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## A Little Girl with a HUGE faith

Meet Lizbeth. Lizbeth is in my 4th grade English class. She is a bright spot in my day every day. She always has a smile for me and a sweet word. She works harder at English than any other student in her class. She hangs on my every word. The girl has a huge spirit!

Lizbeth also has a tumor growing in her spinal column. It is inoperable. I don't know enough "medical Spanish" to be able to understand all of the details and intricacies of her medical problems. I know that the doctors have said that they can't do anything for her at this point because of the nature of the tumor. It is slowly taking over her body functions. She cannot walk anymore—she is confined to a wheelchair. She no longer has complete feeling or control over her hands. She works hard to hold her pencil and write, but her finger control is leaving her and her writing is becoming less and less legible. She does not have control of her bladder muscles. Our school is a two-story building and the 4th grade is upstairs, so her father carries her upstairs every morning and puts her in her chair for the day. She can't go downstairs for recess or for lunch break. When the other kids leave the room, she stays behind and studies or reads or draws. Her parents are having marital issues, a lot due to the stresses of taking care of her and of dealing with the fact that her prognosis is terminal. I grieve for her daddy every day as I watch him carry his little girl to school and up those stairs to class. This week, her mother broke down and sat on the sidewalk and cried because Lizbeth's wheelchair had a badly bent wheel and it wouldn't roll straight and fell off the sidewalk. The pressures on their family are so great.

If you take the time to talk to Lizbeth, you see a different picture. Lizbeth knows the prognosis that the doctors have given her. She knows what is wrong with her. But her outlook is so incredible! She was turned away from other schools this year, and she doesn't have to attend school due to her illness. If you were dying, would you choose to go to school everyday and study and take tests and struggle to write and never go to recess and live with the embarrassment of wet pants, etc??? Lizbeth doesn't see it that way—she wants to continue learning and making friends and studying because she has SUCH A HUGE FAITH in our Lord that she fully believes that she will



be healed through her faith and prayers and the prayers of others.

Today in chapel, the lesson was about heaven. The kids were calling out examples of what heaven will be like, and someone yelled out, "There won't be any more suffering or any illness." Professor Javier asked Lizbeth what she thought of a heaven where there aren't any wheelchairs, where she can walk and run and jump and play volleyball, where no one has a tumor? The smile on her face was priceless. Every new aspect of heaven that was yelled out, Lizbeth cheered more. She doesn't believe that she is going to die right now because she believes in the healing power of prayer. But she also knows that when she does die, heaven is going to be *incredible and perfect*.

Lizbeth gets to spend her days in a school with teachers and friends who love her, in a Christian environment where we start every day with prayer and devotionals, and where we freely speak of God and minister to our students. And while ministering to Lizbeth and praying with her and living life with her, I am learning a lot about faith through the eyes of a little girl. Thank you for the opportunity to be here and spend this time ministering to Lizbeth.

Please pray for healing for my little friend.

~ Laurie

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

Just a few interesting tidbits that I have come across while teaching / learning to teach in South America:

- ◆ There are only 6 continents. “America” is all one continent. There is no North and South America.
- ◆ The first day of the week is Monday. Saturday and Sunday technically aren’t days of the week– they are weekend days.
- ◆ Long division is done backwards and upside down (and I can’t even demonstrate this because my keyboard won’t make the symbol upside down and backwards).
- ◆ In many math books, the plus or minus sign is on the right hand side of the vertical problem, not on the left.
- ◆ Art, music, and dance are classes that are taken just as seriously as math or reading. Even Sarah’s class (5 year olds) has a true art class, a true music class, and dance. ALL children can play an instrument in Peru and demonstrate the traditional cultural dances of their country. Beginning at 4 years old, children learn to play the recorder ... not Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, but *Ode to Joy!!!*
- ◆ Trigonometry, Geometry, Algebra, Calculus, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and I can’t even remember what else are all taken simultaneously for four years. Not sure that anyone is actually able to focus and retain any of it, but that is the way it is programmed in the national standards.
- ◆ ALL schools teach English as a required course beginning in 1st grade. In my school, English is taught beginning at 3 years old (3 hours per week). The primary grades have 4 hours of English each week. The secondary students have 6 hours each week. Some schools offer 8 hours each week! However, we all know that foreign language classes are only as good as the person teaching / speaking. Unfortunately, most English teachers in Peru don’t speak English very well, so not much is accomplished in most classes. They know a lot of vocabulary, they just don’t know how to use it.



## Walking alongside Peruvians



So I got sick this month... nothing terrible, but it was a rough couple of weeks. I had some sort of upper respiratory / congestion / cough / lost my voice kind-of thing. You should try teaching school, in Spanish, with absolutely NO voice... it’s interesting, to say the least. So why is this in the “Cultural Learning Corner”? Well, because I spent two weeks listening to the home remedies of every Peruvian within a mile of me! Some of them weren’t far off from things that we do in the USA, but some of them were just downright, well, crazy-sounding! So here is part of the list:

- ◆ Drink boiling water with some sort of herb in it (according to Doris, every garden should have this herb, but mine doesn’t).
- ◆ Don’t forget the blended frog cure! You can always go to “Home Remedies / Herbology / Witchcraft Street” and buy some live leopard frogs and have them blended with milk for a sure-fire sore throat cure. Actually, I can see the science in this, knowing what I know about the chemistry of frogs, but don’t think for a second that I will ever try it!
- ◆ “Whatever you do, DON’T eat or drink anything cold. Don’t you know that no one should eat or drink cold things during this time of year??? Ice cream is the cause of these problems.” WHAT!!!!?? That evil fudgesicle...
- ◆ Drink a mixture of milk with mashed garlic cloves. (I asked if this was supposed to cure my throat or make me vomit?)
- ◆ Gargle with salt and lemon and boiling water. (This one I could relate to.)
- ◆ Drink as much hot water as possible. (This one I actually did, not because I thought it would work, but because Isabel continued to bring me mugs of hot water while I was teaching and I didn’t feel like I could refuse. So I drank until I thought I would explode or breathe steam or cook my insides.)

So, bottom line, none of the above worked. A weekend with no teaching and little talking and a lot of rest finally did the trick. On Monday, my voice was back and I was feeling human again—just a little lingering cough, but not much. And guess what? Isabel is convinced that the hot water did the trick and she cured me! I don’t think that was it, but I’m positive that I’m not dehydrated!



## 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)

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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.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 & Praises

- ◆ Praise God for help and visitors! We have two missionary mentors coming to spend the month of June with us (Midge and Betty Mitchell—missionaries to South Africa), and we have our cousin (Rebekah) coming in October to live with us and shadow our mission work for an extended period!
- ◆ Pray for the new Kid's Club that our team is starting in the orphanage in Huancayo.
- ◆ Pray for Ryan and Miles as they finish up their semesters in Texas. Just a few more weeks until Miles graduates from high school!!!
- ◆ Praise God that Miles has acceptance offers from 3 universities. Pray for wisdom and discernment as he chooses which one to attend.
- ◆ Pray for Laurie and her students at Colegio Cristiano El Camino. Please pray for Lizbeth (see page 1).
- ◆ Special thanks and praises for a recent anonymous donor. Also for recent encouragement / care packages of school supplies, books, CDs, children's bible materials, and quilting fabric!

**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) \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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**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 God to continue to open doors for us to minister to the people of Huancayo.
- ◆ Pray for Sarah as she continues to make new friends in her new school/class.
- ◆ Pray for us as we host our first short-term team in Peru this month... we host a team from Georgia who is coming to lead a microenterprise workshop/training for local people who want to improve their businesses or for budding entrepreneurs who wish to begin businesses. We are certainly not new to hosting mission teams, but this will be our first team responsibility in Peru.
- ◆ Pray for Beto and his influence in the ministry. Pray for his wife, Karen, and her pregnancy. She is "high risk" due to an old surgery and complications and is having lots of bad days and stress right now.
- ◆ Praise God for his daily provision in our lives. Pray for all of the people who support us in this mission
- ◆ Pray for the new North American Language Institute. Pray for interns and volunteers to come forth and support us with short-term service in Peru.
- ◆ 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 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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## “Where’s the rest of her?”

Mariela and Manuel are frequently at our house in the afternoons or on weekends, playing in the yard, playing with Sarah, or just hanging out with us. Mariela has a fascination with the computer—if we are working while she is there, she likes to just stand next to us and watch the computer screen. Recently, I was searching “Images” on Google for a specific design for marketing the language institute. One of the pictures that popped up was of a dress on a model (evidently the fabric has a *design* in it, but you know how random photos pop up when you search images). So the following conversation ensued:

Mariela—I want to see that one. (pointing to the dress photo)

*I clicked on the photo and got a larger version of the same photo.*

Mariela—Show me her face. Let’s look at her face.

Me—I can’t. It isn’t in the picture.

Mariela—Well, just look up there (pointing to where a head should be).

Me—Mariela, I can’t. That is where her head should be, but it isn’t in the picture. We can’t see it.

Mariela—She doesn’t have a head?

Me—Yes, I’m sure that she has a head, but it isn’t in the picture. We can’t see it.

Mariela—Then show me her feet. Let’s look at her feet...

And so the conversation continued... I have heard of and read about people / cultures who haven’t ever had exposure to photos or printed materials, and so therefore do not understand the idea of 1 dimensional objects. But I never really believed that I would come face to face with that concept. (no pun intended)

