

# La Luz de Cristo para Perú

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## Seeds of Hope

Years ago, on our first visit to Peru, we felt a very strong calling to somehow serve the “street children” ... the children of poor families who spend their days in the streets or fields, sometimes doing nothing, sometimes working, sometimes getting into trouble, or worse. We weren’t sure what our exact ministry would look like, but we knew that the call was strong on our hearts. Would it be an educational ministry? Would it be an orphanage ministry? Would it be a feeding program? We didn’t know, but we knew that the Lord would eventually show us what He intended for us to do. And He did!!!

We really began to feel that we were being pulled in 100+ different directions when we arrived in Peru - there is just SOOO much need and so much opportunity to serve! Everywhere we went, we were asked to speak or teach or lead a study or help in some way... and we aren’t very good at saying no or turning people down. But we really began to see what we knew all along - we are educators in our souls. God put within us an insatiable desire to teach and to reach out and love His children. And so began the time of focus and refining of our time and efforts. And when we focused on children, God opened the flood gates! As if he were saying, “Now you’re talking!!! Now you’re seeing what I had planned for you. Run with it and don’t look back!”

So one morning while Laurie and Sarah were at school, Billy packed a backpack and began walking and praying and talking to every one he met. “Where is the poorest community? Where are there children in need? Where should I go if I want to find families who don’t have the money to put their children in school?”, he asked over and over again. And a pattern began to emerge... “Out toward Chupaca is really bad. Go out past Chupaca.” So he jumped on a bus and headed for Chupaca... a 40 minute bus ride from our house. Once in Chupaca, he began the process again - walking, praying, and questioning everyone. “Where is the poorest community? Where are there children in need? Where should I go if I want to find families who don’t have enough money to put their children in school?” And without hesitation, the answer was always the same... go to the town of Iscos (5-10 more minutes away).



Iscos is a tiny farming town. Imagine Little House on the Prairie, with a tiny town square and not much else. There is a church on the square, a municipal building, a school, and a couple of mom & pop stores. Beyond that, there are fields and adobe homes and farm animals grazing peacefully while their owners tend their plots. Occasionally, a Quechua woman will herd her half-dozen sheep through the square on her way to a better grazing spot, or someone will parade through with a couple of cows and donkeys clip clopping through the street to the next field. It is a quiet, peaceful place that is sadly known by everyone as the poorest community with the most need.



Billy walked into the municipal building and began telling people what we wanted to do... we would like to help children who aren’t in school. We understand that their families don’t have the finances to pay for school, and we think we can find a way to help. We want to find these children and begin the process of getting them into school.

(continued on page 2)

*(continued from page 1)* He was quickly introduced to Betsy, the director of the Vasos de Leche program. She listened to his vision and she got excited. She introduced him to the mayor, who also listened and got even more excited. The mayor said that this was an answer to prayer. They were very aware of the problem. And they wanted to know how they could help. With open arms, they agreed to help us host an educational center for impoverished children.

Two days later, the municipality agreed to give us (free of charge) two rooms in the municipal building to be used as classrooms for the center. They found a cook to help us prepare hot lunches each day for the children, and they offered to help us find furniture for the classrooms. Betsy offered to help us find the families and connect with the single moms and children who need help. We were amazed!!!

A couple of days later, there is a knock at our door in the late evening. Darwin, a friend and ministry partner, has come to pour out his heart in our living room and says that he really feels God leading him to work with us in the Iscos project. There are NO COINCIDENCES! We had been talking privately about Darwin and praying about how we could involve him... God had already placed him on our hearts to be the director of the project.



Four days ago, another knock at the door... this time it is Milagros, a twenty-something teacher who works with us in our Kid's Club ministry at the orphanage. She wants to talk about the Iscos project and find out how she can help. Once again, God had already placed Milagros on our hearts and we had planned to set up a meeting with her to see if she might consider teaching in the center.

This week, Billy and Darwin and Milagros have been visiting with Betsy, with the director of the local school, and with the mayor and laying the ground work to begin the center in August. Next week, they will begin the process of readying the building, hiring the cook, and connecting with families.

And so we find ourselves with a staff and a building, backing from the community, and an obvious blessing from God. We have 13 commitments from the USA to sponsor children. We need at least 17 more sponsors, but we have faith that God already knows who they are and he has already laid it on their hearts to serve Him by loving Peruvian children and offering them a chance at an education... seeds of hope for the future.

*If you would like to be a sponsor, please let us know!!! For \$25/month (\$300/year), you can pay for the education, school supplies, uniform, teacher, and a hot lunch every day for one student. Please use the form on page 3 to designate your support. Also, please email us and let us know of your decision to support the children of Iscos!*

[billy@drumsforchrist.org](mailto:billy@drumsforchrist.org)

## Updates from the field

**Lizbeth:** Several of you have asked about Lizbeth, the student in Laurie's 4th grade class that is suffering from a tumor on her spinal cord. Lizbeth continues to have a fantastic outlook on life and be a joy in the classroom. However, she is deteriorating slowly. Her fine motor skills are slowly going away... she can no longer use her scissors or open her glue or hold her pencil very well. She requires more and more help with these everyday classroom functions. But she continues to be upbeat and happy and is a joy to be around.

**Maria** (widow, 7 children, illiterate): Maria continues to work in our yard each week. Her children are in school and doing pretty well. Maria is knitting scarves and selling them for extra money. She has learned to write her name with no prompting now, and it is a special joy to watch her sign her pay stub or see her sign her children's school work each day. She is proudly the first mother at the school for every parent meeting, and can be found at the school's front gate every morning for the beginning of the school day.

**Orphanage ministry:** We are so happy to announce that we began a Kid's Club ministry at the orphanage in May. We have also had several opportunities to work with the children on other occasions. The Ivey family (our partner missionaries) hosted a short-term team last week and they worked with the orphanage. Betty and Midge Mitchell are working with us during the entire month of June, and they are doing art ministry at the orphanage each day... teaching painting and drawing, making arts & crafts items, and loving on children. Midge and Billy have spent countless hours this week building a puppet theatre for our new puppets so that we can use them in puppet ministry with the kids.

## 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>

### DEAR BILLY AND LAURIE,

I will pray for you. Please send me your newsletter 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to sponsor a child's education for \$25/mo. (\$300/year).  
(Iscos Project) **!!! NEW OPPORTUNITY !!!**



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"**

Declare His glory among the nations,  
His marvelous deeds among all peoples. ~1 Chronicles 16:24

## Prayers & Praises

### Prayers: & Praises:

- ◆ Praise God for help and visitors! The Mitchells are working with us this month, doing art ministry at the orphanage and helping us with our on-going ministries. And it sure is nice to have Texans in the house to cook with and enjoy the company! Fantastic to have people around who understand TACOS!
- ◆ Praises that Miles graduated high school and is now on his way to college at Texas A&M Corpus Christi!!! And praises that he received several grant offers to offset the cost of higher education!
- ◆ We are faced with the possibility of moving to a much better house for ministry purposes within the next month. Pray for this opportunity to materialize and for a smooth transition.
- ◆ Pray for Laurie and her students at Colegio Cristiano El Camino.
- ◆ Thanks to everyone who came to visit us during our time in Texas!!! We had so many people to see and the time was too short, but we really had a great time seeing everyone and speaking in church about what God is doing in Peru.
- ◆ Pray for God to continue to open doors for us to minister to the people of Huancayo and San Juan de Iscos.
- ◆ Pray for our very busy month... we have visiting missionaries in the house, we have three short-term teams coming, we

continue to plan for the opening of the language institute and the Iscos education center, etc. We are really busy and need prayers to stay mentally healthy and physically able during these stressful times.

- ◆ Praise God for his daily provision in our lives. Pray for all of the people who support us in this mission.
- ◆ Pray for the Iscos education project (see headline article) as we finalize the plans and ready to open in August. Pray for Darwin and Milagros as they learn to work together with Billy and build a strong team, ready to serve God by serving His children.
- ◆ Pray for sponsors to come forth for the children of Iscos. We lack at least 17 sponsors to be fully funded for opening day.
- ◆ 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 that they see Christ in others and they feel loved and cared for as we work to serve them in His name.



◆ 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)

## Observations From the Field

Wow! What an awesome adventure we are having visiting the Drums and their projects here in Peru. As long term missionaries stationed in South Africa, Betty and I are well aware of the challenges, hardships and cultural differences which create stress and pressures on a missionary couple. Giving up the culture you grew up in, leaving family and friends behind and stepping out in faith are just a few of the challenges which must be met. What we have found here is a situation well in hand. Having been in the field for only one short year, they have established themselves in the community, made many friends, started a Bible study group, and created a kids club for children which are underprivileged.



They have expanded their outreach to surrounding communities and are in the process of developing a school for children which have fallen through the cracks so to speak and have not had the opportunity to go to school. These children are from poor families which live in a small farming community and are unable to raise the funds to purchase the required school uniforms, shoes, books or even a pencil in order to attend what is called "a free education." The objective here is to find sponsors for them, give them training which will bring them up to speed with their appropriate grade level and enter them into school with the ability to succeed and not fail. And who said miracles don't happen? These children know one when they see it and are so excited to have the opportunity to learn.

Angels come in many guises and to some of the people here in Huancayo the Drums are as close to angels as they have ever experienced. As for the Drums, the people who help by supporting them and their ministries by prayer, financial support and kindnesses of all sorts are the angels which help them hold the whole program together. Betty and I would like to encourage each of you to join in helping to keep this couple in the field, doing the work they feel called by God to do.

~ Midge & Betty Mitchell

*Betty and Midge Mitchell are currently living in College Station, Texas and are eagerly seeking their next mission field. They served in South Africa for 15 years, 7 of those as full time missionaries with VIM (Volunteers in Mission). They have two married sons and 3 grandchildren living in Texas.*