

La Luz de Cristo para Perú

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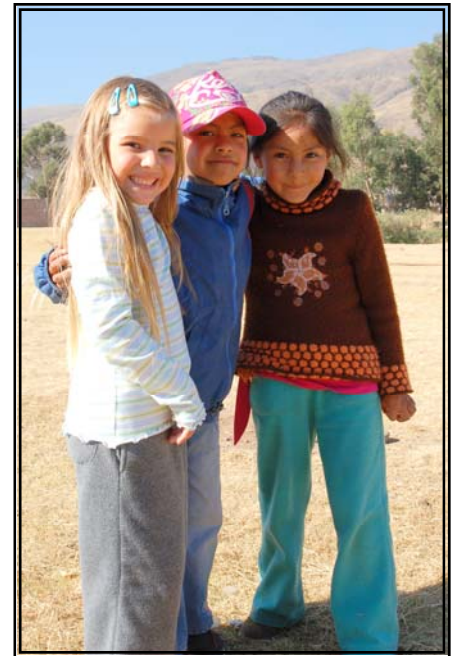
Happily Head First & Knee Deep

After a month of getting settled and learning our surroundings, we are so happy to be getting busy with ministry work here in Huancayo! Anybody who truly knows us knows that we aren't very good at "doing nothing" (especially Laurie ☺). In fact, as many of you heard us say during our speaking engagements in May and June, "doing nothing" was a major contributor to our bad case of culture shock and depression in Costa Rica. We were definitely created to serve others and we just don't do well spiritually, mentally or physically, when we aren't serving! In Costa Rica, we began working with the children of La Carpio and that service made our heart sing! We knew that the same would be true here... we would have to get involved and find ways to serve quickly, or depression and culture shock would overtake us. So here's the update... thanks to God's guidance and The Ivey family's faithful work, there is LOTS going on here, ministry-wise:

- ◆ We have been working with one of the Kid's Clubs in Huancayo. Approximately 75-80 kids attend this particular club each week. We sing bible songs, do skits and puppet shows about bible stories, and then split the kids by age groups and teach a bible lesson and do a small craft. The kids learn a bible verse by memory each week. At the end, each child receives two pieces of fruit to take home. We absolutely love Kid's Club! In all of the Kids' Clubs combined, approximately 1200+ children receive quality bible teaching each week.
- ◆ We are working on the details with local schools—one for special needs children and one Christian school. The Peruvian missionary team has contacts and working relationships with school directors here and we will soon be volunteering our services to these schools for teaching workshops, science classes and English.
- ◆ We have been approached by a Peruvian pastor to help with a youth group in a local church, and also approached by a Peruvian college student to help lead a youth bible study to high school girls. Please pray about both of these opportunities.
- ◆ We have opened our home to Pastor Beto (a Peruvian pastor) He has two new cell groups for discipleship classes who have been waiting on a place to meet together each week. They have been waiting for 3+ months for these classes to begin! In Peru, our mission team has over 1800+ people in discipleship training and cell groups! They have even crossed borders and have discipleship groups in Bolivia and Italy (disciples have taken their knowledge and started groups in new areas)!!!
- ◆ In September, Billy will be traveling to the jungle to help with a Leadership training seminar. Currently, we have 60 trained leaders... within the year, 200+ Christian leaders will have been trained within Peru.
- ◆ Next week, a medical mission team from the USA will be working in Puno, Peru. During a typical year, our team hosts

I heard the voice of
the Lord, saying:
'Whom shall I send,
and who will go for
Us?' Then I said,
'Here am I! Send
me!'

~ Isaiah 6:8



4-5 teams of doctors... these doctors treat 1500 patients in a week—6000 patients each year receive treatment and the gospel. Of these, more than 2000 will receive Christ in their hearts.

- ◆ There's much, much more!!! Translation of discipleship materials into the Quechua language, training & sending Peruvian missionaries and pastors, construction of churches, micro-enterprise, etc. We are working on the details of teaching health and nutrition classes to adult women in a Quechua neighborhood. There is so much going on in Peru that our heads are swimming with all of the possibilities and current projects! We ARE NOT bored!

The good news is that your support makes all of this possible!!! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!! You are touching the people here in incredible ways and they are aware that someone in the USA loved them enough to make this happen. Thank you!

The Peruvian missionary team is busy, but we are here doing what God has called us to do, and it feels AMAZING! When you are following His call, your heart comes to life when you are serving others. Are you feeling depressed or stressed or down and out? I know it seems like you can't put one more thing on your list and there aren't enough hours in the day, but I guarantee that if you find someone to help and serve and love today, your heart will sing! Call someone, visit a neighbor, give to the food pantry, read to neighborhood kids... do something and do it TODAY! You'll feel so much better and the world will be better for it. He'll bless your efforts, I promise. Now go on... get up and go serve!

Things that make my heart happy in Peru

A very close pastor friend of ours has extensive experience in a church that was FULL of missionaries! It just so happened that his church had many members who had been on the field or were currently missionaries on furlough, etc. He has been someone who can truly understand us and our heart, who truly understands our cultural struggles and our feelings when we return to the USA to visit. We are blessed by his ministry to us. One of the many golden pieces of advice that he has given us is “take all of your pictures in the first 3 months, because it is all fresh and new and you see it with different eyes.” How true!!! Because after you become accustomed to life in your new culture, it becomes “normal” and your eyes change how they view things. With that in mind, I have been trying to take note of how things seem to me now, while it is all new and fresh and interesting. The following are some of my notes:

- ◆ I love waking up at 6 a.m. to see the mountains turn pink as the sun peeks over the Andes. The sky is a perfect blue every day - no clouds, cold air, and beautiful pink mountains. Makes me marvel at God’s creativity every morning.
- ◆ I have to laugh when I walk out the back door and I can hear the neighbor’s guinea pigs squealing. I had guinea pigs for pets when I was a kid and I know this sound well... good memories. Too bad they are destined for dinner...



◆ I love the women who continue to be “traditional” and wear their customary Quechua skirts, aprons, blanket/shawls, and hats. They still carry their burdens on their backs wrapped in bright rainbow blankets, wear a billion layers of petticoats, and braid their long, black hair in two braids down their backs. My favorites are the *ancianas*, the very old grandmother types with their very wrinkly hands and faces and their long gray braids. They are so sweet and so beautiful and I often wonder whose grandmother they might be...

◆ I love seeing little bitty kids holding hands and leading even younger ones to Kid’s Club. I love chubby little sunburned, chapped cheeks as they sing “Abre mis ojos Señor” (Open the eyes of my heart, Lord) at the top of their lungs.

◆ I love to see the pleasure it brings people when they find out that we love the things of their culture. For example, foods... people are always surprised that we would prefer to eat Peruvian foods than try to

make American dishes, and then the smile comes out on their faces and we know that we have won their approval for today. The same occurs when they discover that we live here and that we intend to stay.

- ◆ I’m amazed at Timoteo (3 yrs old) and Mila (4 yrs old), who I watch each week on the bank of the river. They gather sticks and bits of paper and use a broken piece of glass to make a fire (with the help of the sun). I have watched this occur several times. I’m amazed at their street sense and their ability to take care of themselves. They were excited beyond words when we gave them the wooden fruit crate after Kid’s Club... enough firewood for a week!
- ◆ It’s funny to me that the climate is such that bougainvillea and poinsettias and hibiscus and palm trees can grow in the same yard with cactus and sedum and giant aloe plants, and also with columbine and hollyhocks and calendulas and cyclamen. The little Quechua ladies who sell their plants love Billy - his interest, his knowledge, his enthusiasm over plants and wanting to learn their Spanish names - super tall Billy conversing with these teeny tiny women about plants is very cute!
- ◆ I love to watch ladies knit and crochet as they sit on their stoops or in the park or in front of their wares in the market.
- ◆ I am fascinated by the fact that every child who attends school is personally walked there by a parent, hand in hand. And most of the time, the parent is carrying the child’s backpack for them and they are chatting away - what a happy way to start the school day! Even children as old as 11 and 12 are walked to school and kissed goodbye. Incredible!
- ◆ One day, a small plane flew over while I was in the park. This is definitely a rare occurrence, as was evidenced by the hoard of children who were falling down and tripping over each other trying to see it and follow it through the air. The screams of delight and wide eyes and gasps were priceless.
- ◆ I love buildings made of traditional sun-baked mud bricks, all rough and scruffy with hay sticking out of the bricks. I love clay tile roofs and wooden beams and chickens in the yard and sleepy dogs.



Contact information for The Drums

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

Our physical address is:

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*Regular mail takes 7 days
from USA to our door!
Awesome!!!*

We have a USA phone number! You can call us at 979-985-5268 and it will ring our phone in our home office in Peru!

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>

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

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"



Our supporter bulletin board in our home office... we pray for you and remember your face daily. Please send in your photo so you can be included!

Praises:

- ◆ We finally received our residency visas and official Peruvian carnets (ID cards)!!!
- ◆ We feel settled and safe and "at home" in Huancayo. We have many Peruvian helpers who have surrounded us and help us with transitions and language every day.
- ◆ We have had many opportunities in ministry laid at our feet and we are excited to be so rapidly involved and spreading the love of Christ.

Prayers:

- ◆ Billy's dad died on July 23rd. Billy has returned to Dallas to be with his mother and sisters for awhile. He will return to Huancayo, Peru on August 15th. Please pray for his family during this difficult time.
- ◆ Pray for Laurie and Sarah as they are separated from Billy for this 3 week period of time. Pray for safety and peace as they await his return to Peru.



- ◆ Please continue to pray for Ryan and Miles as they remain in Texas while we are in Peru. Ryan is taking summer classes at Texas A&M University and will finish his semester in early August. Miles is doing LOTS of work with the church... UMARMY mission work, volunteering with VBS in College Station, and, of course, hanging out with the youth group and friends.
- ◆ Pray for our Peruvian missionary team and the ministries here... Kid's Club, discipleship groups, Friday night praise band & prayer services, teen girl's bible study, work in the schools, etc.
- ◆ 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 (see above). Thank you for standing alongside us in this mission to serve Him.

Prayers & Praises

The Drum Family

Serving Christ in Perú

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Visit us at

www.drumsforchrist.org

Photos from Huancayo, Perú



Thanks so much for your support, your love, your prayers,
and your dedication to the people of Perú!