

# La Luz de Cristo para Perú

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## Ministry in unexpected ways, and unexpected places

It never ceases to amaze me how God uses us in unexpected ways and in unexpected places. Billy and I have always had a heart for ministry to the poor, to street children, and to Latin American families in need. Early in our missionary experience, we found the joys of serving in the poorest of the poor neighborhoods, to the poorest of the poor families. In Perú, our hearts were immediately captivated by the children of the Andes. In Costa Rica, we have spent our year ministering in one of the poorest, most dangerous areas of San Jose to the children of Nicaraguan refugees and illegal immigrants. We know that this is our passion and the cry of our hearts. But God is so much bigger than that!!! He uses us in other ways - unexpected ways...

- ◆ *Ministry to other missionaries* - We constantly find ourselves in situations where we are ministering to other missionaries in the language institute... Counseling with others, praying over others, being encouraging and uplifting when culture shock takes over or language learning is overwhelming, speaking in chapel. Whoever dreamed we would serve other missionaries?
- ◆ *Witnessing to teachers* - We have one teacher in particular who told us one day that she struggles with understanding what it is that missionaries actually do (because she only sees us during language training), but she believes that spending a year with Billy and I has taught her what a missionary really is because we live a servant lifestyle even during our language learning time. She says that she has been struggling with her relationship with the Lord over the past few years and this year has brought her back to Him. She went with us on our San Carlos mission trip this weekend and publicly thanked all of the missionaries for being missionaries in HER life, as well as in the lives of the children we were serving.
- ◆ *Saying grace* - Our family says grace / blesses the food always... in restaurants, at lunch everyday with our friend, Lizbeth, every where. If we are busy and in a hurry and happen to forget, Sarah is certain to remind us! It is interesting to note the behavior of others when we say grace. In restaurants, people are visibly touched to hear a 4 year old pray over the food. Sometimes people around us will get quiet in respect. It is a seemingly small thing, but it is a witness and a ministry in itself.
- ◆ *Empowering others* - Our friend, Lizbeth, helps us with our language learning and our homework A LOT! Often times, she is uncertain as to her ability to help because she believes that she is less than capable. But by allowing her to help teach us and giving her a prominent place as "teacher" in our home, she has been empowered and believes in herself now. She isn't dumb! She loves to help us and she is visibly sad when we don't have homework or need extra help. Empowerment has become a new ministry field for us.
- ◆ *Living visibly Christian lives* - We have some missionary friends who do their daily devotional time on their front porch in the morning. Eventually, children who walk by every day began to let their curiosity get the better of

Laurie and Billy Drum are currently in Costa Rica attending the Instituto de Lengua Española - a language school designed to train missionaries in the Spanish language and how to minister effectively in Latin America using their second language. At the end of language training in April, the Drums will transition to Peru where they will live and serve the Peruvian people.



them and asked, "What are you reading?" Michelle told them she was reading the Bible, and then proceeded to do a little explaining about the particular story she was reading, etc. She began to loan out Bibles to children who came by and expressed an interest. When Bibles come back to their house, they are earmarked and a little grimy and worse for wear, but they have obviously been used.

I recently heard a pastor ask - What is God's plan? What is his plan for injustice in the world? For sadness, brokenness, hurting in the hearts of the people of the world? What is His plan for spreading The Word to the unreached and the needy and the desperate? His plan is YOU! "You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:14) Have you ever really considered that YOU were the plan? Have you ever even for a moment considered that He was hanging his hat on YOU?

In the Feeding the 5000 story (Matthew 14:13-21), it was painfully obvious that those 5 loaves and 2 fishes were not enough to do the job. But the key is this... when we take what we have and give it to Jesus, HE can do miracles! What do you have? Will you give it to Jesus? He can do miracles! You don't have to have much... just give it to Him and allow Him to use it. It might be as simple as saying grace in a restaurant, or giving encouraging words to people at work, or allowing someone else to see you reading your Bible, or offering to help a stranger. You don't have to be a missionary in another country for God to use you - but you do have to give Him what little you have so that He can use it to work miracles. What are you capable of with the help of The Father?

"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16) Let God use you in unexpected ways!

### Bullet point happenings in The Drum Family...

- ◆ Ryan had 2 of his 4 wisdom teeth removed this month. He was having a lot of pain in one area of his mouth and we thought that he had a cavity. Turns out that he has a wisdom teeth problem... 2 coming in and 2 more laying on their sides pushing forward. Couple that with the fact that he inherited our genetics for crowded teeth and we had a problem brewing. By the way, they don't knock you out to have wisdom teeth surgery here... they just give you a quick local and start cutting and breaking teeth and tissues! After removing two, the dentist said that he should come back in a couple of weeks for the other two. Then they sent him home with some Aleve. Needless to say, we were back in the office by mid-day begging for a prescription for painkillers and an injection to knock back the intense pain. He lived for about a week on tomato soup and milkshakes. The up-side to all of this is that it only costs \$90 to have wisdom teeth removed here... but you get what you pay for and Ryan would argue that anesthesia and painkillers and doing all 4 at one time is worth whatever it costs in the USA.
- ◆ Billy hired a tutor to help him fill in some language gaps and pull everything together in his head. Carina has been an incredible gift from God! She also taught another Mission Society missionary last year. She comes to our house 4 days a week, 2 hours each day. She is patient and caring and has already made such a difference in Billy's language and confidence. He even told his testimony in Spanish last week with enough passion and expression that Carina was crying. This is HUGE... talking about your faith in a new language is very difficult because it isn't concrete and it requires a different level of understanding and language use. Please pray that Billy can finish strong... we have 2 more months of language learning before we leave Costa Rica and head to Peru.
- ◆ Sarah began ballet classes in February. She is so beautiful in her pink tights and pink leotard and skirt! The tough part is getting all of that blonde hair up into a bun every week! And it is baby-fine blonde hair, so none of my Costa Rican friends could help teach me how to do it because they have no idea how to handle fine hair. We quickly discovered the wonders of hair gel, hairspray, and bobbie pins. We have finally mastered the art of bun-making and Sarah is the cutest little blonde girl at the ballet studio (okay, she's the only blonde at the ballet studio, but she's still the cutest!).
- ◆ We awoke one night to Sarah yelling and fussing at someone in Spanish. Turns out she was having a dream and she was talking in her sleep - in Spanish!
- ◆ Ryan is taking an intensive class at the language institute this month. In December, Ryan tested as "advanced" in his Spanish language skills on the ECHO exam. In February, he began a class for advanced speakers that lasts a month, four hours each day. He is refining his conversational speech and fine-tuning his knowledge of Spanish grammar and language structure.



### Ministering in La Carpio...

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

For Valentine's Day in La Carpio, one of the girls on our ministry team suggested that we do a devotional with the kids about God's love for us and then we decorate cookies as our craft and snack. I immediately thought "who is going to bake all of these cookies" and "how do we effectively pull off a cookie decorating party for 80+ kids"? She commissioned a local bakery to do the honor of baking 100 giant cookies for us. We bought pre-made frosting and sprinkles and popsicle sticks for spreading the frosting. After finding out that paper plates were \$3 for 10 plates, we opted for the old teacher trick of using coffee filters as paper plates. The kids had a fabulous time! They couldn't believe the size of the cookies, and many hadn't ever had frosting or sprinkles (too expensive). Some kids ate their cookie before we even got the frosting passed out, they were so excited! "Que rico!" was the expression of the day.



Last week, a she made 88 batches of homemade playdough (the kind you have to cook on the stove) and individually bagged it up to take to the kids in La Carpio. We told the Creation story and the kids put their creative juices to work

molding their playdough. Many of the kids didn't have any idea what to do with it because they had never seen playdough, but they quickly got the hang of it and the community center became an art studio full of rolled dough snakes, pigs, dogs, etc. Playdough translates to fun in all cultures!



## Contact information for The Drums

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Please check the blog each week for updates at [www.drumsforchrist.blogspot.com](http://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!  
[www.drumsforchrist.org](http://www.drumsforchrist.org)

To donate to our ministry account, please mail in the form at the right, or visit The Mission Society website and donate on-line to our personal ministry support account #5/321. <http://www.themissionsociety.org/people/drum>

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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TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS MAY BE SENT TO:  
The Mission Society  
PO Box 922637  
Norcross, GA 30010-2637 USA  
DESIGNATE GIFTS: "DRUM SUPPORT 5/321"

Roberto and Laurie on a recent hike in the mountains to visit the sites of the three crosses above San Jose. Roberto is one of the boys in the La Carpio ministry that Billy and Laurie work with each week, reading Bible stories, singing songs, making crafts and loving on kids!



*"You are the light of the world.*

*Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."*

*Matthew 5: 14, 16*

## Prayers & Praises

### Praises:

- ◆ It appears that Billy's father's cancer is in remission!
- ◆ Ryan survived the removal of two wisdom teeth. He still has to have two more removed this month.
- ◆ Billy has the perfect language tutor now and he is making gains in his language learning every day! Finding Carina was such a blessing and she is making all the difference in the world in Billy's language acquisition.
- ◆ Thank you for your prayers for our friend in Kenya, Amanda Smith. She is doing well and the situation in Kenya seems to settling down a bit.

### 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 the San Carlos mission trip that Billy and Laurie are leading March 7-9. A group of missionaries from the language institute will travel to San Carlos, Costa Rica to minister to children and youth and complete a construction project.
- ◆ Pray for safe travel as Miles flies from Texas to Costa Rica to visit the family for Spring Break. We can't wait to see him!
- ◆ Pray for Billy's father and his battle with cancer. Pray for continued good news in this area as he finishes his final treatments.
- ◆ 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.



Sarah and our friend, Antonio. Antonio is a missionary in La Carpio, but in our family, Antonio is "another brother". Sarah and Antonio play and fight like siblings!

# The Drum Family

## Serving Christ in Perú

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### Whatever-you-can-find Cookies

These cookies are perfect for missionaries, or for anyone who isn't quite sure what might be in the pantry or available in the grocery store this week ☺.

- 2 cups melted butter (4 sticks)
- 3 cups white sugar
- 1 1/2 cups brown sugar
- 4 teaspoons vanilla
- 4 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 4 beaten eggs
- 5 cups flour
- 7 cups of "whatever you can find"

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.

Melt the butter and mix with the white sugar and the brown sugar. Add vanilla, baking soda, and salt. Add eggs and stir all. Then add half of the flour and the 7 cups of "whatever" and mix until all is incorporated. Last, add the other half of the flour and mix well.

Drop by teaspoons onto a greased cookie sheet - approximately 12 cookies to a standard sheet. Bake at 350 F for 10-12 minutes.

Yields approximately 10 dozen.

\*\*\* the 7 cups of "whatever you can find" can be any mix of chocolate chips or other baking chips, nuts, coconut, raisins, cereals, oatmeal, etc.

Our family particularly liked a recent batch containing raisins, coconut, macadamia nuts, oatmeal, and Rice Krispies. Sarah had her heart set on chocolate chips, but there were none to be found at any of the grocery stores that we frequent. Maybe next time... that's the beauty of this recipe - it's always different depending on what you have on hand!

