

La Luz de Cristo para Perú

November 2008

Volume 3, Issue 11

Traditions and Rituals

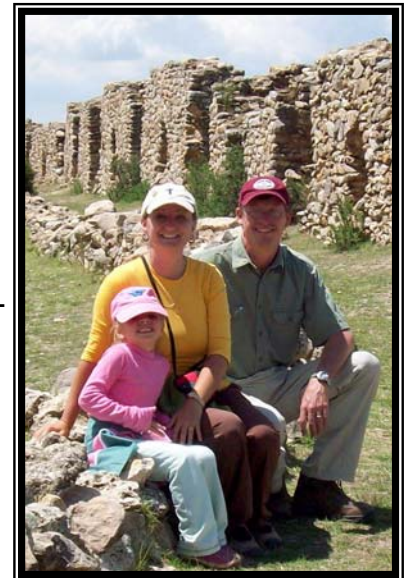
This has been a month of traditions, holidays, and rituals here. Actually, it is a running joke even among the Peruvians that just about every day is a holiday or festival of some sort. In October, we saw a month-long focus on the Señor de Los Milagros. Many people dressed in purple tunics and decorated their stores/homes/etc. with purple. There were processions where the people carried the Señor de Los Milagros idol through the streets and the people decorated the parade routes with “flower carpets” - think Rose Bowl parade without floats, but with elaborate “rugs” of flowers lining the streets. Supposedly, when the Señor de Los Milagros passes your place, if he likes your flower rug and you have honored him with it, then he will bless your home/business. We were amazed to watch entire regions of the city be closed down to street traffic so people could spend money they don't have to make flower rugs to please the idol.

As you celebrated Halloween in the United States, the people of our area also celebrated, but in very different ways. Here, it isn't a cute holiday where children dress up and trick-or-treat or attend fall festivals, etc. Here, it is the “real deal”... there is a very real, very present constituency of witches and satan-worshippers. In fact, the holiday here is called “The Night of the Witches”. There is also a very real presence of sacrifices here - a leftover of the Inca heritage and worship of multiple gods. There is reportedly still a presence of child sacrifice in some areas. We have, on several occasions, been in areas where items are sold for witchcraft and sacrifices. So, as you can imagine, we let our Halloween traditions die this year. We didn't dress up or go out or carve pumpkins, etc. We stayed in the house and watched movies and explained to Sarah that Halloween doesn't have the same meaning here.

She was fine with that, especially since there wasn't any trick-or-treating to be missed.

The 1st of November is the “Day of the Living” and the 2nd of November is the “Day of the Dead”. We were somewhat familiar with the Day of the Dead, being as Mexico and Costa Rica have this same holiday. For these two days, many people visit the cemeteries and take different things to offer to their loved ones and the spirits. They place flowers on the graves, along with candies, complete dinners, toys, candles, etc. They have “family reunions” of sorts on the graves of those who have died. All of this is part of the belief that the souls of the dead return on this day to visit their earthly bodies and their family that is still living. To not visit the cemetery and offer these things on the grave would be to dishonor the deceased.

Several of our friends and people from our bible study groups decided to spend this day by taking a different turn... we hiked as a “family” to a site that is known for their worship of multiple gods, sacrifices, legends and ancestral rituals. We had a wonderful hike together. When we arrived, we had a time of prayer on the site and Beto delivered a message and read a passage from the Bible about the greatness of God. It was an awesome day with our family in Christ, and a great way to remember who we are and WHOSE we are.



Laurie, Billy and Sarah in front of the Huanca ruins at Nahuinpulquio, Peru. The Huanca people were pre-Inca and were not conquered by the Inca in this area. They held off the Inca attacks and protected their land and people.

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

- ◆ The two girl's bible study groups have completed their study of Spiritual Gifts! I can't believe that we did it!!! The older girls decided to continue meeting as a group and are now studying the Fruit of the Spirit. The younger girls have been given the opportunity to fold into the new youth disciple group (see next entry) which is meeting in our home on Thursday nights.
- ◆ On Thursday nights, we now have a youth disciple group meeting in our home. We are "host parents" for this group. They are led by a 20-something Peruvian (Ivan) who is full of spirit and fun and just the perfect person to lead a youth group.
- ◆ We are so excited to update you on Maria!!! You may recall Maria's photo from two months ago... she is a widow with seven children and we help her by giving her yard work, etc. A few weeks ago, Maria's son asked us to teach him English. He comes once or twice a week for lessons. He sometimes brings a sibling or two along. Maria wanted to learn something, too, but she is "illiterate"... she cannot read or write—not even her own name. She was convinced that she couldn't learn. She comes to our home once each week and she is learning!!! She is starting with her own name and the names of her children. We are so proud of Maria!!! And she is so excited to find out that she CAN learn and she isn't "stupid". Please pray for Maria and her continued struggle to read and write the simple, everyday things that are so important to her.
- ◆ Laurie is teaching in a local school. She teaches science (her favorite) to 18 students in a multi-age multi-grade classroom. In the USA, 15 of them would be considered "at risk" due to their financial and home situations, their education levels, and their physical needs. Please be in prayer for these students and for Laurie's continued relationship with them. Two of them have come to the house for tutoring and that has branched into them also going to Kid's Club with us on Saturday.
- ◆ We will host our first guests this month... Lauren and JoAnn Helveston are coming to visit us from The Mission Society. Lauren was our first contact person from The Mission Society and he walked us through our initial candidate process. He is now serving in the Pastoral Care position for the office and he and JoAnn have the awesome task of being our field pastors. They will be visiting us and ministering to us for a short time this month. We are excited to have someone visit us—especially someone from Alabama (we look forward to a good southern accent for awhile!).
- ◆ We are now the proud "parents" of a parrot ("Jack Sparrow"). No, it wasn't a choice we made. He appeared out of the sky early this month. For more information, check out the blog! Please check out our blog frequently for more interesting journal entries each month... www.drumsforchrist.blogspot.com Everything just won't fit in the newsletter!!!



Walking alongside Peruvians

It has been fun to watch Peruvians have their first encounters with pumpkins this month. There is a new store here in Huancayo that is kind-of like a weak imitation of Super WalMart, if you can imagine that. They brought in a produce container of pumpkins for Halloween. Pumpkins are not grown here, so no one has ever seen a real one. Some people have seen them on TV or in photos, but not a real one. We walked through the produce section and had to smile at the comments... "What do you do with it?" and "How do you eat it?" and "It is real?" We bought one to put on the table for decoration (even though it is Spring here, not Fall) and everyone who comes over goes straight to the pumpkin and touches it, picks it up, and asks a hundred questions about what you are supposed to do with it. I was so happy to get the Southern Living magazine in the mail from a friend, because I could actually show people pictures of carved pumpkins, pumpkins as decorations, pumpkin patches, etc. It was fun.

This month, we will be trying to find a way to have something that resembles Thanksgiving Dinner. There isn't cornmeal or cornbread mix here, so I don't know if we will be able to make our cornbread dressing. And, obviously, they don't have pumpkin for pumpkin pie (maybe I can make this one last?). And I haven't seen a turkey yet, although they claim to have them. One of the founders of our mission agency gave us words of wisdom when we were in candidate training... he said that we should always honor our American holidays, no matter where we are. It is important to the cultural integrity of our children, and for our own memories and traditions. We spent many a 4th of July in Mexico with mission teams and we never celebrated—it was always sad for the boys, and now we see that it was the wrong plan. So we are working to find a way to celebrate Thanksgiving... any ideas for how to make cornbread stuffing without cornmeal? ☺

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.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>

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"




Praises:

- ◆ For a ridiculously full schedule of ministry! We have 3 nights of bible study and discipleship classes in our home, teach several English-as-a-Second Language students, teach classes in two different schools, and are working with an adult literacy student. In all of our teaching, we are able to incorporate lessons on Christ and stories of the Bible.
- ◆ Sarah had her 5th birthday in October! I can't believe that she is already 5 years old!
- ◆ Miles had his wisdom teeth out last week and seems to have survived with flying colors.

Prayers:

- ◆ Continue to pray for the bible studies and disciple groups that we host in our home each week. Pray that opportunities continue to show themselves so that we can share the gospel and grow others in Christ.
- ◆ Pray for us to make real friendships here. We have both had "sinking spells" this month as we remembered friends that we have left behind, weekend cookouts and fireside storytelling, etc.
- ◆ Pray for us to find a place of worship that "fits". We are



- having difficulty finding a church home here. We are so blessed to have the internet and live streaming of our home church services in Texas to stand in the gap for us right now as we try to find something that works for us here. Pray for a place that is good for Sarah, as well as good for us, sound in doctrine, and open to a family of Americans coming into their church family.
- ◆ Pray for our continued language learning and our ability to use our new language to spread the Word of Christ.
- ◆ Pray for our continued stamina and strength to handle a very full schedule. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us!!!
- ◆ Pray for our sons (Ryan and Miles) as they study in Texas. We look forward to their visit in December for Christmas. We REALLY miss them!
- ◆ Please pray for all of the people in Peru who have accepted Christ and are eager to learn more. We have another 4-day leadership seminar planned for the end of November, to train new leaders who wish to start disciple groups and bible study groups. Pray for these new leaders and mentors as they strike out to fulfill their part in the Great Commission.

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

The life of a Peruvian missionary... You know you are a missionary when...

- You have to throw your toilet paper in the trash can - not the toilet (assuming that you even HAVE toilet paper available).
- When English is no longer your primary language, and your 5 year old speaks the native language better than she speaks English.
- When washing your fruits and vegetables in bleach water is second nature to you.
- When your clothing fashion is WAY out of date in the USA, and it never was in fashion in your adopted country.
- When your milk comes in a box and your mayo in a bag and school supplies are the "prize" that comes with laundry soap.
- Where your shopping takes at least 2 hours, includes a 4 mile walk, and you make daily trips to the center of town.
- When you stop feeling uncomfortable when you have a conversation with a mom who is breastfeeding a two year old.
- When stopping for pigs or cows or sheep to cross the street doesn't seem strange at all.
- When riding the bus with pigs or sheep or chickens is normal, and in fact, you offer to help hold one.
- When you stop wondering what kind of meat is in the soup (nor do you really want to know).
- When you have carried the same dollar bill in your wallet for 2 years.
- When all of your appliances are propane and you have extra tanks on hand, just in case.
- When the nearest ancient ruin is closer than the nearest McDonalds (20 minutes vs. 8 hours).
- When your fish is served with the head still attached - and you are expected to eat it.
- When no one has a dishwasher or a coffee grinder or a dryer.
- When you are outraged that the dinner you just ate cost more than \$3.00.
- When you don't think it strange to cut your grass with a machete.
- When your coffee maker is a foreign object to be gawked at in your kitchen.
- When you watch National Geographic and you recognize exactly where they are.
- When you have to go to 5 different stores to get school supplies.
- When it seems perfectly normal to you to have the electricity go out for several hours, or to be without running water for long periods of time.
- When it doesn't seem strange at all for people to ask to touch your hair.
- When entertaining visitors includes a hike to the glaciers and a trip into the jungle, all within the same week.

