

La Luz de Cristo para Perú

November 2007

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Thanksgiving

How do you cook a turkey and dressing in an apartment-sized oven? Do they even have turkeys in this country??? I haven't seen one. Nor have I seen sweet potatoes, or the makings for pink jello salad, or anything resembling pumpkin pie. In fact, in October, the one pumpkin that I saw cost \$10! No pumpkins and fall décor at our house this year! And somehow I'm going to try to pull off Thanksgiving dinner for our family of 5, plus 8 more college students who are here studying Spanish at the Institute with us. By the way, did I mention that we only own 4 real plates and 2 glasses? Maybe everyone can bring their own place setting...

It will be a different holiday season, that's for sure! It is hard to feel very "fall festive" when everyone is still wearing sundresses and flip-flop sandals, when you are in the middle of the rainy season, when hummingbirds are swarming in your backyard, and when parrots hang out on your front fence! Somehow, pumpkins and parrots don't go together. This is a real change in mindset for us... your brain is telling you that you should be thinking "fall leaves, red / yellow / orange / brown, pumpkins and cornucopias", but our new culture is all about "rainforest, parrots, pineapples, iguanas". Very confusing! As I write this, a gecko is running across my living room wall and leaf cutter ants are tearing up my bushes, in the rain, of course.

Costa Rica doesn't actually have "fall". They only have two seasons—Summer and Winter, which is truly determined by the rainy season and the not-so-rainy season. Right now is winter (rainy season). In December, we are told that it will become summer (not –so-rainy season). I'm not holding my breath for it to stop raining,, though... I'll believe it when I see it.

None of this changes the fact that we are thankful and will celebrate the day and give thanks for our many blessings. We are so thankful for:

- ◆ The opportunity to serve the Lord by serving His children in Latin America.
- ◆ Our teachers who have immense patience with us as we work to learn Spanish and better serve Him.
- ◆ All of our supporters who serve God by praying for us and financially supporting us and the ministry. We truly appreciate your dedication to the Lord and your faithfulness to our family.



Roberto (on the right) desperately wants to learn to read. He is 10 years old. The literacy rate among the people of his community is about 60%. He struggles to learn the alphabet and the sounds each week as he meets with a tutor. Please pray for Roberto and his desire to be educated and literate!

- ◆ For our families and friends, whom we miss very much during these holidays. We are thankful for their love and support, phone calls, mail, and uplifting spirits.
- ◆ A sense of humor, both ours and the people around us! We continue to make MANY mistakes and we are thankful that everyone can laugh about it. Glad to serve others by bringing humor into their lives.
- ◆ New friends and new experiences as this group of 185 missionaries journeys down this road of language acquisition together. Thankful that we can laugh together and cry together and struggle with culture and language together.

There are far too many things to list them all here. Please take time this Thanksgiving to really ponder the blessings that you have and what is really important in your life. We used to have lots of "stuff" and now we own next to nothing, but we are full of gratitude to God for the amazing life and abundant blessings that we enjoy everyday. Praise and thanksgiving are *muy importante*... take time to serve God his share this Thanksgiving.

We love you! Happy Thanksgiving!

Top Ten Things to "Make your Day"...

True stories from The Drum Household

1. When you are so tired that you mix up the bottles on your dresser and cover your entire body in hairspray instead of perfume. It was a sticky morning!
2. When Billy mistakenly tells a friend that "the children are ugly" instead of "the children are sick". Guess we should study our vocabulary more!
3. When you attempt to order a pizza on the phone (delivery) and your directions to your house aren't correct (because your Spanish is so bad)... two hours later, he called to ask for clarification! We managed to get him to the top of the street and flag him down to the house. Yummm—cold pizza!
4. When you realize that the liquid shower gel that you have been using for a week is really shampoo and not body soap. Silky smooth skin with extra body! Lather, rinse, repeat...
5. When you are at the grocery store and your 3 year old needs a bathroom... "Donde esta el baño?" you ask to 4 different people, each time being led to the aisle that sells towels. What??? Clear pronunciation is important!!! "Baño" and "Paño" sure sound a lot alike!
6. When you are so excited because the roses in your yard are finally full and bushy and ready to do their thing, only to wake up the next day to naked sticks! I'm here to tell you that leaf cutter ants can strip you clean in no time! No roses, no geraniums, no nothing!
7. On a similar note, when you and your daughter have been anxiously awaiting the emersion of a butterfly from it's chrysalis (in the kitchen), only to come home and find the cocoon empty. "Oh no! Where did it go?", we ask our helper, Lizbeth. Waving frantically she tell us in Spanish that it emerged and was flying around the kitchen (frightening her, I think) and she shooed it out the back door (very proud of herself).
8. When your teacher admires your bag/purse and says she wants to try to make/sew one for herself. So, you empty the bag and take it to class the next day so she can use it for a pattern. Somehow, again in bad Spanish, the loan of my bag became a "gift" for the teacher. She was very proud of it and carried on and on about how nice it was that I gave it to her... oh well, I hope she enjoys it...
9. When your example sentence in class ("Tonight I will bake a chocolate cake.") somehow is mistaken for a statement of intent and you are now somehow obligated to make chocolate cake and bring it to class tomorrow to share.
10. When someone says "you smell like an American"... What does that mean? Is that good or bad? I don't know. Maybe it's my special blend of hairspray / perfume / body shampoo...



Ministering in La Carpio...

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

- * We taught on Noah and the Ark this week and made rainbows with crepe paper and construction paper and glue. You would have thought we were creating Monet masterpieces... the children worked so diligently and so intently to make their rainbows. It was a great day! One missionary said, "This is nothing short of miraculous! Remember the first day we started here? It was chaos and these kids had no discipline whatsoever! I can't believe what I'm seeing here today."
- * Giovanni (at right) is one of our new "best friends". He shows up every time we are there, with a bright smile and always offering to help. He wants to carry things for us, show us around the neighborhood, etc. He helps pass out supplies for us and helps smaller kids with their crafts.
- * We are planning a Christmas party for the kids of La Carpio. Any ideas??? We will have a kitchen available to us... I'm thinking of baking cookies with the kids and decorating them, etc. Maybe making a Christmas tree decoration or two? Still thinking... let me know if you have any earth shattering ideas on how to throw a Christmas party for 60-80 kids!
- * You can still see the video at www.drumsforchrist.blogspot.com (October posts)



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:

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 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

To see the newsletter in color, get the pdf edition online. Go to the website and click "Newsletters" to download the newsletter in color!

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"





One of the worst consequences of the Fall is the elaborate barriers people erect between themselves and others. Facades abound in the world, even in The Body and The Church. Sometimes, church is the last place where people feel free to be themselves, covering up with Sunday clothes and Sunday smiles. The best antidote to this artificial atmosphere is to make your primary focus communing with God, worshiping and glorifying Him. Then you will be able to smile at others with His joy and bless them with His presence. ~excerpt from the book *Jesus Calling*

Prayers & Praises



Praises:

- ◆ *Poco a poco*...Little by little, we are learning Spanish. Some days it seems so difficult, and yet some days we see the fruits of our studying. Billy just threw away a giant pile of flashcards that he no longer needs because HE KNOWS THEM! *Poco a poco*...
- ◆ Thank God for the internet! We are able to download our daily devotionals, The Upper Room, and my Beth Moore bible study! Hallelujah! Not to mention the ability to stay in touch with all of our family, friends, and supporters!

Prayers:

- ◆ Pray for us as we continue our language learning. Pray for good sleep each night. We are exhausted!
- ◆ Pray for the family of our dear friend, Aaron Berman, in Mexico. Aaron was an incredible man of God and a blessing to our lives. He died of liver cancer in mid-October. We are so sad to not have him here on this earth any-

- more, but so excited to know that he is in heaven, probably singing and telling stories and "giving it all the gas". We miss him already. His life touched many!
- ◆ Pray for our missionary friend, Amanda, as she faces political unrest in the country she serves (can't give you all the details due to the delicate situation in her country—please pray for her).
- ◆ 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. He is doing well, but is tired of the travel to and from the hospital every day for chemo. He has lost his hair, but has stayed in great spirits and we talk with him often.
- ◆ We are praying for you! Thank you for standing alongside us in this journey to serve Him.



A poison dart frog was a recent passenger in our boat. Their skin is poisonous, but only when you get the secretions in an open wound... don't worry! Don't rub your eye, either. Isn't he cute? They are tiny—about the size of a dime.

The Drum Family

Serving Christ in Peru

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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 families in La Carpio.

Recommendations from The Drums

What the Drums are reading, listening to, and studying right now...



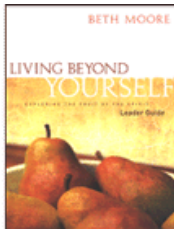
http://www.oneplace.com/ministries/Turning_Point/

Dr. David Jeremiah daily download devotional sermons



<http://www.upperroom.org/devotional/>

Upper Room daily devotionals online



Laurie is currently doing the *Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit* study (Beth Moore).

<http://www.lifeway.com/lby/homepage/0,2113,,00.html>



Beth Moore weekly devotional download (currently a study of Romans)

http://www.oneplace.com/ministries/Living_Proof_with_Beth_Moore/



Thanksgiving: A Time to Remember by Barbara Rainey - a fabulous audio book recounting of the first Thanksgiving and the true Christian meaning and principals behind the holiday. Downloadable on iTunes or purchase online.



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.