Colorado to attend our final preparation training here at MTI.
- \* The summer will end with our final departure from the USA to attend our language school training.

Change is part of life. Some of it we choose, some of it we don't. Some of it is easy, and some is very hard. We CAN choose how we face change... "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

# News from the field... life in Peru

The following is a combined excerpt from [www.livinginperu.com](http://www.livinginperu.com) and [www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com). We receive daily updates on Peruvian news via internet. Please be in prayer about the current situation in Peru. We have been in contact with the Ivey family and they say that this situation is not currently affecting the area of Huancayo (where we will be living) but it is an area of needed prayer for the rest of the country.

## Peru cold snap kills 70 children

In the high Andean regions of central and southern Peru, the winter season started in June with an abrupt change of temperature. The Peruvian government has declared a state of emergency in the following 13 departments in the country: Ayacucho, Apurimac, Arequipa, Cajamarca, Cusco, Junín, Huánuco, Huancavelica, Loreto, Moquegua, Pasco, Puno and Tacna, Arequipa, Cusco, Huancavelica, Moquegua and Puno.



The Peruvian President, who is currently visiting the most affected areas due to the extremely low temperatures, has qualified the situation as "dramatic" and has predicted that in the coming weeks, more than two million Peruvians "are going to suffer from extreme temperatures lower than minus fifteen degrees Celsius".

Many children living in these poor regions of the country are malnourished and have been the main victims of the severe cold wave. Official reports state that 70 children under five years of age have died due to pneumonia caused by the cold wave, and more than 200,000 Peruvians are currently being affected by this emergency. They lived in rural areas at high altitude, where temperatures in some cases are reported to have plummeted to as low as -20C (-4F).

Schools in the departments of Ayacucho, Huancavelica, Junín and Arequipa have modified their schedules in an attempt to avoid exposing the children to the harsh weather during the coldest hours of the day. At the same time, the government is considering the temporary evacuation of the population living above 4,000 meters from sea level, with the purpose of protecting them from the climatic inclemency.

The agricultural sector has been severely affected by these extreme temperatures as well since crops have been covered by snow. The latest assessments show agricultural losses of 54,248 hectares, leaving another 91,308 affected. In addition, the death toll of farm animals, which represent a large portion of the income of residents of the affected regions, continues to increase. To date however, no official consolidated figures exist, regarding the degree of damage.

The National Civil Defense Institute (Indeci) has launched a campaign to provide clothing and shelter to the worst affected areas.

Forecasters in Peru are predicting the cold spell will continue until September.

## Spotlight on another ministry...



The Burns Family is partnering with Casa Viva (a Viva Network International ministry based in Costa Rica), to promote and facilitate church-based family care for Latin American children in need of a home. As an alternative to traditional orphanage care, Casa Viva recruits Latin American churches to raise up and support families that receive children into their homes that

would otherwise end up in government institutions or on the street. Under the Casa Viva model, the state obtains care for the child at a fraction of its traditional cost, the church and family answer God's mandate to care for orphans in distress, and the child becomes part of a family.

Doug and Brooke hold Masters degrees (Doug in Theological Studies and Brooke in World Mission and Evangelism) from Asbury Theological Seminary.

We look forward to working with The Burns Family during our time in Costa Rica. We will be attending The Spanish Language Institute beginning August 26th. We will attend language classes in the morning, and work in community ministry in the afternoon. Casa Viva is a ministry option for us and we eagerly welcome the opportunity to work with other Mission Society missionaries (The Burns') in their ministry efforts!

### Special Thanks this month...

- \* Temple College Department of Mathematics
- \* First UMC - Bryan, Texas Men's Bible Class
- \* The Burditt Family
- \* The Collett Family
- \* Congregation of First UMC Temple, Texas
- \* Trinity Lutheran Church, Navasota
- \* Holy Covenant UMC - Katy, Texas
- \* The Honeycutt Family
- \* The Gessner Family
- \* The Knapp Family
- \* The A. Smith Family
- \* And many countless others! More than 100 donors sent in support during the month of July and entered into covenant with us to serve Christ through the Great Commission.

www.drumsforchrist.blogspot.com

We now have a blog address! We will be able to journal on a regular basis and keep you up-to-date on what is going on in our lives and in the ministry opportunities we are involved in. Please visit the above address OFTEN to stay connected to us through our journals.

The newsletter will not stop. Many of you have made it VERY clear that you want to continue receiving the newsletter. We will continue to write and send you this monthly update, complete with articles and photos of our family and ministry. We have been very touched to find out that some supporters actually cut out our photos and hang them on the fridge to remind them to pray for us. That's amazing! You guys are incredible!

We are still able to stay in contact with every one through email and Skype. We have a Skype account and video phone if you want to physically talk to us, or you can email us at: [Billy@drumsforchrist.org](mailto:Billy@drumsforchrist.org) or [Laurie@drumsforchrist.org](mailto:Laurie@drumsforchrist.org)

**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"**




**Drum Kids in New Mexico... Miles (16), Sarah (3), and Ryan (19)**

Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

~ James 1:2-4

## Prayers & Praises

### Praises:

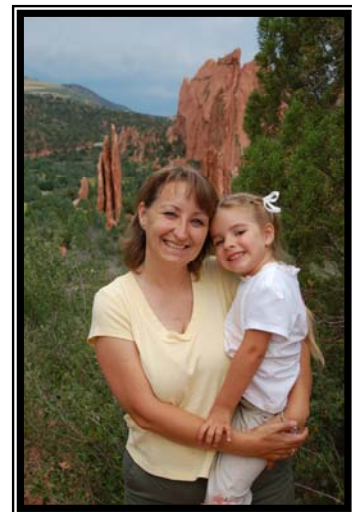
- ◆ We are spending long, productive hours in training at Mission Training International –Colorado. Praises to God, MTI and their staff for providing fabulous groundwork for us as we embark on this mission journey.
- ◆ The house is sold! We moved out on July 17th and left for training in Colorado on the 18th. God is so good!

### Prayers:

- ◆ Pray for us as we continue training at Mission Training International in August. Our entire family is in intensive training for language acquisition and cross-cultural integration. This is excellent and important training, but very emotionally draining and exhausting. Pray that we stand strong and learn all that we need from this training.
- ◆ Pray for our children as they work through the stresses of leaving their hometown and training for

cross-cultural ministry. It is an easy transition for some, a very difficult one for others. For Sarah, it means that she asks “Where are we sleeping tonight?” a lot. For Miles, it is a very rough time of leaving friends and a girlfriend behind, starting school in a new country, hoping to make new friends, and learning a new language. For Ryan, it is exciting, and also stressful. He is leaving his college life for a year, leaving a girlfriend behind, and leaving a job he loves. He is excited to learn Spanish and to live in Costa Rica for awhile. He worries about returning to the states and not having a “home” to return to. Please keep them in your prayers.

- ◆ Please pray for our families as they cope with letting us go away for awhile. Watching children and grandchildren leave is not easy. They already miss us. Pray for comfort and peace of mind for our loved ones.
- ◆ Pray for all of our supporters and loved ones as they continue to bless the people of Peru and grow His kingdom. May God shine on them!



Laurie and Sarah enjoy an afternoon hike after training.

# The Drum Family

## Serving Christ in Peru

Laurie & Billy Drum  
3907 Old Oaks  
Bryan, Texas 77802

E-mail: [billy@drumsforchrist.org](mailto:billy@drumsforchrist.org)  
[laurie@drumsforchrist.org](mailto:laurie@drumsforchrist.org)



Visit us at

[www.drumsforchrist.org](http://www.drumsforchrist.org)

The Drum Family is currently in  
training at

Mission Training International.

They will soon depart for service in  
Central & South America.

Words to live by...

John 13:34-35

And this commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this, all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

“Those serving others are always looking for ‘the golden key’ that will unlock barriers to the gospel. It is imperative that we find creative, innovative methods for outreach... But let’s never forget the most powerful means we have for bringing people to Jesus: loving each other. It sounds simplistic, but love gives the most profound witness.”

~ World Pulse, April 2004



The Drums are called by Christ to work with children in Latin America. Laurie and Billy were both school teachers in the United States. They will work with children in Costa Rica and in Peru, working to share the love of Christ by loving His children. This is just one of several ministries they will work with.



Billy jokes with some boys in a classroom in Brazil.