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First Impressions

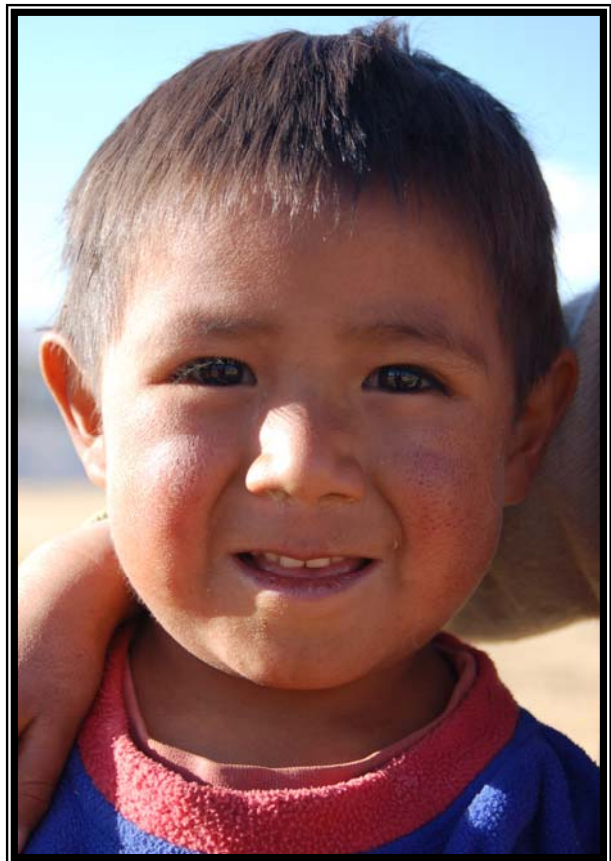
I worry about things like first impressions. How does our new culture see us? We definitely stick out! Peruvians & Quechua average about 5 feet tall, have dark skin, dark hair, and dark eyes, and speak Castilian Spanish or a dialect of Quechua. Billy is 6'2", we all have light hair and skin, and Laurie has blue eyes... and we definitely don't speak the same brand of Spanish or Quechua! I'm afraid that we are going to cause a traffic accident or cause someone to break their neck when we are walking in town because they are turning their heads like owls trying to see us and watch us walk past!

I worry about making cultural mistakes because I don't know any better. I remember that I used plastic cups in our house in Costa Rica and didn't find out until 8 months later that it is very rude to serve guests with plastic cups... not even children use plastic. I just bought them because our house didn't have any glasses when we moved in and they were the first things we found. I was so embarrassed to have been offending people for eight months without knowing. How do Peruvians greet and serve guests? What are the social norms here?

I worry about all of the mistakes that we are making with our Spanish because our vocabulary is different. Costa Rican vocabulary is different in many ways, so we are constantly using the wrong words and having to be given a new word to use. We are so blessed to have good, understanding people around us who are quick to correct us and help us through this transition.

I worry about how we are being viewed as we purchase things for our home. We have moved into a completely empty home and we only have the few things that we were able to bring in our suitcases. Therefore, we have had to buy almost everything to set up house... stove, refrigerator, beds, etc. I'm uncomfortable with spending that kind of money and even more uncomfortable doing it in a place where the average daily worker earns \$6.

I remember first impressions I have had in the past of other people. I remember when my administrator brought a newly hired teacher into my classroom to introduce her to me and my team. When she left, I remember thinking "She's not going to work out. I don't think she will be a good fit for our team." But within weeks she was my best friend—and remains my best friend to this day. Boy, were my first impressions wrong!



Timoteo—one of our new little buddies at Kid's Club. There are currently 11 Kid's Club groups in Huancayo, each ministering to 70-150 kids each week.

Jesus didn't give the best first impressions, either. In fact, more people didn't like him than did. But some believed. Some were willing to take a chance on him. Some were willing to look past their first impressions and hear what he had to say. And some were willing to believe and walk with him and join in his cause. That is comforting to me.

We are making transitions and slowly working into our role in ministry here. We have already begun to participate in Kid's Club and in the praise & worship services each week. We have opened our home for new discipleship groups to begin this month... new believers who have been on a "waiting list" - waiting for a place to meet and for teachers to lead them. Our prayer is for people to not see "Billy and Laurie, the gringos from Texas" and for them to see Christ... may they see past their first impressions of us and only see Him. May they have soft hearts and be willing to take a chance with us and with Him.

God Bless you as you continue on your walk with Him and as you support us through your prayers and gifts. We love you!

Our First Days in Peru



After much travel, plagued with airline delays, we arrived in Lima in the wee hours of the morning of June 24th. By the way, customs doesn't much appreciate it when you pack a cast iron skillet in your luggage... it doesn't x-ray well. Nor do they understand why someone who is traveling on a 90 day tourist visa should need 12 overweight bags! None the less, we made it to Peru and spent the next day driving from Lima over the Andes mountains and down into the Mantaro Valley where our new hometown resides—Huancayo, Peru. No one had altitude sickness and we all traveled well.

We have spent our first week trying to get moved into our house and get our bearings in town. This has been an adventure in itself!

- ◆ On our first day in the house, the owner had hired a man to clean up the house and yard and get it ready for us. We hadn't been in the house for an hour before we started to smell smoke and hear the tell-tale crackling of fire. The man had set our backyard on fire because the grass was high and it was his answer to "cleaning up the yard"! I guess he figured out that Billy disapproved and he put the fire out, but not before it burned a 12 ft. diameter circle in the middle of the yard. Oh well, like a bad haircut, I guess it will grow back.
- ◆ It is pretty cold here. I have no idea of the real temperature, but it is cold if the sun isn't shining directly on you. No one here has heat in their homes, so we sleep with heavy blankets and many layers of pajamas. On our first morning, I turned on the water faucet in the bathroom and received a pencil-sized icicle in return.
- ◆ We have water issues. This is a great house, but it has "issues", mainly plumbing troubles. I think the plumber has taken up residence with us and will begin to receive his mail here any day now ☺. We have water, but not sufficient pressure to do anything with the water. We cannot fill up the bathtub or take a shower yet (we have managed one real, full bathing this week) - the plumber is installing a pressure tank and pump to fix this problem. He has also run connections for the washing machine, fixed a few leaks and toilet issues, and installed our water filtration system. At least we can wash clothes and drink from the faucet now... we'll rejoice in bathing next week when the pressure is fixed!
- ◆ When is trash day? How do you find these things out? The fix-it man had put a pile of trash in front of our house and it sat there for a couple of days. Then a neighbor came over and told us that the trash truck doesn't come down our street, so we would need to take our trash to the corner of the block. But you can't just put trash on the corner any old time you wish, because that is someone's home! You have to wait until the trash man is there, and take it to the corner and give it to him. Well when is that? Sometime on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday... So we are sitting at the table eating lunch with Liz and Maria and Clever and we are all kind of enjoying the street vendor's music (sounds like an ice cream truck from home) when Liz realizes that the music is coming from the trash truck at the corner!!! We looked like ants as we scrambled to get up from the table and carry all of the garbage to the corner! But wait, which corner is it??? So now we are running up and down the street trying to see which corner he is coming to. We finally got all of the garbage out and figured that we learned our lesson about trash day. Except that on Wednesday, we repeated the same scenario... we were sitting in the office doing some ministry work and enjoying the "street vendor music" when we suddenly both realized that it was the garbage man again. So off we dashed to grab garbage bags, unlock the front gate, and sprint down the street to hand off the garbage. (By the way, the ice cream man here blows a trumpet to announce his presence and he pushes a rolling ice box.)
- ◆ Everyone is a specialist in Huancayo... by this I mean, there is a specific vendor or store for each little thing. If you want furniture, you go to Ica street and all of the furniture vendors are on that specific street. If you want garbage bags, you have to go to Espinoza... I have asked many people where to buy garbage bags and this is the only answer given. If you want kitchen supplies (dishes, cups, silverware, etc) you go to Cajamarca street. Need hardware items? Shop on Calle Real in two specific blocks. School supplies and office supplies are all available on a different specific street. Pet items and agricultural supplies are all on another street... in other words, there is no WalMart or Target here!!! Shopping is a major affair and you learn your way around town pretty fast because you need a little bit of everything and it is spread all around town. It has been an adventure, to be sure!!!



Contact information for The Drums

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

Our physical address is:

Laurie and Billy Drum
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Urb. San Carlos
Huancayo, Peru

The mail seems to take 7 days from USA to our door! Awesome!!!

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

Please check the blog 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!
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>



Prayers & Praises

Praises:

- ◆ We arrived in Peru safe and sound! We have a nice house and we have been blessed daily with Peruvians who have come to help us get settled and adjust. Many thanks and praises to the Iveys and our many helpers!

Prayers:

- ◆ Billy's dad was hospitalized on July 2 and told that he is NOT cancer-free... in fact, he has a large active tumor in his lungs that is being fed by a major artery. It is inoperable and will be terminal. He is on 100% oxygen now and is fighting pneumonia. His spirits are low. Please pray for miraculous healing, for peace, and for Billy and his family as they face new challenges.
- ◆ We CONTINUE to await the arrival of our Peruvian visas! Hopefully, within a week or so, our visas will find their way to Chile and we will travel there (a week of travel there and back) to finalize them.
- ◆ Pray for this time of adjustment for us and for our families back in the USA. It is difficult for everyone.

- ◆ Pray for Ryan and Miles. Ryan is in Texas A&M Kingsville and back in classes starting this week. Miles is trying to find a job in College Station, enjoy his summer, and prepare for his senior year of high school. Pray for their adjustment to new situations and being apart from us. Pray that we can continue to make parental decisions and nurture them from another hemisphere! We love them very much!!! If you see them, hug them from us!!!
- ◆ Pray for our Peruvian missionary team. Pray that we find our role and a "groove" within the ministries here. Pray for great relationships and for the love of Christ to ALWAYS prevail!
- ◆ Please send us your photo!!! We are praying for you and would like to actually look at your face while we do so! Send photos by email or use the snail-mail address above. The people here enjoy seeing the faces of the people who support them in their journey to know Christ. Your photos are on our office wall. Thank you for standing alongside us in this mission to serve Him.

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"



I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now...

~Philippians 1: 3-5



The Drum Family

Serving Christ in Perú

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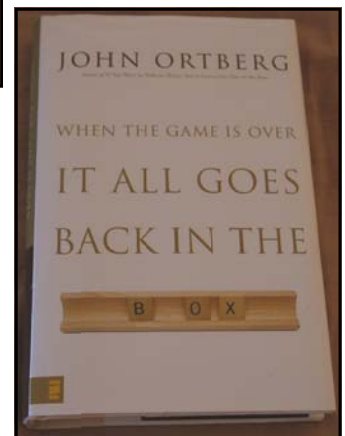
Billy shows video footage to some new friends from Kids Club. One of them said, "We're on television!" They posed and performed many tricks for us so that we would film it and show it to them over and over again.

We are Currently Reading...



Eunice Pike books... Published journals and diaries of a Wyclif Bible translator sent to the Mazatec tribes in Mexico during the 30s-50s. Incredible missionary stories and daily life occurrences while living in a different culture and learning a different language in order to minister to the Mazatec people.

John Ortberg... *When the Game is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box.* We have always enjoyed Ortberg's writings and we have frequently listened to his online sermons while we have been out of the country.



We are studying the book set used for teaching the discipleship groups in Huancayo. They are all in Spanish, so our study is a little slow, but we are working hard. Part of the series is by the Ralph Neighbor group in Houston.

