

La Luz de Cristo para Perú

May 2008

Volume 3, Issue 5

Graduation Time!!!

It is amazing for us to look back and realize that this time in language school has passed so fast! We can hardly believe that we have completed our curriculum here and have graduated from this phase of our training.

We graduated on April 25th in a wonderful ceremony at the Instituto de Lengua Española. Thirty-six missionaries graduated alongside us, heading for Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Spain, USA, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, and Paraguay. We have been trying to say our goodbyes (again!) and prepare to depart from this country. It will be difficult to leave so many friends here in Costa Rica who continue their studies. We have already said goodbye to many who have left from here to head to their fields of service.

I don't think any of us could have imagined just what God was going to do with us and for us while attending school here in Costa Rica. He has blessed our brains with the ability to grasp a new language. He has blessed us with some dear missionary friends. He has challenged us to learn a new culture and find our place in a new land. He has protected us and our families and friends. He has enabled us to plant seeds for Him in La Carpio, in San Carlos, among other students, and in places we will never know. He has given us the privilege to experience His kingdom in Central America.

By the way; we are not *fluent* in Spanish...give us a few more years for that. What the Lord has equipped us with is a solid foundation in the grammar and structure of the Spanish language so He can work through us as we practice, practice and practice some more...to the point where it just starts to flow out of our mouths. We have days of great fluidity in language, and days where nothing seems to come out of our mouths correctly. During one day, we seem to be able to hold long, beautiful conversations... then the next day is a language disaster and we realize just how far we still have to go. We have discovered that there is a GIANT distance between your brain and your mouth and the journey is long and sometimes dangerous.

So what's next? We return to Texas for a very short time and take care of LOTS of business, visiting, more goodbyes, etc. Then, OFF TO PERU!!!

We are so thankful for God's provision during this time. We are so thankful for all of you that have covered us in prayer through this part of our journey. Thanks to everyone for their prayers and support. We know that your partnership with God is what makes all of this possible. Thank you!



After 9 months of intensive language study, Laurie and Billy Drum graduated from El Instituto de Lengua Española of San Jose, Costa Rica in a graduation ceremony on April 25, 2008!!! Above: Laurie, Billy and Sarah with the Peruvian flag, Below: Laurie & Billy carry the Peruvian flag in the procession, followed by Ryan and Sarah, Below left: Laurie receives her diploma.



YOU'RE INVITED!!!


The Drum's will be returning to the USA **this month** for a short time. They will use this time to repack and reorganize their belongings before making the permanent move to Peru, take care of paperwork and business issues, spend time with Miles, return Ryan to Texas A&M at Kingsville, and most importantly - VISIT WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS!

This is your chance to visit with Billy and Laurie and hear them speak about their year in Central America and their ministry to the children of La Carpio, plus hear about the future ministry in Peru. Please plan to attend one of the following speaking engagements and receptions and visit with The Drums!

Where: Christ United Methodist Church— College Station, Texas

Date: May 18th

Times: speaking at the **8:15 a.m.** service and **11:00 a.m.** services, or at **9:30 a.m.** for a coffee and forum during the Sunday School hour. Not exclusively for CUMC members... all are invited to attend and share this time with The Drums!



Where: Christ United Methodist Church— College Station, Texas

Date: Wednesday, May 21st

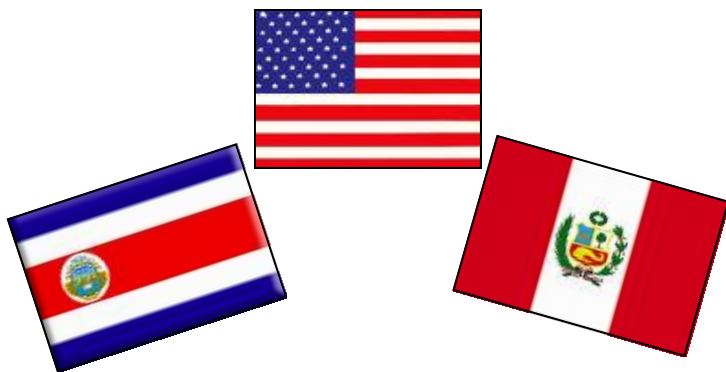
Times: **6:00 p.m.** Dinner in honor of The Drum Family... served by the Tweens ministry of CUMC and The Drum Home Team. Cost for the meal is \$5, donations to the ministry will be accepted also. All are invited!!!



Where: First United Methodist Church—Navasota, Texas

Date: May 18th

Times: Navasota community dessert reception at **3:00 p.m.** The Drums will share stories and photos from Central America. All are invited!!!

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Contact information for The Drums

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

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!
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>



Lapiz, Roberto, Mycol, Sarah and Flat Stanley in Parque Central with a couple of pigeons they caught in mid-flight. Flat Stanley was a visitor to Costa Rica for several months!!!

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"



"We can give without loving, but we cannot love without giving."
-- Alexander Duff

Prayers & Praises

Praises:

- ◆ We finally graduated from language school!!!
- ◆ We FINALLY received our student visas for Costa Rica (a little late, obviously!).
- ◆ Praises for our continued growth and learning in the Latin culture and the Spanish language.

Prayers:

- ◆ Pray for the children of the La Carpio area of San Jose as we prepare to leave Costa Rica and say goodbye to this ministry. Pray that other missionaries take up the torch and run the race for these precious children.
- ◆ **PRAY FOR HEALING FROM CANCER!!!** Lately, it seems that we are plagued with prayer requests and needs from friends and family members suffering from this disease. Pray for Billy's father to have strength and a persevering attitude as he continues with his treatments. Please continue to pray for our good friend, Shari as she begins her battle with cancer. Pray for Debra, our missionary friend who was forced to leave Costa Rica and

return to The States when she was diagnosed with advanced ovarian cancer. The president of The Mission Society, Phil Granger, is in surgery for colon cancer as we write this newsletter.

- ◆ We continue to await the arrival of our Peruvian visas. Please pray that this occurs in time! We hope to receive them in Costa Rica before we depart.
- ◆ Pray for safe journey as we leave Costa Rica and return to The States for a short period before heading to Peru. Hopefully, we will see many of you soon!!!
- ◆ Pray for our Peruvian missionary team as it grows. We will soon be on the ground in Huancayo and the McEuen family is currently in training at MTI and then on to language school. Pray for The Iveys as they prepare to receive us and lead us in serving God by serving the Peruvian people.
- ◆ 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.



Ryan and Lapiz play guitar together in La Carpio.



Serving Christ in Perú

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Visit us at

www.drumsforchrist.org

Keep 'em Laughing!



When we were in preparation for our language learning experience, we were told that we would be a constant source of entertainment to the nationals and native speakers. Boy, are we!!!! You might be learning a foreign language if...

- ◆ You tell someone that “All of the children are ugly” instead of “the children are all very sick”. (*feo* vs. *infermo*)
- ◆ You invite the new students over “so you can cook them”... I meant to say “meet them / get to know them”. (*cocinar* vs. *conocer*)
- ◆ You excitedly tell your teacher that you saw a news story on TV about the 7 deadly fish, and go on to name them Lust, Gluttony, etc. (7 deadly sins) (*pescado* vs. *pecados*)
- ◆ You say “I bathed with ham” instead of “I bathed with soap”. (*jamon* vs. *jabon*)
- ◆ A friend told us that the food in a particular restaurant was very good, but the “plate of butterflies was expensive”. She meant to say the “plate of seafood”. (*mariposas* vs. *mariscos*)
- ◆ Another student was telling of a wonderful “butter” that she uses on her face each day. The word for butter is *mantequilla*, not to be confused with the word for makeup which is *maquillarse*.
- ◆ And I once announced that “Yo tengo mucho hombre” (I have many men.) when I meant to say “Yo tengo mucho hambre” (I am very hungry.)

