

Christmas Changes

What is Christmas going to look like for us now? This holiday season has taken on a different feel for us. As we put up our Christmas tree this year, Billy and I discussed the fact that this would be our last Christmas season in this house. We talked about the need to sort through ornaments and carefully pack things away this year. Some ornaments will travel with us to Peru for future Christmases, and some will stay behind and wait for us. This year, we don't feel the need to replace worn out wreaths or garland. And gifts have taken on a whole new thought process for us... What will we need in Peru? Don't purchase anything large that cannot easily be shipped or carried with us. And why purchase something that won't travel with us in a few months? This is an interesting time of planning for us.

This is a difficult time for us, too. We attended our church's Hanging of the Greens service last week. The children of the church participate in traditional readings and songs, the choir ensembles lead the congregation in hymns, the sanctuary is adorned for the holidays, and I sat there and cried. It just suddenly washed over me that I wouldn't be able to watch this program again next year. These children of the church will grow by leaps and bounds before I see them again. My world will be so different! I want to soak up every part of this holiday season and enjoy it to the fullest. Why wasn't I doing that all along?! My priorities are suddenly so different. Every Christmas hymn is important to me. Every church program and children's program is a priority - I don't want to miss it. I can't put it off and say, "I'll catch that one next year." I had a class that conflicted with the Festival of Carols last Sunday and I actually cried trying to make a decision! Pray for me!

So many other people in our lives are experiencing very different Christmas seasons than they have in the past. Changes in location, changes in family and relationship, changes in priorities. Billy and I were talking this morning and lifting prayers for several friends who are having very different Christmases this year. Lost loved ones, separated families, uncertainty... I feel for them and pray for them to find peace in Christ this season.



Peruvian Andean Nativity scene

Make it a point to slow down and enjoy EVERYTHING that makes Christmas special to you this year. You never know how different your life might be next year. At this time last year, we had not yet applied for full-time missionary service! We had not ever thought about serving in Peru. Honestly, I only knew about Peru because I used to raise guinea pigs! I never dreamed that I might live there some day. Life moves very fast... slow down and celebrate the season for what it is. Really consider the blessings God has bestowed upon you this year. Take time to enjoy family, read the Christmas story to a child, attend special Christmas services and performances at church, sit quietly in the light of the Christmas tree and give God praise and thanks for His Son.

I also urge you to spend some time this Christmas and consider your service to God. How is God working in you? How are you allowing God to use you to work in others? Consider Mary... in Luke 1, Mary is visited by the angel Gabriel and told of her opportunity to serve God by carrying His Son. In Luke 1:38, Mary answers "Here am I, the servant of the Lord, be it unto me according to your word." Hallelujah! Aren't you glad that Mary stood up and answered His call with "HERE AM I!" Her risk was great. She had so much to lose, and eternity to gain! If God is calling you to serve him in some way, use this Christmas season to follow Mary's lead and answer with "Here am I, the servant of the Lord." You will be blessed beyond measure!!!

Merry Christmas!

Ministry Needs



Some of you have asked, "What do you need? I want to give financially, but I also want to know what you need". We have a dear friend who partners with another ministry, and he says that his favorite part of their newsletter is reading the needs of the ministry - he likes to give a tangible gift sometimes because it helps him feel that he filled a need and really helped that month. Maybe you have exactly what we need and you can help fill in the gaps in our mission ministry. Check below to see if YOU can partner with us by giving the gift of:

- Prayer - our MOST needed commodity! This ministry MUST be rooted in prayer!
- Encouragement - another BIG need! We have days when the job seems enormous. Your encouraging words are very helpful and appreciated!
- Monthly financial support / commitment - Can you find \$10, \$20 or \$100 a month to help share the word of God with Peru? Your pledges are gratefully appreciated and will be used to share Christ's love through our ministry.
- Ideas and connections - we need to share our ministry with others! Can you hook us up with a small group, class, pastor, church congregation, etc? Can you forward our newsletter on to friends and relatives? Do you have people who you would like to share the mission with? Let us know!
- Stamps - we send out 300+ newsletters each month - the gift of stamps would be a huge help!
- Paper - we purchase 11x17 paper for the newsletter each month.
- Labels - we use 300+ address labels each month for newsletters.
- Access to Adobe Acrobat - we would like to convert our newsletters to PDF files so we can post them to the web, as well as send them out electronically to those supporters who wish to receive it via email.
- Luggage Loan - The Drum Family is traveling to Peru in December for two weeks for a meeting with our Field Leader. We do not have real luggage (we are SO unprepared to be world travelers! - we are "carry-on" people). Do you have extra luggage laying around???



Laurie leads a children's bible school song in Spanish.

Wish List Needs:

Laptop computer - we are required to submit reports, expenses, etc. to our main office, plus communicate with YOU! We will eventually have to purchase a laptop computer before we leave for the field in June. (approx. \$800)

Digital camera - our digital camera is on it's deathbed. We are nursing it along until we can purchase a new one. (approx. \$600)

Let us know if you can help in any of the above ways. We can help you receive a tax deduction form for the items you donate... please call or email us BEFORE you donate if you wish to receive a deduction so we can direct you through the correct channels. Thank you so much!



Peruvian Llama

"And pray for us, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ..."
~Colossians 4:3



Arthur Ivey, our field leader in Peru, conducts Kid's Club (Children's Bible School).



Dressed in traditional Andean clothing, the Holy Family celebrates the very first Christmas in a snug stone chapel.

By artisan Feriberto Aylas (www.novica.com)

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"



We would love to have you partner with us in ministry in Peru! God calls some people to go into the field and put their gifts to use, others he calls to give the gift of prayer, and others he calls to give of their financial gifts. Please consider how you can serve the people of Peru. We can't wait to hear from you!

Prayers & Praises

Praises:

- ◆ Our passports have all arrived! We can't wait to get our first stamp from PERU!!!
- ◆ Praise God for the many people who are stepping up to the plate to partner with us in our mission with Peru! We currently have pledges for 18% of our total 5-year budget.

Prayers:

- ◆ Pray for traveling safety for us as we go to Peru on Dec. 20th. Please keep us lifted up during the holidays as we work with the Iveys in Huancayo and learn more about our service in Peru.
- ◆ Pray for Miles as he begins to make the mental adjustments that stem from a big move. Sixteen is a crazy age without having to move to another continent!
- ◆ Pray for Ryan as he works with university advisors to transition to Costa Rica next year.
- ◆ Pray that God raises up financial partners who are willing to share their gifts and become a part of Christ's work in Peru. This sounds crazy, but pray for people to find \$10 - \$20 per month that they can pledge. I really feel

like that is supposed to be our focus right now. CRAZY! I know that God is bigger than that, but maybe he is working on LOTS of \$10 - \$20 budgets right now??? I don't know. He gave that to me in a prayer one day and I'm going forward in faith. I whole-heartedly believe that God can do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine (Eph. 3:20)!!!

- ◆ Pray for the Peruvian people. Pray for open hearts and minds as we pray on their behalf and work to help them enter into relationship with Christ.
- ◆ Pray for focus and diligence for us as we continue to teach during the day and work in our ministry at night and all weekend. Some days are overwhelming and staying on track is a challenge. Pray Philipians 3:13-14 for us, so that we may strain toward what is ahead and press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called us.
- ◆ Pray for our mission team members (The Ivey Family, the McEuen Family, and The Mission Society).

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to his power that is at work within us, to him be the glory..." ~Eph. 3:20



The Drum Kids - Ryan (18), Miles (15), and Sarah (3) Taken Thanksgiving Day 2006

The Drum Family

Serving Christ in Peru

Laurie & Billy Drum
911 Church St.
Navasota, Texas 77868

E-mail: billy@drumsforchrist.org
laurie@drumsforchrist.org



Visit us at www.drumsforchrist.org

How can children help missionaries?

The Drum Family will serve the people of Peru for an initial 5 year commitment.

- ♥ General correspondence is always wonderful! Have children write to children of missionaries.
- ♥ Keep a picture of the missionary where children frequently see it (refrigerator door, mirror, etc). Use the photo as a reminder to pray for the missionary, their family, and the people they serve.
- ♥ Buy a plant for your home. Every time you and your child water the plant, pray for your missionary.
- ♥ Send magazines that you have finished reading, or have your class subscribe to a magazine for the missionary or their children.
- ♥ Keep a piggy bank or special collection jar for pocket change to help support the missionary financially.
- ♥ Help children give to missions. Children can give up one candy item or treat or cola each week and donate the cost to a mission fund. Set aside a special place at home to save the money. At Christmas, children can fill a small stocking with change to donate. At Easter, students can fill plastic eggs with donations. What other creative ideas can you think of?
- ♥ Hang a map of the world and pinpoint where missionaries are serving.
- ♥ Display posters and books of the country where missionaries serve. Research the area—geography, people, culture, etc.
- ♥ Share newsletters and emails from the mission field with children. Have a special time at dinner each month to read correspondence from the missionary and talk about their service. Pray as a family for your missionary.
- ♥ ALWAYS remember missionaries in prayer!!!
- ♥ Don't let people forget that the missionaries are out in the world, serving the Lord. Children can create pictures of their missionary and design posters reminding others at church or school to pray for them.

