

# La Luz de Cristo para Perú

February 2009

Volume 4, Issue 2

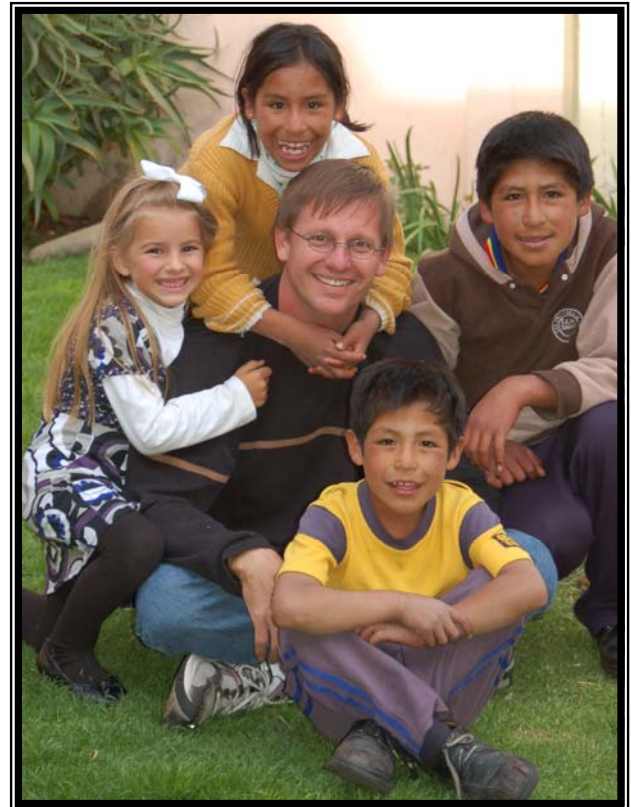
## Daily Life for Maria

Many of you have been reading and following the story of Maria (see some of her children at right). Maria is a widow with 7 children. Maria is illiterate—she hasn't ever attended school, cannot read or write, and must somehow earn enough money to pay rent and feed and clothe her family. She works odd jobs for us, mostly gardening. She desperately wants her children to be in school and "not be *tanto* (dumb) like her". Three of her children are in our home most afternoons, playing with Sarah, getting help with homework, and getting some "dad time" with Billy. Sometimes Maria comes for a lesson on how to write her name or read the names of her children.

On several occasions, we have had long conversations with Maria about how she pays for everything. As well as we can figure, her expenses are in the range of 200-250 soles per month (\$60-75) to pay her rent and buy very minimal groceries. This doesn't count school expenses or medical issues/medicines (she has a daughter with severe juvenile arthritis). She earns between 20-30 soles working in gardens (she currently has three clients) and she takes in laundry (12 pieces for 4 soles). Truth be told, we don't see how she makes it.

We decided that one way we could help would be to sponsor the children in school. We went with Maria to help get them registered for the new year. Two will attend a Peruvian public high school, and two will attend school with Laurie and be in her class. This was a very humbling and eye-opening experience for us, and a very demeaning experience for Maria. She could not read the forms to register the children. She could not spell their names for the registrar. She did not know their official birthdates or information and she cannot read it on their documentation. She cannot tell the difference between one document and another. She doesn't know her own birthday. She cannot sign the forms. It just went on and on and I wanted to cry for her struggle. The registrar wasn't nice or understanding. They questioned her marital status, to which she said that she was a widow, but that response was not on the form... the answer had to be "yes" or "no". When they checked "no", she was embarrassed because it appeared that she has 7 children and isn't married. All of this happened at the Peruvian public school. Then we went to the private school to enroll the two youngest. This experience was much better, a lot because it is a Christian school and the director is a very kind man with a big heart. Still, it was difficult for Maria because we had to go through another battery of questions and forms that she cannot read or answer.

And it doesn't stop there... Maria cannot read (nor afford) the school supply list, she cannot read the signs on the street or the prices on items in a store. We tried to explain where a building was in town



Sarah and Billy with "our other children" - Mariela, Creder, and Manuel. These three are in our home most afternoons, getting help with homework and having some "Dad time" with Billy. Favorite activities... shooting hoops, playing board games, putting together puzzles, and playing tag with the dog.

(can't read street signs) and tried to draw a map (the map symbols made no sense to her and the point of view was foreign to her brain). She would like to know more about the Bible, but is afraid to come to a group in our home because she can't read. She wants to try a church, but can't read signs on buildings and is afraid that because she wasn't invited by a member, she won't be allowed in (which is true in many churches here). She can't tell time—her kids tell her what time it is. She is afraid of parent/teacher meetings. She can't help her kids with homework. She can't read notes that come home from school. Her house is made of plastic tarps and scrap wood. It leaks in the rain. It is terribly cold. She cooks over an open fire and has to search for firewood almost daily.

This is daily life for Maria. Please join us in praying for Maria and her family and our continued relationship with them. Pray that we can minister to her and help her see Jesus in her everyday struggles.

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

- ◆ Laurie is in her last two weeks of teaching summer school (yes, it is summer here). She has been teaching math in the 2-3rd grade classroom. The regular school year begins on March 2. Laurie will be teaching all day this year... 2-3rd grade math, 2-3rd grade science, and K-5th grade English. She gets to keep her summer school students and continue math with them, as well as teaching them science, and she picks up the English teaching to the entire primary school! Now if there were only supplies...
- ◆ Billy has been taking a Driver's Ed class so that he can prepare to take the test to receive his license in Peru. He has to take a written exam, a mechanics exam, a first aid exam, a behind-the-wheel exam, a physical, and a psychological test! You would think that with all of that, drivers here would be incredible!!!
- ◆ Sarah has been spending her summer vacation enjoying her time taking ballet and gymnastics at the gym down the street. These types of classes are not offered during the school year—only during summer vacation, so we are taking advantage of them while we can.
- ◆ We continue to have disciple groups and bible study groups in the house. The Monday night college-girls finished their study and have taken a break. One of these girls has started a youth bible study group in her home with about 25-30 kids coming each week! We are really proud of her!!!
- ◆ We will have visitors from Missouri this month!!! Dan & Becky Ross and Rick & Beth Conway will be coming to visit and scout for future short-term mission teams. We are really looking forward to having old friends in our home for awhile!!!



Billy, Laurie, and Sarah with an Ashaninka man in the jungle.

(see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashaninka> for more info.)

## Walking alongside Peruvians

### Cultural Learning Corner

We had a really interesting and enlightening conversation with a trusted Peruvian friend the other day. We were discussing relationships and how we are missing our friends from home and the kinds of things that we used to do together... cookout on the weekends, impromptu gatherings on our porch, playing cards and games, meeting at the local Mexican food restaurant... We were looking forward to the day when we have those types of friendships here. Gently, she explained to us that those types of friendships don't exist in this culture. Really, friendships are only within family lines. She said that she hasn't ever really understood the American movies that show those friendship relationships and she has had that conversation with other Peruvians. *"American friends do everything together," she said. "And they stay friends forever. All of their lives, they are friends and they do things together and raise their families as friends. We don't do that. Families are the only things that are forever."* So we asked her who she would call "her best friend" and she said it would be her sister. Her father's best friend is his brother. This conversation just continued to get deeper and deeper. *"You have to be friends with your family, because they are there forever. When friends hurt you, you can just walk away. But you have to forgive your family and mend the relationship because you live with them."* Interesting! So, if you have a disagreement with "a friend", what happens? *"We aren't friends anymore."* So then we went into the concept of forgiveness, etc. Seems that this concept really doesn't exist, either. Only forgiveness out of obligation to your family. It's not really true forgiveness. We began to see some of the deep-rooted problems with the church here!!! No forgiveness, no friendship, no loyalty or concern for anyone unless they are family. We have asked others these questions recently and we continue to get answers along the same lines. Which leads us to more questions... How can the people here understand the concept of Christ's forgiveness if they haven't ever experienced it? How can they feel Christ's friendship if that concept doesn't exist either? How can the church work together and grow if they can't be friends or forgive each other? Will people share the gospel with others if they have no relational ties to anyone other than their own families? How can you build relationships within bible study groups and disciple groups and really open up and share and grow together if you only regard the other people as "other people" and not friends or family? It was a discouraging day for us. Culture is deep and we can't change cultural concepts. We can only exhibit true love and friendship as we know it and hope that through that, someone will see and feel the true friendship and forgiveness of Christ.

## Contact information for The Drums

You can email us at: [Billy@drumsforchrist.org](mailto:Billy@drumsforchrist.org) or [Laurie@drumsforchrist.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://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

**Prayers: (one for each day of the month)**

- ◆ 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 study in Texas.
- ◆ Praise God that Miles is beginning to receive acceptances from universities! Pray for financial aid offers!
- ◆ Pray for Laurie to find the resources she needs to teach school this year and be effective in the classroom.
- ◆ Pray for our fact-finding trip to Trujillo this month as we seek to find ways to work with the street children of Peru.
- ◆ Pray for the concepts of "friendship" and "forgiveness" to take a turn for the better here and find a better foothold in this culture.
- ◆ Pray for wisdom and healing in the churches of Huancayo.
- ◆ Pray for God to continue to open doors for us to minister to the people of Huancayo.
- ◆ Pray for Maria and her children—pray that she can continue to find work to support her family. Pray that she can begin to see the value of education and in being able to support herself through her talents and gifts (without begging).
- ◆ Pray for Colegio El Camino (where Laurie teaches) as they prepare for a new school year.
- ◆ Pray for Laurie & Billy to find ways to grow and learn and strengthen each other in their faith and in their relationship

**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 Sarah as she learns and grows more and more each day
- ◆ Pray for the McEuen family (currently in language school in Costa Rica) set to join us in April. Pray for Louise Reimer as she works to find support for her mission service in Peru (hopefully joining us in 2 years).
- ◆ Pray for our friend Liz and the Chavez family.
- ◆ 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 a new venture - our team will be opening a language school in Huancayo and teaching English to Peruvians. Education is highly valued here, and English is a VERY highly sought after course. Moises, a Peruvian, will take the lead / director position on this project, with Billy being the main administrator and several of us being English teachers. The funds from the classes will help support other ministries here, and the classes will be an avenue of ministry in themselves. We are in the early stages of this venture (becoming accredited, writing curriculum, etc.). Please pray for this to take flight within the next 6 months.
- ◆ Pray for the children in Kid's Club ministries and for the street children of Peru who don't have Christ in their lives yet.
- ◆ 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**

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Visit us at

[www.drumsforchrist.org](http://www.drumsforchrist.org)

**Escalator Excitement**

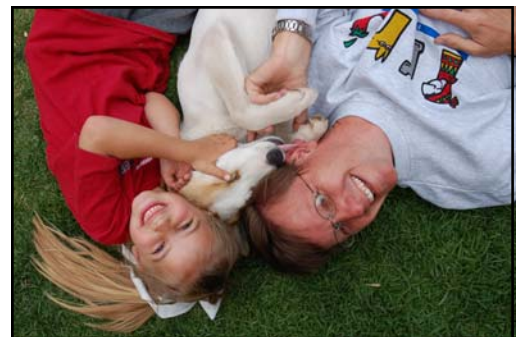
Big news in Huancayo, Peru... they opened a "mall". Okay, don't get too excited. It has a grocery store in it, one clothes store, and several bank satellite offices. The thing we were most excited about is the movie theatre!!! Yes, a real movie theatre with real movies. Okay, it's true that we can buy them on DVD before they actually get to the theatre here, but that just isn't the same. And so far, everything we have gone to see has been dubbed in Spanish, so it is a brain-workout to see a movie. But none-the-less, it is exciting for us!

The most fun part of the "mall" is watching the people try to get on and off of the escalator. Yes, there is an escalator (the movie theatre and clothes store are upstairs). Our new "ministry" seems to be helping people get over their fear of the mechanical stairs and holding hands with Quechua women who are terrified to ride up to the second floor. We have watched several escalator accidents as people tried to get on, then chickened out and lost their balance as their hand kept going up and their body tried to go backward!



Striking fear in the hearts of thousands...

Have you ever watched "Elf"? Remember the scene where he tries the escalator for the first time, eventually getting one foot on and riding up the stairs in the splits position??? That's daily life here right now! Entertaining to watch! Oh, the excitement of Huancayo... ☺



Sarah and Billy and Charlotte (the dog) watching clouds in the backyard.



*Love, Laurie & Billy & Sarah*