

# La Luz de Cristo para Perú

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## New Year, New Beginnings

As we begin this new year, I am mindful of all of the new beginnings that our family will have in 2008 (as if 2007 weren't enough). At this time last year, we were returning from our first trip to Perú. Our minds and hearts were full of new sights and new ideas for where our ministry and our family was heading. At this time last year, we had just begun our fundraising efforts for our mission ministry in Perú and we were trying to wrap our heads around the fact that we would soon be leaving our home and family and friends to venture out into full-time missions.

By mid-year, our funding was secured, our house was sold, we quit our teaching jobs, and we packed two suitcases each... we left Texas and headed off to finalize our training for service to Latin America. We trained in Brazil for two weeks, then spent almost two months at Mission Training International in Colorado before departing the United States and arriving in Costa Rica at The Spanish Language Institute.

Our family has spent the past few months making adjustments and learning to live in a new culture. We now have 4 months of language learning under our belt and are becoming accustomed to a different pace of life and a different cultural view. It has NOT been easy. We have experienced different levels of culture shock. However, we seem to have survived "the worst of it" and we are turning the corner now.

The new year promises to bring even more changes and new beginnings. We will finish our language school training in May and move to Perú (where we will have to learn a different Spanish dialect). Perú is a different culture than Costa Rica, so we will again be faced with cultural barriers and learning customs and cultural norms. This week, we will become a family divided... Miles is moving back to Texas to finish his high school years while living with his grandmother. He has chosen to forgo any more changes and new beginnings and return to what is familiar for him. Ryan will return to college at Texas A&M University—Kingsville in the summer and we will have two children in the USA while we live in Perú.

There are everyday changes that occur whether we are in the USA or in Latin America - We will attack our growing waistlines with exercise and better eating habits. We will refine our budgets to accommodate one child in an American high school and one child in college. Some changes are situational -We will redefine our job descriptions when we arrive in Peru and assess the current situation there. We will say goodbye to friends in Costa Rica and make new friends in Perú. We will make new traditions and find ways to continue old ones.



Laurie and Billy Drum ... in the distance is Volcano Arenal and Lake Arenal in Costa Rica. Arenal is currently an active volcano, with continual lava flows and eruptions daily.

How does this effects us? Being a missionary causes us to look at things in a different light. It is difficult to allow yourself to get close to new friends when you know you will be leaving them soon and it will hurt to say goodbye. And yet, it is a part of ministry and life to get close to people... close enough to love them deeply. Someone asked Sarah (4 years old) who her best friend is in Costa Rica. This is a very difficult question for her—she had a very good friend (Mackensie) but her family just left for full-time ministry in Mexico. Her other good friend (Ella) just left for full-time ministry in Cuzco, Perú. In May, it will be Sarah's turn to "leave". We, too, will have to say goodbye to our ministry here (La Carpio children), which will be very difficult.

We also feel a sense of "temporary" with regard to our home here and our belongings. We don't buy anything that won't fit in our two suitcase allowance when we leave. We don't buy clothing, because Perú is a completely different climate and these clothes won't be of any use to us in a few months.

We look forward to some changes. We are excited to learn more and more Spanish every day. We look forward to getting to Perú and being in a more permanent situation, being able to settle in to a house, being able to make new friends and learn a new culture. In Perú, Sarah looks forward to having a pet dog or cat again. We excitably anticipate our new ministry opportunities. And we look forward to following God's call on our lives and sharing the love of Christ with whom-ever He places in our path along the way.

¡Prospero Año Nuevo! Happy New Year!

### Our First Christmas "away"

Our first Christmas away from Texas and family and friends was "different". We were able to buy a Christmas tree—a cedar tree about 5 feet tall. In Costa Rica, they don't sell tree stands. The tree is just nailed to a piece of wood and stands in the corner for the entire month... can you imagine how dry it is by Christmas Day??? We stood ours in a plastic bucket (Martha Stewart would fall over dead at the sight of a white plastic bucket in the living room) and attempted to keep it somewhat fresh and not crispy. We attempted to get a ham for Christmas dinner and attempted to make it "honey baked", neither of which worked out too well. I did find out that you can substitute masa for cornmeal if you add a little extra liquid... so I was able to make a halfway decent corn casserole. Due to the thoughtfulness of some good friends back in Texas who sent a can of mix, we were able to make a pumpkin pie. We topped off the dinner with a green salad, a fruit salad, and a really yummy pantone bread pudding (see Rachel Ray's recipe).

Christmas shopping is a whole different ball game in another country. Nothing is easy to find or in any way affordable. Not to mention the fact that we have no vehicle, so we have to ride a bus to go anywhere, and nothing is close to home. We were able to buy a couple of our children's "wants" over the internet and have Laurie's mom bring them to us when she came to visit.



Sarah's class sings in the Christmas Eve service.

Christmas Eve was spent in our new church here... we sang Christmas carols in Spanish with a Latin flair to the music. Sarah was in a Christmas program and her class sang and did a ribbon dance. Then they led the congregation in Feliz Cumpleanos to baby Jesus (Happy Birthday) and opened a giant gift box and set off helium balloons in celebration. It is a Latin American tradition for all nativity scenes to withhold the baby Jesus until midnight on Christmas Eve, and families do not eat Christmas dinner or open gifts until midnight.

All in all, we had a great first Christmas alone. It was different, and we missed our family and friends, but we were all together and we were grateful for that time. Special thanks to everyone who sent Christmas cards and care packages and called us on our USA phone number—you made us feel remembered over the holidays. We have a wall of our kitchen dedicated to your photos and letters that you sent and we remember you and thank God for you every time we see your cards and shining faces. Merry Christmas to everyone!!!

### Ministering in La Carpio...

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

Have you ever tried to throw a party for 200 children? Complete with a carnival of games, a full dinner, and Christmas gifts for all??? Our La Carpio ministry team did just that in December. Actually, we have to give God all of the credit because we were in charge and I REALLY had my doubts about being able to pull this off.

Special thanks to the Beth Moore Bible Study group at CUMC back home in Texas... they collected money and sponsored all of the food for the fiesta. This alone was an awesome ministry – a group of ladies from Texas partnered with the ladies of the La Carpio community to provide a full meal for 225 children (more than we planned for)... arroz con pollo, ensalada, tostadas, hot chocolate, and ice cream. The La Carpio ladies cooked all of the food and served the 225 plates, cups, and ice cream cones.



Children lined up for the La Carpio Christmas Party.

Also, special thanks to our supporters – this is one of the ways in which your support money is being used. You helped to provide gift bags for 200+ children in the La Carpio community. You partnered with missionaries from other organizations who also provided goodies for the gift bags.

It is apparent to me that THIS is the church at work – supporters and missionaries and people of all walks of life, all denominations, coming together to provide for the children of this community. Thank you! Thank you for answering God's call and giving from you heart so that we can go forth and share the love of Christ with these precious children!

## Contact information for The Drums

You can email us at: [Billy@drumsforchrist.org](mailto:Billy@drumsforchrist.org) or [Laurie@drumsforchrist.org](mailto:Laurie@drumsforchrist.org)

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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](http://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!



Please pray for our dear friend and peer in mission service, Amanda Smith. She is serving in Nairobi, Kenya. The political situation is extremely unstable-tribal warfare and extreme civil unrest rock her ministry daily. Please hold her in your heart as she ministers to the people of Kenya.

**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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_.


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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"**

Special thanks for the end-of-year donations and special gifts we received. All donations to our ministry account are tax deductible. Your donations keep us on the mission field and fund 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. You can go online at [www.themissionsociety.org](http://www.themissionsociety.org) to give to acct. #5/321 for The Drum Family.

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ~Romans 8: 18, 28

## Prayers & Praises



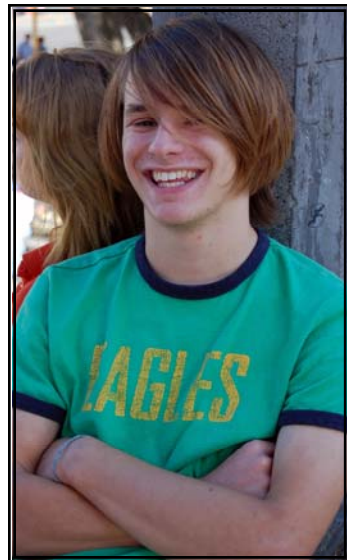
**Praises:**

- ◆ We continue to meet and make new friends in Latin America. It is an answer to our prayers—to make national friends in our country of service.
- ◆ Our paperwork is in progress for our Peruvian visas!
- ◆ Laurie's mom and one of Miles' friends came for a visit, which brought a much needed renewal of strength and a fresh infusion of home... It was great to speak "Texan" for a week!!!
- ◆ Special thanks to all of you who sent us Christmas cards and care packages. You can never imagine how wonderful it is to be remembered over the holidays!

**Prayers:**

- ◆ 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 Miles as he returns to Texas permanently. He has decided to return and finish his high school career back home and live with Laurie's mom. Pray for our family as we learn to live far away from each other.
- ◆ Pray for our new trimester of school. We begin classes on Jan. 9. Pray for our brains to become sponges for the Spanish language and pray for our ability to use our new language in ministry to others.
- ◆ Pray for strength and wisdom for Billy as he serves as Christian Services Director for the language institute this trimester.
- ◆ We are praying for you! Thank you for standing alongside us in this journey to serve Him. Please keep us posted regarding your lives... we want to pray for you.



Please pray for Miles (17 years old) as he returns to Texas to live with his grandmother.

# The Drum Family

## Serving Christ in Perú

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Visit us at

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The Drum kids on Christmas Eve

FELIZ  
NAVIDAD Y  
PRÓSPERO  
AÑO  
NUEVO!



Sarah baking Christmas cookies.



Laurie and Billy prepare to stuff the 200+ gift bags distributed to the children of La Carpio for Christmas.

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.