

La Luz de Cristo para Perú

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As a child...

God has been working on my heart A LOT lately, mostly about how much I need to learn from my 4 year old daughter. It seems like God is using everything she does to witness to me about my posture when it comes to facing life in this world. It seems that 98% of Sarah's life is spent in excited anticipation of whatever might happen next. Excited anticipation—I can't say that I spend my days with that posture. Somewhere along the way, we "grow up" and we lose the excitement of life. We look at the things of life through different eyes. Maybe we need to put our "child eyes" back on...

On a recent trip down the Sarapiquí River, we were a little off schedule and the captain decided to speed up the trip. The boat was going so fast it seemed to barely be in the water at all—almost flying. As a mother and an adult, all of the "what ifs" were going through my head. "What if we hit something under the surface? What if Sarah falls overboard right now? The water is full of crocodiles! None of us have life jackets on." Every time we hit the wake of another river boat, we slammed down hard on the water and I just knew that someone would be thrown out any minute. Can you hear your mother talking? But I noticed as I watched Sarah that she wasn't afraid of this situation at all. She was thrilled with the ride! She was holding her arms out over the spray coming up from the side of the boat and screaming with delight as the water was soaking her. She was giggling and yelling, "Whee! Woo Hoo!" I couldn't help but smile at her excitement. And that was when God started whispering in my head, "Isn't it beautiful to watch your child enjoy life? That's how I want you to face life every day. I want to see that in YOU."

That was just the beginning... God hasn't stopped whispering about this topic. He seems to show me a new part of this plan for me every day. I watch and take notice of how Sarah goes through her day. She greets everyone in the street without fear as to whether or not they will greet her in return or understand her language. When it rains, she happily splashes in the puddles and walks without her umbrella. If she chooses to use her umbrella, she spins it and skips down the sidewalk and sings as though she were straight out of "Singing In The Rain". When something goes awry in the plan, she is quick to say, "That's okay. We can do something else instead!" Each day when we go to pick Sarah up from her class, she runs to greet us and throws her arms around us. What a wonderful feeling for a parent! I'm certain that God would like the same response from us, his children—to every day look to Him with excitement and throw our arms around Him in love.



Sarah and one of her MANY La Carpio friends. It has been interesting to watch how language has no barriers when kids meet each other, spend the day playing together, and form lasting bonds with each other. We have a lot to learn from our children!

God is also using Sarah's reactions to trials and fears to teach me. When she comes upon a situation that causes her to have fear, she immediately clings closer to Billy or me. At this, God whispered to me, "Quickly turn to your Father. Don't worry. Don't get stressed. Don't plan a solution. Turn to me first. I'm always right here." As we walk down the streets of San Jose, Sarah holds our hand. When she stumbles, we can quickly catch her and stop her fall. This is only possible because she is so close, holding her father's hand. Consider that image... if we were so close to The Father that we were walking beside Him and holding His hand, how many times would we actually fall? We may begin to stumble, but our close proximity to The Father makes it possible for us to quickly recover and continue on.

In Matthew 18:3, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Are our fears and worries and stresses getting in the way of our relationship with The Father? Has our growth into "adulthood" caused us to lose the child-like qualities that Jesus says are the keys to heaven? In Matthew 19:14, Jesus says again, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Again, we are taught that Jesus prizes those who are 'such as these' - little children.

This holiday season, I'm asking God to restore my child-like qualities and continue to show me how to be a better child for Him. I urge you to consider the same... become a child of God for Christmas!

Thanksgiving Update And Christmas Plans...



To update you on the Drum Family Thanksgiving in Costa Rica... We were able to find a turkey. It was huge and our oven is tiny, so we knew this would be a challenge. We ended up not having Thanksgiving in our home. The college students that study with Ryan decided to have a huge Thanksgiving feast and invite their Costa Rican host families and professors from the Institute, so we joined in this effort and offered to cook a turkey as our contribution. We also invited our friend, Lizbeth to attend the dinner, as she is a part of our family. She hasn't ever had turkey, nor cooked one, so the day was quite an event for her! The food was cooked in individual homes and brought to the Institute, where the kids turned the chapel into a giant dining room for Thanksgiving. If you haven't been reading the blog site, you can get all of the background details and build-up to our



Thanksgiving by checking there (www.drumsforchrist.blogspot.com).

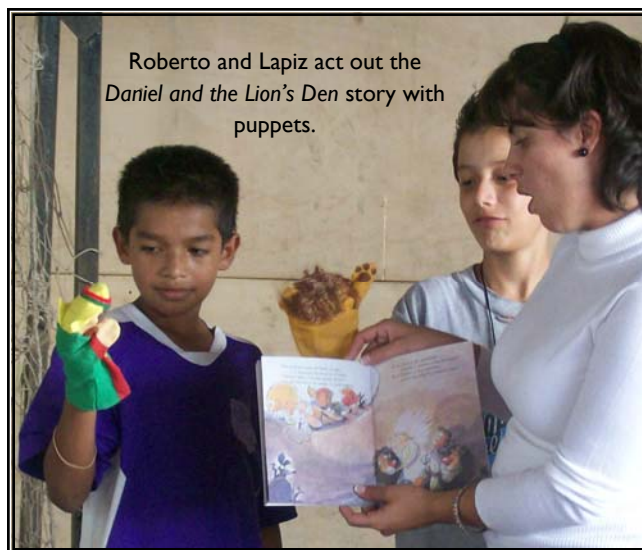
As for Christmas... we will buy a Christmas tree during the first week on December. They sell true cedar trees here for Christmas. However, they DON'T sell tree stands or anything for water... you just stand the tree up in the corner on the wooden stand it comes on. We aren't comfortable with that plan—Billy is designing a tree stand out of a tub/bucket so we can keep the tree in water. We will stay here for Christmas and celebrate Costa Rican style. There are several parades at this time of year here... The Ox Cart Parade, The Festival of Lights parade and celebration, etc. The Nutcracker ballet only costs \$4 per ticket, so we will be attending that, too. We bought tickets for our friend Lizbeth and her daughter and she is so excited! She hasn't ever been to the ballet - she's 36... my grandfather is rolling in his grave, I'm sure! He always took me to the ballet. Now I'm introducing my daughter and other women to the wonders of the ballet. His legacy lives on. It will be a fun night!

This Christmas will be different, but the meaning of the holiday will always remain the same. Read Luke 2:1-2 and give thanks.

Ministering in La Carpio...

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

- * We are planning a Christmas party for the kids of La Carpio on December 8th. The ladies / moms in the community have rallied and decided that they want to be part of the party—hallelujah! We are so happy to see this participation from the community! They are going to cook arroz con pollo for the fiesta (a traditional rice & chicken dish that is served on special occasions). Special thanks to our supporters who have also rallied for this cause and sent us suggestions, ideas, and monetary backing for this special Christmas ministry!
- * In the past month, we have had a lot of fun with the kids. We have played lots of games, sung lots of bible songs, told lots of Bible stories, and made lots of crafts. Oh, and don't forget, we've eaten lots of cookies!!!
- * Special thanks to Amie Goins and Family for sending us bible character puppets! Perhaps one of our favorite ministry days in the past month was when Roberto and Lapiz did an impromptu puppet show of Daniel and the Lion's Den. They were awesome! They added a new ending, though... Daniel leaves the scene riding the lion ☺. They were quite proud of their performance, as were we! (see photo)
- * It is quite moving to hear the prayers of the La Carpio children each week. Recently, a young boy prayed for help to stop doing drugs. Every week, children pray for our protection while we are in the community. Last week, Roberto broke down in tears during his prayer because "Gringo Juan" (John from Oklahoma) was leaving and this was his last week in La Carpio. It is truly beautiful to see and hear the love and hopes of children who live in a place plagued with drugs, violence, and crime. These kids are a ray of light a dark situation. There is hope within their hearts.
- * In a recent prayer meeting, Steve discussed our recent mission trip to a Costa Rican boy's home... the La Carpio kids began making plans to go on their own mission trip to meet these boys and take them some of their toys. Amazing! The very kids that we are ministering to are planning their own ministry!



Roberto and Lapiz act out the Daniel and the Lion's Den story with puppets.

Contact information for The Drums

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

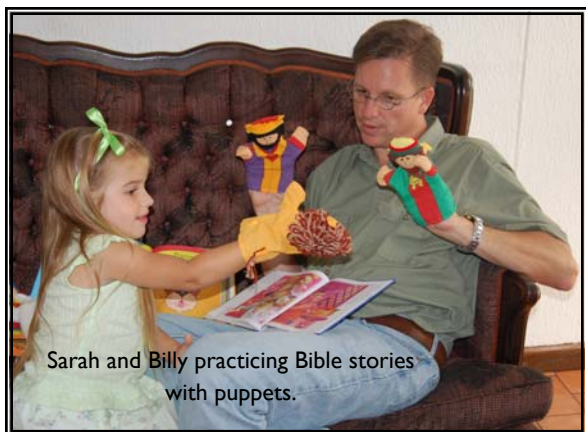
You can send us regular, stamped mail at:

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

Please check the blog each week for updates at www.drumsfrochrist.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!



Sarah and Billy practicing Bible stories with puppets.

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"





Please consider an end-of-year donation. All donations to our ministry account are tax deductible. Your donation keeps us on the mission field and funds ministries like the La Carpio weekly children's bible school and the San Carlos children's ministry and boy's home outreach. Without your support, we could not continue to minister to the people of Latin America. Go online at www.themissionsociety.org to give to acct. #5/321 for The Drum Family.

"I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light."
 ~ John Keith Falconer, missionary

Prayers & Praises



Praises:

- ◆ We have been meeting with a wonderful Nicaraguan man for some extra language tutoring in the afternoon. Carlos is fabulous at teaching!!! We are so blessed to have found him and even more blessed to call him "friend".
- ◆ Our paperwork is in progress for our Peruvian visas!
- ◆ Laurie's mom and one of Miles' friends are going to come visit us between Christmas and New Years. We are very excited to have visitors.
- ◆ Our friends and missionary peers, Jim & Ginnie Street, are coming to the Spanish Language Institute in January to begin their language training. We are serving as their "Big Brothers". We eagerly await their arrival ☺.

Prayers:

- ◆ Pray for our family as we experience the holidays in another country, without friends and family, and without our traditional foods and customs.

- ◆ Pray for the children of the La Carpio area of San Jose as we work to minister to them and their families each week.
- ◆ Pray for our boys as they make decisions about their future. Ryan is making decisions that affect his college hours and his career. Miles is making decisions about his return to the USA to finish his high school education. Pray for wisdom beyond their years.
- ◆ Pray for others to receive God's Word during this Christmas season and feel His presence and His love.
- ◆ We are praying for you! Thank you for standing alongside us in this journey to serve Him.



The ox cart is a typical sight in Costa Rica. Oxen pull these carts in the coffee fields and plantations. Brightly painted ox carts are quite an incredible sight... there is incredible artistic talent here! The Drums attended the annual ox cart parade in San Jose. Coffee plantations bring their ox carts to town and parade through the streets in celebration of the country's rich heritage in coffee growing.

The Drum Family

Serving Christ in Peru

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Visit us at

www.drumsforchrist.org



Miles Drum (16) works with a group of young boys in the San-Carlos / Quesada area of Costa Rica during a children's ministry mission. Collectively, the team worked with 80 children and 50 youth. Thank you for supporting this ministry!



While watching the annual Ox Cart Parade, Sarah Drum (4) was asked to ride along in one of the traditional carts for a portion of the parade.

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, sharing the love of Christ with children and their families. Please be in prayer for The Drums and the people they serve in Christ's name.