

La Luz de Cristo para Perú

October 2007

Volume 2, Issue 10

It's the Little Things...

We have come to realize just how much “the little things” mean in our lives. In the past couple of months, it's been the little things that can make and break our day.

- * When we were packing to move out of our home, the simple decision over whether or not to keep coat hangers literally pushed me over the edge. I sat on the floor and cried for an hour over coat hangers!
- * The excitement over an afternoon with NO RAIN! It's amazing what a few hours of sunshine can do for you.
- * The realization that you left your umbrella in your other bookbag today and this is the worst rain you've seen yet...
- * The joy of getting an email from a friend back home...
- * When the teeny tiny almost microscopic fruit flies finally get on your last nerve and you begin wildly swinging your arms and yelling in the kitchen (and no one else has any idea what is happening—“is she having a nervous breakdown?”)...
- * When you finally have a complete conversation in Spanish and it appears that both sides understood everything!
- * When your 3 year old daughter offers to bless the food and she busts out with a long, detailed prayer in Spanish, thanking God for her parents and her teachers and Lizbeth, and the food...
- * The total “happy dance” when you find your favorite show on TV and it is IN ENGLISH with Spanish subtitles!!! Happy day...
- * When you are already late to school, you didn't eat breakfast, one child is rebelling over going to school at all, you didn't finish your homework in Phonetics, and you then realize that you left your coffee on the table by the door... AAAAHHHHH! I almost cried that day...
- * When some seasoned students take you out for dinner and it is AWESOME pizza! Real pizza with real crust and everything... Hallelujah!
- * When you receive an email that contains the word “yall”!!!! YES!!!



The Drum children on Costa Rican Independence Day. School was interrupted for an hour for a student parade, the raising of the flag, singing the national anthem, and an oral history presentation. In the evening, everyone in the country sings the national anthem at 6 p.m., followed by the Parade of Lanterns through the streets (see Sarah).

- * Perhaps the absolute best “little things” in our lives right now are the kids of La Carpio. The sheer fact that this ministry opportunity opened up for us is not a little thing, but a HUGE thing. The children that we serve are so wonderful and we are truly alive when we work with them. It has become a major driving force in our days. “How can we love them more this week?” is a major planning point for us. The truth of the matter is, holding kids and hugging kids and sitting and talking to kids is our primary way of showing Christ's love. There just simply isn't anything better in this world than little arms wrapped around your neck, or little hands that beg you to hold them. “What can we do better?” One week, we took apples for everyone for snack... apples are a luxury, as they are imported and therefore expensive. These kids just don't get apples. Their excitement and their faces were incredible! Last week, it was a craft that involved glue. Glue is also expensive here and no one actually owns glue—the kids treated this craft as though we were working with gold.

The little things... some are good, some are bad, and some are indescribably incredible and God-inspired. The trick is keeping it all in perspective and remembering what is most important. Who are you serving? Is this a big thing to God? Is God really worried about this issue, or is He smiling down on you and saying “Hang in there, Baby. I have it under control. Keep going, keep trying, don't give up...”

Life at the Language Institute...

One month into language training and everyone is really starting to feel the heat! Being a student is a whole new culture within itself, not to mention the fact that we are students in another country learning another language from teachers who only speak their native tongue! This is culture shock on top of culture shock!!! We have homework each night in all of our classes, even on the weekends. Suddenly, our lives are governed by bell schedules and exams and class projects and grades. It is humbling to have your children help you with your homework each night, correcting you and trying to explain what you are doing wrong. One classmate hit the nail on the head today when he said, "Every time I open my mouth to speak Spanish, I feel like a stroke victim. It takes great effort to get each word out. I'm frustrated because I know what I want to say, but I can't form the sentence and get it out of my brain." How true!!! Can you imagine the morale and the climate among the 185 students who are all in this same boat??? It's starting to show... no longer can we keep our "happy masks" on. At the 4-6 week mark, we are all hitting the wall, one by one. It is normal to see 2 or 3 students outside the classrooms between classes crying in frustration. It's tough to see grown men and women weeping because they can't communicate. Tears communicate everything at this point... Billy and I aren't crying—yet. But I'm sure that our day is coming. I've come close, but was literally "saved by the bell" and was able to leave class just in time. On a good note, our children are thriving in Spanish! Sarah says her daily prayers in Spanish. Ryan has an A average in his college-level classes at the institute and is the "conversation king", giving long oral presentations in class and always getting top grades. Miles is very socially active—he attends an international youth group on Saturday nights, he is on the school soccer team, he has many friends... typical Miles! Today he is excited about making the highest grade in his class on a debate essay in Bible class (we aren't surprised that he is a champion in debating an issue!!!). Please continue to pray for us all as we work to be good students and continue to glorify God in the process, training for His service in Latin America.

Ministering in La Carpio...

Hot off the presses... we have posted a short video about the ministry in La Carpio to our blog site and to [YouTube](#)! If you are interested in seeing video and photos of the time we spend with the children here, please go to www.drumsforchrist.blogspot.com and check it out!!!



On ministry... as usual, our intension is to serve the people of La Carpio each week and minister to their needs—AND AS USUAL, God uses these children as a ministry in OUR lives. I don't think that any of these kids know that they are such an enormous part of our existence right now, but they certainly are the light in our overwhelming world of study and culture shock. La Carpio and the children there are literally keeping our spirits alive. The rest of our world right now is difficult and frustrating, but our time in La Carpio is invigorating and rejuvenating and "normal" for us. Where everything else is different and new, the ministry in La Carpio is where we feel "at home". THIS is what we love and THIS is what we are called to do... love children in the name of Christ Jesus. So pray a prayer of gratitude to Our Father tonight for allowing us to find this wonderful place to call our ministry-home for this year.

To update you on the happenings in La Carpio this month...

- * We are teaching on Jonah right now. With the help of a young Nicaraguan man named Antonio who is working alongside us, we have been telling the Jonah story and teaching the principals involved therein. Last week we did a complicated craft that someone donated (much more complicated than I would normally attempt) and the kids were perfectly quiet and worked so hard!!!
- * Hallelujah for the kindness of others! We really wanted to show the Jonah movie to the kids. A movie is a HUGE treat to them and it reinforces the teaching, plus is a great closure to this lesson. However, we were trying to figure out how to show the movie when we didn't have a projector. In talking about this dilemma, Steve says, "Hey Man, do not fear. Someone donated a projector to us. We have the equipment. Just bring the movie!" Woo Hoo!
- * Same song, second verse... I was really wanting a parachute to do some creative play with the kids. I put out a request to some folks back home, pleading for someone to try to find one for me. Enter Steve, "Hey—you need a parachute? Someone left one here for us. You can do whatever you want to with it." The kids love it! Praise God for providing everything we need!
- * Please pray for Roberto, a 10 year old in La Carpio. He really wants to learn to read. The literacy rate among the people of this area is about 60%. Most parents don't read, so the kids don't either. (*Steve Edwards quote*) "The interesting observation is this... Roberto can't read, but he can pray better than most adults I know! He prays for everyone and everything. I know lots of extremely literate people with big degrees who can read everything they put their hands on, but they freeze when it's time to pray. They can't do it." Roberto wants to learn... he visits a counselor and tutor each week (paid for by Steve's supporters). Please pray for the education of this little boy who really wants to learn!



Contact information for The Drums

You can email us at: Billy@drumsforchrist.org or Laurie@drumsforchrist.org

You can send us regular, stamped mail at:

Laurie & Billy Drum
 Instituto de Lengua de Española
 Apartado 100-2350
 San José, Costa Rica
 América Central

We have a USA phone number! You can call us at 979-985-5268.

Please check the blog each week for updates at www.drumsforchrist.blogspot.com

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 \$ _____.


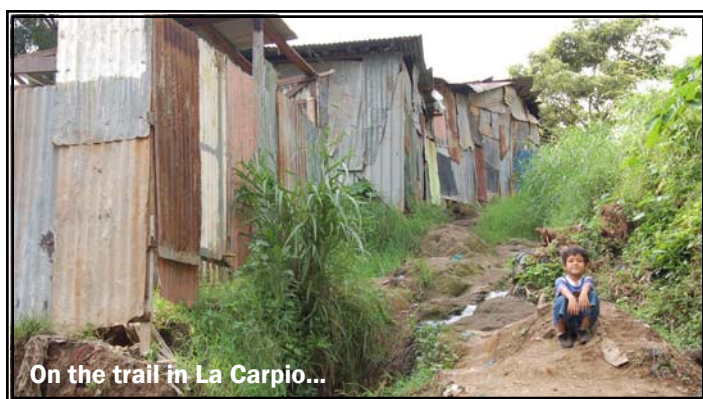
Name (PLEASE PRINT) _____

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"

On the trail in La Carpio...

Prayers & Praises

Do not fear. Face each difficulty sure that the wisdom and strength will be given to you for it. For every task I give one of My children, there is set aside all that is necessary for its performance.

Excerpt from *God Calling*

Praises:

- ◆ We are beginning to pick up the language by bits and pieces. We are beginning to be able to function in society without too many language mistakes.
- ◆ A church member from home has picked up the newsletter printing and mailing responsibilities—hallelujah! This is a huge help.

Prayers:

- ◆ Pray for us as we continue our language learning. Pray for good sleep each night. We are exhausted from culture shock, stress and the pressure of school and studying.
- ◆ Pray for our children as they continue to make transitions into a new culture. We are beginning to see the stress of culture shock and changing schools in their lives—pray for good friends for them and little things that will ease this time for them.
- ◆ Pray for our health. Laurie has been fighting sinus troubles and a cold for a couple of weeks. Miles has been fighting a cough.

- ◆ Pray for the children of the La Carpio area of San Jose as we work to minister to them and their families.
- ◆ Pray for Billy’s father, Lynn Drum, as he continues his battle with lung cancer.
- ◆ Pray that we will make good friends in San Jose, especially with the Ticos and the people of La Carpio. Pray for national friends that will come alongside us and allow us into their lives.
- ◆ Pray for our personal walk with God. Pray that we will stay strong in the Word and grounded in Him. With stress and fatigue, we are easy targets for the enemy... pray that we stay focused and filled with the love of Christ and covered with His protection and peace.
- ◆ God bless all of you!!! We keep you in our prayers and our hearts. You are important to us, both personally and to the ministries we serve. You are making an incredible difference in the lives of many people around the world. Thank you!



One of our many little friends in the La Carpio area of San Jose. We work with these children every week, sharing Christ in their community.

The Drum Family

Serving Christ in Peru

Laurie & Billy Drum
3907 Old Oaks
Bryan, Texas 77802

E-mail: billy@drumsforchrist.org
laurie@drumsforchrist.org



Visit us at

www.drumsforchrist.org

The Drum Family is currently attending the Instituto de Lengua Española in Costa Rica to learn the Spanish language. They are also in ministry while in Costa Rica, serving the children of Nicaraguan refugees in La Carpio.

So many differences, so many similarities...

So many things have changed for us and we are making adjustments to living with differences. And yet, so many things remain the same in life.

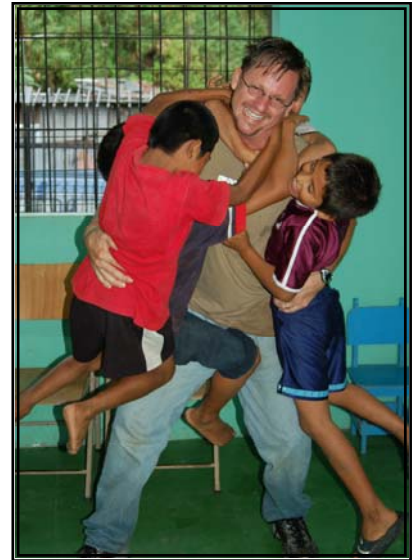
Differences:

Carrying an umbrella everywhere, having 65 TV channels all in Spanish, needing a dictionary to answer the phone, grocery shopping every other day instead of once a week, walking everywhere— even in the rain, the slower pace of life, constant security issues, listening to the sermon in Spanish and trying to follow along with your Spanish Bible, no cell phone or instant communication, many different foods and flavors and textures, milk comes in a box, watching your daughter play dolls and noticing that all of the dolls are “speaking Spanish” to each other, different school policies and procedures and expectations for the kids, uniforms at school, being adult students and receiving grades and daily homework... It's a whole new world for us!

Similarities:

Eating pizza every Thursday night (our one comfort food from home), kids are still kids—they still have a messy room and argue about cleaning it up, they still procrastinate about homework, they still forget to call home when they go to a friend's house, they still ask for money A LOT; we still do our morning devotional time through a download from the internet (Praise God for the internet), we found the ingredients to make Billy's famous homemade salsa, we made Wacky Cake on a recent Sunday afternoon, we still have too many things to do and not enough time in the day... Some things never change.

Most importantly, GOD IS STILL GOD!!! He is still with us. He is still leading the way. He is still loving and caring. He is still protecting his children. He will never leave us or forsake us. His Spirit still guides us and intercedes for us. If everything else changes in life and nothing seems familiar, HE IS STILL GOD and HE IS THE GREAT I AM!



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.