

La Luz de Cristo para Perú

September 2008

Volume 3, Issue 9

Pan de Vida

By Billy Drum

This past weekend I had the opportunity to attend a leadership training here in Huancayo. The training was for the leaders of the disciple groups here and in the surrounding area. Over 20 men and women from different backgrounds came to hear the word of God and to share in their successes and problems they are having in their groups. There are over 1800 people in Peru currently involved in these disciple groups. They are led by pastors, farmers, housewives, business men and women, students, etc. All of these leaders started in a disciple study group, of which they are still members, and felt called to start a group of their own. The entire disciple course that we are teaching here in Peru takes about 2 years to complete.

I saw some amazing things happening in this group. These leaders are from varying denominational backgrounds. There were Baptists, Methodists, Pentecostals, and others. The thing that was amazing about this is that the disciple course has crossed denominational lines and all have a common goal of teaching others about Jesus Christ. I did not see or hear any arguing among them – only cooperation and a desire to know more. I saw a hunger in each of them for the word of God. They were all interested in learning more -- more about God, more about being a disciple, and more about sharing that knowledge with others. These people are hungry for the “*Pan de Vida*” or Bread of Life. These leaders have found that if you give away the *Pan de Vida* you loose nothing. You do not starve and, in fact, the opposite is true - you gain blessings and life.

Laurie has been reading a series of books by Eunice Pike, a missionary to Mexico’s Mazatec people from the 1930s to 1990s. In her books, Pike tells how she would teach a skill (such as reading) to a Mazatec woman and expect to have the woman teach her children or others the same skill. Yet, the woman would keep her new knowledge to herself. She would not try to teach others. The same thing would occur when it came to learning and teaching others about Jesus Christ. The knowledge was not being passed along... there was no “multiplication effect”. Pike later discovered an important cultural issue/belief of ‘limited good’: “From their (the Mazatec people’s) point of view, knowledge was of real value, and if they taught someone else, they passed some of their knowledge on, and in that way they lost part of the wisdom they themselves had. From their point of view, even Jesus’ love was limited. For that reason, they hesitated to tell someone else about Him. They believed His love for them would somehow be lessened if they shared it with a neighbor”. What a tragic thought process!



Twenty-two of the local disciple group leaders met in August to learn more about leading others and being disciple-makers. People from all walks of life have stepped forward to lead others in their walk with Christ.

“I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never grow hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty” *Jesus*

~John 6:35

Our field leader, Arthur, recently spoke to our Friday night prayer group on this same issue. He sees it this way: Many of us are “fat”(spiritually), actually “obese”. There are many around us everyday that are hungry – literally starving to death (not hearing of Christ) while others are dying of obesity (knowing, but not bearing fruit—not sharing, not helping or discipling others). We have eaten of the *Pan de Vida* and continue to want to be fed. We don’t go out and share our knowledge with others. We aren’t passing it on. We are continually sitting back and taking more in than we are putting out. We continue to want more (spiritually), but we don’t equalize our intake and our output... we just watch others “starve” and don’t fill their hunger for The Word.

I have been guilty of this very thing. I can remember leaving various church services in the past and saying, “I don’t feel like I am being fed.” In reality, I was obese! I had The Word, but I was not sharing it with others. I think that only by sharing what others have given us will we really grow the muscle of understanding and faith and not the fat of selfishness. We can all be disciple-makers. Go out and share the *Pan de Vida* that you have been given. I know there are others around you that are hungry - starving for the love of Christ.

John 6:35 “...”I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never grow hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty” *Jesus*

March to the beat... Daily life with The Drums



◆ Billy learned to make the traditional ceviche dish under the careful teaching of Liz. Ceviche is a very typical Peruvian dish. Ceviche is made of chopped fish marinated in citrus (lime) and mixed with other chopped items (chile pepper, onion, celery, etc.). The citrus marinade breaks down the proteins in the fish and “cooks” the fish with citric acid. It is fabulous!

◆ Billy and Sarah have begun a new ministry. Armed with a backpack full of bible story books, they visit parks and areas where people tend to be hanging out and sit down to read. They will read to anyone who wants to listen. It is really a great plan... Billy and Sarah spend time together and minister to others together, Sarah gets to hear bible stories read by her father, Billy gets to practice his Spanish, and kids in the park get to hear the Word from a man and his daughter acting as good role models and teachers. We hope to purchase some of these books by the case and be able to read them aloud, then give them away to those who hear the stories in the parks and wish to own a book of their own.

◆ Laurie began a girl's bible study this month. There were 10 girls, age 12-25 in attendance on the first night, with more who wish to join. The girls decided to split into two groups (school-age and university-age), so now Laurie teaches the study twice a week—Monday night and Wednesday night. They are studying the spiritual gifts (main verses found in Romans 12 & 1 Corinthians 12) and each is making a scrapbook of the study. Scrapbooking has not found it's way to the middle of the Andes yet, so this is a completely new concept to the girls... they are loving it! One of the university students is a new Christian, and another is a non-practicing Catholic with no knowledge of the Bible. They have had some great questions and great informal discussions around the table over the “whys” of the Bible, about traditions and different denominations, and about baptism (many churches here believe that if you aren't baptized in a specific glacial lake in the Andes, then your baptism doesn't count).



◆ Sarah started attending school this past month. August is mid-year here, so she was able to enroll at the mid-point. She attends a half-day kindergarten program, taught completely in Spanish. She loves it! There are 8 children enrolled in her class. All Peruvian schools wear uniforms - Sarah's is a primary colored athletic-type suit (warmth is important in the mountains). On Fridays, their PE time consists of a Karate class taught in the local park (see photo). Kindergarten students have homework every night... at least 2 pages, and sometimes up to 5 pages, even on weekends. We are very pleased with the school so far.

◆ We met Erik, a 20 year old Peruvian art student, and invited him to join us for Friday night praise band and prayer time. Not only did he come on Friday night, but he invited us to his house for dinner the next week. In Peru, “youth” is from age 13-30 or until you get married, and you live with your parents until that time. So Erik lives with his mother and father, his grandparents, a brother, and a sister. We met him at a park up the mountain, and he walked us to his home. Erik lives in a poor pueblo WAY up the mountain. The 70 year old house was made of hand-hewn wood and adobe, hand constructed by his grandfather. His mother and grandmother were nervous to have Americans come eat in their house... probably just as nervous as we were to go! Grandmother dresses in typical Quechua dress - a skirt with many layers of petticoats, an apron, several layers of sweaters, wool leggings and flat black shoes. Her hair was in the traditional to-the-waist black braids and she had her little black derby Quechua hat on. She speaks Quechua and Spanish, switching back and forth with family and with us. We had a great time in their home! They served trout and potatoes. We brought a chocolate cake from the bakery as a offering for dessert. It was fun to watch them try to be like us and make us feel at home, telling everyone at the table that they had to use forks tonight because that's how Americans eat... we would have been just as happy eating with our fingers! After almost 3 hours of conversation and eating, we excused ourselves to take Sarah home (homework!). They were so hospitable and invited us to come back anytime - which we plan to do! We plan to have them to our house for dinner soon.



Walking alongside Peruvians

Cultural Learning Corner

We are continually learning and adjusting and adapting our lives in order to live and walk through life alongside Peruvians. Our North American / USA cultural norms are very different in many ways and we are very sensitive to our own thought processes and how we “see things” as opposed to how Peruvians see and perceive things. We are continually thankful for our friend Liz and her ability to shed light on our questions and perceptions of the “hows” and “whys” within our daily lives.

A recent example of this learning process for us occurred last week when we were doing some shopping in the market. We noticed that many of the older, traditional Quechua vendors seemed to have issues with us... they would turn their heads when we would approach, or cast their eyes away. One woman, in particular, refused to speak to us and seemed irritated that we even tried to purchase from her. Now, don't get me wrong, this was by far not the reaction from all of the vendors! Some were literally knocking each other away trying to see us. One man actually gave us the peppers we were looking at—“a gift”, he said. One older, traditional lady stopped and argued on our behalf with a vendor who she thought was giving us bad information about some vegetables. But there were several who baffled us with their very stand-off behavior... we felt almost shunned and rejected. When we were talking to Liz about this, our thought was that maybe these particular people have issues with tourists (which is everyone's first reaction to us), or maybe they take issue with the fact that white people have come to live in their land. Liz had a different answer for us.

In her very kind way, she reminded us that people here have “baggage” that they carry from their past, just like we do. Many people have very strong, very sad, very terrifying memories of the terrorism that occurred here in the not-so-distant past by the Shining Path terrorist group. Many Quechua people in the mountains were literally slaughtered in village massacres. The Shining Path terrorist groups still exists, though they have been dramatically reduced in number and attacks due to the capture and prosecution of many of their leaders. Fear of The Shining Path has been a way of life for many people in the highlands since the early 1980s. Many have deep emotional scars. They find it difficult to trust strangers or accept change. They don't hate us or have a prejudice against us, they just live a very guarded life and they are continually haunted by their past. Wow! - how quickly our hearts changed and hurt for the very people who had hours before hurt our feelings by averting their eyes from us. How important it is to understand those with whom we live and serve.

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
Jr. San Jose 230
Urb. San Carlos
Huancayo, Peru

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>

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 had grown up in Connecticut, gone to Mexico City, and from there to live in the village of Chalco, but that did not do any good unless I went *the last five feet*, that is, unless I contacted the people, told them about the Lord, and taught them to use the books (Bibles) we had brought them."

~ Eunice Pike,
Wycliffe Bible Translator to the Mazatec people of Mexico



Traditional dancers from Huancayo, in the sierra Andes.

Praises:

- ◆ Billy arrived safely back home in Peru after 3 weeks with his family in Texas. Thank you for all of your prayers during this time. Please continue to pray for Billy's mother.
- ◆ Laurie is leading two bible studies each week in Spanish = one with high school girls and one with college girls.
- ◆ Sarah has started school in Peru and is loving it. We all do homework together each night, as it is also a learning experience for the adults in the family!
- ◆ Ryan and Miles have started back to classes in Texas, too. Ryan continues to study for a degree in Biology and Miles is in his senior year of high school.

Prayers:

- ◆ Pray for the two bible studies that we have in our home each week. Pray that opportunities open up for us to host even more studies and disciple groups soon.
- ◆ Pray for our continued language learning and our ability to use our new language to spread the Word of Christ.

- ◆ Pray for Billy's new ministry to people in the city parks. He has started reading bible stories to children and anyone who would like to listen in the parks and streets of Huancayo.
- ◆ Pray for the economics involved in raising two children back in Texas—one in college and one senior in high school. Pray for job opportunities for them so that the financial strain can be lessened.
- ◆ Pray for safe travel as we AGAIN travel to Lima this month to do the last of the paperwork involved in receiving Sarah's residency visa.
- ◆ Billy will be traveling to Puerto Bermudez (the Amazon jungle) to spend 10 days teaching and training people who have answered the call to start disciple groups and bible studies and spread The Word deeper into the Amazon. Pray for safe travel and a fruitful time with these men and women.
- ◆ Please pray for all of the people in the jungle and the sierra who have accepted Christ and are eager to learn more. Our team has literally hundreds of people waiting for leaders and teachers to come and disciple them and help them learn more. We just need more workers and a multiplication effect of leaders and time! Several Peruvian nationals have stepped up to help teach and spread the gospel. Pray for their success! We still need more who are willing and able to disciple others... *The harvest is plenty, but the workers are few.*

Prayers & Praises



Serving Christ in Perú

Laurie & Billy Drum
3907 Old Oaks
Bryan, Texas 77802

E-mail: billy@drumsforchrist.org
laurie@drumsforchrist.org



Visit us at

www.drumsforchrist.org

Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on: you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of — throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were going to be made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself. ~C.S. Lewis *Mere Christianity*



The girl's bible study group that Laurie leads on Mondays and Wednesdays... they are making scrapbooks to go along with their study of Spiritual Gifts. Some of these girls are new Christians. Several of them do not own a bible of their own. You are making this study and this time possible for them to learn about Christianity and the Bible. Through your support, you have helped us write the study in Spanish, helped us purchase materials for scrapbooks, helped us make copies of the necessary study materials, helped us to feed them during the time that they are in our home, and helped us to purchase bibles. Thank you for making this possible!



Maria and two of her children, Clever and Mariela. Maria is a widow with seven children. She supports herself by doing odd jobs wherever she can. We give Maria yard work, and while she is here we feed her and whomever she brings along. She cannot afford to keep her children in school, and she needs their help doing odd jobs to earn money for the family. Your support is helping people like Maria, and fulfilling the biblical principles of taking care of widows and orphaned children. Thank you for your faithful prayers and support.