

La Luz de Cristo para Perú

February 2008

Volume 3, Issue 2

Fear vs. Love

We are told over and over again, “You’re going to La Carpio!? Be very careful! This is a very dangerous place. You really shouldn’t be going there with *those people*.” Almost the exact same words that we heard for eight years as we served on the Mexico border. And yet, we felt more safe and alive and protected there among the people we served than we did in our own hometown. Interesting...

The world is a dangerous place. Our time here in Costa Rica has proved to be no different. Our friend, Lizbeth, was mugged at knifepoint outside of our front gate (a neighbor was near and stopped the attack). Miles was walking with several friends to get a hamburger and was mugged at knifepoint on the street. Ryan was recently held up at gunpoint while walking with another student from the Institute. These are not great statistics considering that we have only been here for 5 months and there are only 6 people in our house! However, we are grateful for God’s protection in all of these situations and we continue to press on. As a parent, it is extremely unnerving when your child is assaulted in the streets! But we cannot lock them away and protect them from everything bad in this world. We cannot live in fear.

We live with many situations that can be potentially “scary”... crime in this city, weekly earthquakes, serving in one of the most notorious barrios of San Jose... and yet, we are not driven by the fear, but by the love of the One who called us to serve Him in this way. He intends to use our lives for good and we intend to spread His love to whomever he sends us—even if that means going into the “scariest barrio” in San Jose. He uses ALL things for good! (Rms. 8: 28)

One of our very dear friends is a missionary in Nairobi, Kenya. The Mission Society currently has 2 family units, 2 single women, and two partnership families serving in Kenya. The current political situation in Kenya is “extreme”, to say the least. With looting and killings and tribal warfare becoming a daily occurrence in their lives, literally in the street under Amanda’s apartment, The Mission Society was ready to put emergency evacuation plans into effect for our people if they were ready to leave. In a recent email from our friend, Amanda...

This is not about me. God did not send me here just to feed the poor. This is a time of crisis for the African people. I feel there is such a great service that I can do right now. I have the money for blankets for the refugees, I have the money to buy airtime cards so that the people can call their families and check on them, I have food to hand out. We were able to purchase these things and send them out to others that otherwise would have nothing. People

One of the many faces of La Carpio... Billy and Laurie Drum lead a children’s ministry in the La Carpio barrio of San Jose, Costa Rica. Each week, the Drums work to share the love of Christ with the children of this area by playing games, singing songs, reading Bible stories, and making crafts. Most importantly, they hold and love and care for kids who otherwise spend their days in one of the most notoriously dangerous areas of the city.



are saying flee. Ask yourself, would you flee when God gave you such a great need to serve?

Being American has its perks, emergency evacuation and embassy support being one of them. Please understand that under these circumstances, it is so difficult to decide to flee a situation that your national friends CANNOT escape! Standing beside your cultural friends and “family” is a HUGE witness and ministering in the midst of fear is a testimony of faith. The Mission Society missionaries have decided to stay behind and minister through the storm. If there comes a time when their presence makes it dangerous for their Kenyan brothers and sisters (as sometimes is the case when American citizenship becomes a political playing card) then they will leave for the safety of the Kenyan people they serve.

Our Kenya missionaries have demonstrated incredible love for their people and an incredible outreach of God’s hand in this stressful, uncertain time. “There is no fear in love.” (1 John 4:18) “And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love.” (1 John 4:16)

“Do not fear.” It appears over and over again in the bible. It is one of the phrases with the highest rate of reoccurrence in The Word of God. We choose to believe it and walk in that belief, especially when it comes to loving and serving the people we have been sent to care for in His name. When choosing between serving His people and living in fear, we choose to live in the Light and err of the side of Love!

Take courage and remember who first loved you, to the point of death on the cross. Do not fear... simply open your heart and serve in love.

So you want to plan a mission trip to Peru? Start planning now!

When can teams be scheduled?

Just about any time of year is fine.

The better weather months are April - October. (The rainy season is typically late October - early April.)

Jungle trips (Amazon) should be limited to May - September.

In the Altiplano de Puno, it is better in October and November.

When planning your trip, please remember that nothing is "close" in Peru and ground transportation will take some time, depending on where you plan to work. For example, The Canta Valley is outside of Lima and is a short distance for travel. However, Huancayo is a 6.5 or 7 hour bus ride into the Andes Mountains. For a good, productive trip, you should plan on being on the ground in Peru for around 9 days or more.

What types of teams or projects are available?

There are *construction projects* available in Huancayo (Andes Mountains) and the Canta Valley (outside of Lima – coastal desert valley).

Other types of teams can work in just about any location – mountains, desert, or jungle (*children's ministry teams, medical teams, evangelism teams, etc.*). You may also choose to bring a mixed team... some members working on construction while others are doing children's ministry, for example.

How far in advance do we need to schedule a trip?

The sooner, the better. Peru is scheduling trips for 2009 now! The full-time missionaries on the ground in Peru need time to plan your project, arrange for housing and transportation issues, procure materials necessary for your project, etc. Your team will need time to make budget arrangements on your end, purchase airfare, etc. Remember, most things take a lot of time to plan in Latin America. This is not the culture that you are familiar with... this is a culture that moves much more slowly. They are not interested in the American values of "efficiency" or "speed". Nothing happens overnight in Latin America! Please consider this when you are working to plan a mission here. For us to do the best job possible for you and for the people you intend to serve, we will need advance time to deal with issues on the Peruvian end.

For information about projects currently in the works, please visit The Mission Society webpage at <http://www.themissionsociety.org/go/peru>. This will lead you to the Peru Short Term Mission Opportunity list and give you an idea of projects, costs, and needs of the people you will be serving.

Ministering in La Carpio...

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



We are so proud to announce that several of the La Carpio kids became mobilized and went on their first mission trip in January! It boggles our minds to see the kids that we minister to each week become missionaries in their own right! Eight boys from La Carpio went on a mission trip to the San Carlos boys home and ministered to the orphan boys who live there. Incredible... kids ministering to kids. It was a very powerful experience for both sides.

Perhaps my favorite activity this month has been when we sat on the floor and read Bible stories in small groups. The kids have an *intense* interest in the books and the stories! They love to read to us instead of having us read to them. Lately, I have included a selection of books in my "game box" every week—a mobile library of sorts—and at least 10 kids will choose to get a book and read bible stories instead of playing games. Very cool!!! It does my "teacher heart" good to see the love of books in these kids and to be able to foster that interest each week with a few bible story books!



Roberto, Lapiz, and Antonio have had a busy month. Along with singing and leading worship at their service in La Carpio each week, they traveled to San Carlos on their first-ever mission trip and led the praise and worship at the San Carlos boys' home. They also made a special appearance at the Instituto de Lengua Espanola (our language school) and led praise and worship in chapel for almost 150 missionaries!

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!

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"



Saturday morning at the market.



"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."
~ Howard Thurman (1900-1981)
Minister, educator, civil rights leader

Prayers & Praises

Praises:

- ◆ Our classes are EXCELLENT and we have great teachers this trimester! It is wonderful to have teachers who are pushing us and challenging us to learn more and grow more in Spanish.
- ◆ Miles returned home (Texas) safely and is happily enrolled in his old high school with his old friends.
- ◆ EXTRA PRAISES and gratitude for a wonderful supporter who loaned Miles a vehicle for the semester so he could drive to and from school each day!!! Hallelujah!!!
- ◆ ¡GRACIAS A DIOS for the supporter who donated frequent flyer miles to us which gave us our airline tickets to Peru in June!!! This means less money spent on airfare and more money available for ministry in Christ's name!

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. Especially pray for Nelson, a youth from our ministry in La Carpio who has been in jail twice this month for stealing. He is now being sent to a rehab facility. Pray for his safety and for him to learn and grow through this experience. God still loves him—pray for him to remember that!

- ◆ Pray for Miles and for his transition back into USA culture to continue to go smoothly. Pray for his safety as he drives 20 miles on the highway to school each day. Pray for all of our family as we struggle with the transition of living apart and missing each other.
- ◆ Pray for Billy's father and his battle with cancer.
- ◆ Pray for the planning process and the transitions that are already taking place for our move to Peru in June.
- ◆ 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 continue to pray for our dear friend Amanda as she continues to minister in Nairobi, Kenya amidst civil unrest and tribal warfare. She is one of many missionaries around the world who need your prayers today! Please pray for the Light of Christ to shine brightly!!!

The Drum Family

Serving Christ in Perú

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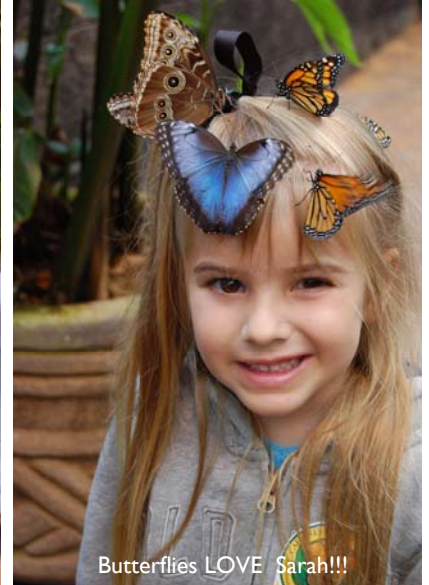


Visit us at

www.drumsforchrist.org



Billy celebrates his 45th birthday



Butterflies LOVE Sarah!!!

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.



Sarah got her first haircut in January! Missionary friend, Shay Griffin, had the honor of cutting 4 inches off of Sarah's hair. Shay was a barber for 10 years before going into fulltime ministry. He is learning Spanish in preparation for ministry in the Dominican Republic. Sarah's hair still reaches to the small of her back (as opposed to being past her bottom). ¡Que linda!