

La Luz de Cristo para Perú

December 2008

Volume 3, Issue 12

Shepherds watched their flocks by night...

We have been reading the Bible in a new light since we moved to Peru. No, the Bible hasn't changed and our theology hasn't changed, but the eyes through which we see things is changing drastically.

The Bible is full of references to shepherds and lost sheep. Truthfully, this never carried a lot of meaning for me. I haven't ever known a real shepherd. I think I probably have touched a grand total of 3 sheep in my life, and that was during my time as photographer for the county fair. The whole shepherd-concept was really kind-of lost on me, until I arrived in Peru.

Here in the Andes, you can't throw a stick without hitting a shepherd. We have met literally hundreds of shepherds here. It is a rare day that we don't see someone herding their sheep or carrying a lamb. Just last week, while Billy was preaching in a church service, a woman and two sheep walked up to the doorway and listened for a bit. We often ride a combi (minivan taxi) with people who have sheep. The word "pastor" actually translates to "shepherd" in Spanish. Sheep are extremely important to this culture.

So suddenly, the Bible passages about sheep carry so much more importance to me. And those same passages carry so much meaning for the people here. Shepherds here might own a half a dozen sheep, and each one is very important to their livelihood. A lost sheep is a devastating loss and a shepherd will work hard to find it. A sheep's wool is used for spinning yarn and almost every woman here knows how to crochet and knit and weave everything that her family needs—clothing, blankets, etc. When slaughtered, a sheep becomes food on the table for a very long time, or the meat is sold in the street market and the proceeds take care of the family for weeks. The hide/pelt becomes bedding... just about every Quechua woman selling her wares on the street has a sheep hide folded under her as a seat and uses it later in the day as a blanket for warmth. So Bible stories about lost sheep and sacrificial lambs really touch the heart of the people here. A lost sheep can spell disaster for a shepherd and their family.



Painting by Josué Sánchez Cerrón entitled *El Buen Pastor*.
Josué Sánchez Cerrón is a Peruvian artist, born in Huancayo in 1945.

Recently, Billy and I were walking along the street and happened upon an artist's display of watercolor paintings. A painting of llamas and sheep on a hillside at night caught our eye, with twinkling stars and a midnight blue sky. We both had a new understanding of how Peruvians view the "shepherds watching their flocks at night" passage from the story of the birth of Jesus. Shepherds under the stars in the Andes of Peru, sitting on the hillside, watching their sheep and llamas and alpacas in the cold night. We could imagine the angel appearing with the news "A Savior has been born!". We could imagine the shepherds going to see for themselves.

The shepherds saw. The shepherds believed. And the shepherds went out and told others the good news. I'm so thankful for the shepherds in my life!

Luke 2: 8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

Please say a special prayer this Christmas for the shepherds of the world. Even today, they sit on the mountainsides, keeping a watch over their tiny flocks, caring for the sheep that mean so much to their lives. And say a special prayer of thanks to El Buen Pastor (The Good Shepherd) - Jesus. He, too, is keeping a watch over his flock, caring for his sheep that mean so much to him.

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

- ◆ Yes— we did celebrate Thanksgiving and we did have cornbread dressing. Thanks so much to the faithful friends who mailed cornbread mix. We found a turkey to buy (not normally available during this time of year - only for Christmas), Liz and Sarah made a sweet potato casserole, and we managed to make a couple of other dishes that are traditional for our family. We invited the Ivey family over to celebrate and we had a very nice Thanksgiving meal. Visit the blog to see the details, including the “prize” that came in our turkey carcass! www.drumsforchrist.blogspot.com
- ◆ We were invited to work with the Wednesday night children’s ministry at Casa de Oración Quechua church in Chilca. We took our projector and a movie (The Prince of Egypt) on the first night and were SHOCKED to find 250+ children ready to learn about God and The Bible! We returned the next Wednesday to find even MORE children - close to 300!
- ◆ We have also used the projector to show La Esperanza (The Hope) on three different occasions this month. La Esperanza is an 80 minute presentation of the Bible, from Creation to Jesus’ resurrection, focusing on the prophecies and symbolism of the Old Testament and the completion of those prophecies in Jesus. It has been very well received, with several people seeing the Bible in sequence for the first time. One Quechua woman told me, “It is very different to see the stories instead of hearing or reading them.” This same woman cried during the Flood (at the deaths of the people of the Earth) and cried again during the crucifixion. On every occasion that we have shown the video, people have stopped in the street outside of the churches and watched from the street for awhile, then entered the building and took a seat to finish hearing and seeing the story.
- ◆ We have put up a Christmas tree in the living room. We learned from our mistakes last year in Costa Rica (not having any ornaments from home) and we brought many of our family ornaments from Texas with us to Peru. It has actually turned out to be a way to reach out to people in our groups and for them to learn more about us and about our family history... they go to the tree and ask about different ornaments and we are able to talk about where we got that one or why it is important to us, etc. I have been able to tell about the time the cat climbed the tree in the middle of the night and it fell over and all of my fancy ornaments shattered on the floor. And the people enjoy the ornaments that were made by the kids as they grew up, and the ones that are photos of the boys when they were little, and the ornaments that we have collected from other countries. And this opens the door for us to ask questions about their families and how they celebrate Christmas. The tree has only been up a couple of days and I am already so blessed by what it has done and what we have learned about our friends and their culture.



Children wait to see the movie during Wednesday night children’s worship.

Walking alongside Peruvians

Cultural Learning Corner

This month, we want to share with you some small vistas into how different this culture can be...

- ◆ In the Quechua church that we are working with, the women all sit on the left side of the aisle and the men all sit on the right side.
- ◆ Arranged marriages still occur in this culture, and many of the older generation (Liz’s parents, for example) are in arranged marriages.
- ◆ This week, Sarah will have her “first date”. The kindergarten class is graduating (not Sarah—that’s next year) and they will have a full-blown graduation ceremony and fiesta, complete with a dance and formal attire. Billy and I are the “padrinos” (sponsors) for the graduating class and we will give a speech and pray over the children and their futures and present them with a graduation token/gift (we bought them each a Bible). The graduates each have a “date” for the ceremony and dance, and Sarah is the date of Diego Armando Macha. Praise God that Granny mailed her a fancy Christmas dress last week, so we don’t have to go out and buy fancy formal attire for this event!
- ◆ We recently were asked to preach for a pastor who was going out of town. We needed to preach at both the morning and evening services. We were very surprised to find that the entire congregation is under the age of 25! With the exception of one grandmother, the church is full of youth who attend services without their parents. We were amazed at their devotion.
- ◆ One of my students walked part of the way home with me last week. As we were walking, we were able to talk about where he lives, etc. He was walking because he didn’t have enough money to ride the combi (a mini-van taxi) back home from school... if he walked another couple of miles, then the price would go down and he could get a ride home. “Where do you live?”, I asked. He lives in Chupaca, about a 45 minute drive out in the country on public transportation... he rides with the drunks and the sheep and the chickens and whoever else pays the 30 cents to ride. In the mornings, he catches the combi at 6 a.m. to get into town in time to get to school.
- ◆ It is not uncommon to have a cow walk to the door of the church while you are preaching. In the same manner, it is commonplace to have a woman bring her sheep to the church door during your sermon, and to see a herd of donkeys walk past the door... all of these occurred during Billy’s sermon last week!

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!

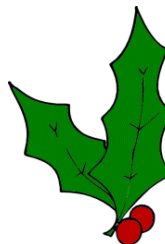
Please check the blog for updates at www.drumsforchrist.blogspot.com

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>

Prayers: (one for each day of the month)

- ◆ Pray for Rocío & Guisella as they prepare to leave their homes & families to live in the USA
- ◆ Pray for the children in the Compassion program in Chilca
- ◆ Pray for Laurie's students as they complete the school year
- ◆ Pray for Billy and his continued struggle with language learning.
- ◆ Praise God for allowing us to minister to the people here
- ◆ Pray for people to understand the true meaning of the Christmas season and the birth of Jesus.
- ◆ Pray for the leaders of the disciple groups in Peru
- ◆ Pray for the MANY people who are seeking to know Him and are studying each week in disciple groups
- ◆ Pray for Ryan and Miles as they travel to Peru to spend Christmas with us as a family—Praise God for this time together!
- ◆ Praise God for the Chavez family and the love they show us
- ◆ Pray for God to continue to open doors for us to minister to the people of Huancayo.
- ◆ Pray for the building of true relationships/friendships
- ◆ Pray for Maria and her children—pray that she can continue to find work to support her family and that she will continue to work toward literacy.
- ◆ Pray for Creder, Manuel, and Mariella as they work to study English and as they enjoy Billy's presence in their lives



Prayers & Praises



DEAR BILLY AND LAURIE,

I will pray for you. Please send me your prayer letter.

Update me by e-mail: _____

As God provides, I plan to partner with you by giving \$ _____ Per month / quarter / year for _____ years.

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"



- ◆ Pray for the 6 young ladies in Monday night bible study as they continue to grow together in faith
- ◆ Pray for the young people who meet each week for an "open study group" as they study the Word together
- ◆ Pray for Laurie & Billy to find ways to grow and learn and strengthen each other in their faith and in their relationship
- ◆ Pray for Sarah as she learns and grows more and more each day
- ◆ Pray for the McEuen family as they prepare to join us on the Peru team—they are currently in language school in Costa Rica.
- ◆ Pray for our friend Liz—praise God for her presence in our lives!
- ◆ Pray for Beto and his influence in the ministry
- ◆ Pray for the Ivey family and their continued service in Peru
- ◆ Pray for missionary children who are in the USA without their parents (Ryan, Miles, Benjamin Ivey...)
- ◆ Pray for all of the people who support us in this mission
- ◆ Praise God for his daily provision in our lives
- ◆ Pray for our health as our bodies battle different germs here
- ◆ Pray for the people here who struggle with poverty
- ◆ Pray for continued safety as we travel in Peru
- ◆ Pray for the children in Kid's Club ministries
- ◆ Pray for the abandoned and abused population here
- ◆ Pray for God's Word and His Light to shine in the darkness in countries all around the world. Pray for missionaries around the world. Praise God for calling and sending people to share His love in every nation.



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

Feliz Navidad!



Laurie & Billy teach the Hokey Pokey during English class.



Sarah & Liz make sweet potato casserole together.



Maria learns to write her full name.

I bring to you good news
of great joy that will be
for all the people. Today
in the town of David a
Savior has been born to
you; he is
Christ the Lord.