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# A Need for a King

By Laurie Drum

A missionary friend recently told us of a breakthrough in a discipleship group they have been leading. A man had been coming to the group and listening to the discussions for several sessions. Having lots of baggage from past events in his life, he had given up on himself and on having any kind of success in life, but found himself sitting in this group each week to listen to the lesson and the conversations of others. He had confessed many times before that he didn't believe in any of "this Bible stuff", yet he continued to come to the meetings - perhaps for companionship, or just to see that other people still had hope. He never participated or talked during the meetings. He just sat off to the side, outside the circle.

One night, in the middle of a lesson about one of Jesus' many miracles, this man jumped up and proclaimed, "I NEED A KING! I WANT A KING TO FOLLOW!" Well hallelujah - let the Light breakthrough!!!

The thing is, MOST people are looking for a king to follow. Everybody is looking for someone or something to lead them to a better place in life. It's in our nature as human beings. How many times have we been disappointed by a political figure, a boss, a team captain... In 1 Samuel chapter 10, the people didn't trust God's leadership. They demanded a king to rule over them… that didn't turn out so good for them. Truth be told, when we put our faith in earthly kings, we will be sadly disappointed.

In Peru, the people are searching for a king to follow as well. Sadly, many of them have turned to other "gods" to fill their needs. The god *Huanca* (God of the Rocks) is still prevalent (thus the name of Huancayo, etc.) *Pachamama*, the Earth Goddess is also still worshipped. *Pachamama* was a dragoness fertility deity who presided over planting and harvesting. She caused earthquakes. *Inti* was the sun god. Source of warmth and light and a protector of the people. Inti was considered the most

important god. *Supay* was both the god of death and ruler of the *Uca Pacha* as well as a race of demons. And the list goes on and on! There are so many "gods" worshipped in Peru that I couldn't ever tell you about them all. Nor do I wish to learn them all… I don't wish to focus my attention on these "gods". My focus is on The God, the one and only, The Maker and Ruler of All things, The Holy of Holies. There is no other god. He is the great I Am.

In the current ministries that we are working with in Peru, people are hearing of the one, true God for the first time. They have spent a lifetime serving multiple gods. They have always believed that the gods were angry and punishing, and that sacrifices of animals and foods, and even people had to be made in order to keep their world in balance. For the first time, people are hearing of a god of grace. A god who is forgiving and loving. A god who wants what is best for them. A god who wants nothing more than to be in relationship with them - God wants them to sit in his throne room with him. Quite a change in thinking!!!

We are called to build relationships in Peru. We are called to love these sweet people and live life together with them. In doing so, we will help bridge relationships between them and the one, true God. He wants them to share in His Kingdom. And we can't wait to show them His glorious riches!

# Our greatest privilege as missionaries

By Laurie & Billy Drum

Jesus was excellent at relationships. He was a great listener. And he spent lots of time sitting and spending time with people. Really listening to them. They told him about their ailments, their heartaches, their joys and their pains. And He was listening. He was opening his heart to them. He was sharing his time with them. They knew that he cared. James tells us to "be quick to listen and slow to speak". That's a tall order for many of us. Listening requires being quiet and focusing your attention on someone else. It means giving up your time and your task-driven day and really opening up your heart.

The greatest privilege that we have on the mission field is to listen to others. To be in relationship with others. To spend time with people and really open up our hearts to them. To hear their stories and share in their lives.

True – we are involved in many fields of ministry that are task-oriented… we work with medical mission teams, church construction teams, children's bible studies, agricultural leadership, and discipleship groups. But each of those ministries provides us with opportunities to meet people and make friends. To spend time with others and learn about their lives.

In our ministries, not only are we in relationship with indigenous peoples, but we are also in relationships with the people on the teams who are working to serve others. We are called to be in relationship will ALL people. Many times, we go on the mission field as a group of strangers and we end up building such strong relationships with each other… through sitting with each other and listening to each other, we find out that we have so much in common – we laugh together and cry together over our children, our jobs, our hopes and dreams…

Everybody has a story. Everybody is longing for relationship.

These girls attend a children's bible study group once a week in Peru. They come alone – no parent drops them off or picks them up. At Kid's Club, we may have 150+ kids in a session, but only 5 or 6 parents will come – sometimes because they are working and the kids take care of themselves, sometimes because they are embarrassed that their family is poor. Sometimes the kids are homeless and orphaned and there just simply isn't a parent. These girls live in a neighborhood of extreme poverty. They walk to the group meeting once a week. At bible study, someone is there who is taking time to BE with them. Someone is really listening to them and cares if they show up or not. Someone makes time to play. Someone will hold them in their lap and read a story – things we take for granted. And because someone cares enough to be there for them, they are coming to know Jesus. The power of relationship.

The fact is, for the vast majority of people, it is because of relationships you had with people that you were introduced to the most important relationship. Because someone spent time with you and shared their heart with you, you have a relationship with The Most High. Maybe it was a parent, or a grandparent. Maybe it was a friend or co-worker. Can you think back to who it was? Who took the time to show you Jesus?

You had the incredible privilege of knowing someone who KNOWS JESUS. And they shared that with you. They planted those seeds in your heart. There are currently 1.8 billion people in the world who haven't had that privilege. They haven't ever heard the name of Jesus Christ. They don't know anyone who can share Christ with them. Entire villages and communities that have never heard his name spoken. ***"We talk of the Second Coming; half the world has never heard of the first."*** *– Oswald J. Smith*

In Peru, people are crying out for relationship... people who haven't had the opportunity to know someone who can share Jesus with them. In one jungle village, there are 200 people who have heard of Jesus - now they are waiting for someone to teach them more. In Huancayo alone, there are 3000 homeless children on the streets each day, longing for relationships with people who care. All over Peru, people are learning about the GRACE of God for the first time. It is our privilege as missionaries to be in relationships with these people and share life with them. To share our daily struggles. To walk together and talk together, and to share the love of Christ with them.

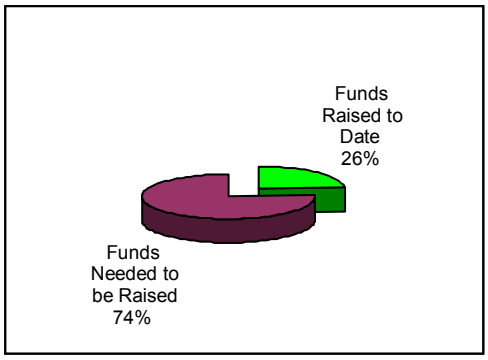
I personally cannot look at those babies and consider being in heaven without them. It is my life's calling to be in relationship with them and give them the opportunity to one day be removed from the dirty streets and the poverty and sit in the throne room with the KING as heirs to the kingdom! In 1 Samuel chapter 2, Hannah prays that very thing. "He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor." It is a beautiful thing to know what your purpose is!

Can you find time to build a relationship with someone? Can you just "be" with someone and listen to their stories and their struggles? Can you open up your heart and laugh together, and cry together? Can you show the love of Christ by just sitting with someone for awhile? Can you support a missionary so they can go and serve others in His name? So they can take the time to listen with open and willing hearts?

That's the biggest calling we have as missionaries. To share the love of Christ by just being there, and listening, and loving them right where they are. To really hear their needs. To work together to find hope.

## Funding Update

We must have 100% of our funding pledged in order for us to go into the field full-time. It takes a budget of $500,000 to sustain the ministries in Peru for 5 years. We still need to raise $374,000 of that amount. Please consider how you can help us meet that goal. If 125 people would pledge $50 per month ($3000 total), our funding would be complete and we could step into service. Together with God, you can make that happen.




**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 Lord. We can't wait to hear from you!

Please help us share our ministry and the needs of the people of Peru. We are available to speak to your church, Sunday school, men's or women's group, etc. We would love to share our slide show with you and introduce you to God's precious people in Peru. You can help them know Christ! Give us a call at 936.825.4099 home or 979.324.8002 cell to set up a time for us to share with you!

Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it's in your power to act.

~ Proverbs 3:27

# Prayers & Praises

***Praises:***

- God has given us so many opportunities to share the needs of Peru with others. We are so blessed by the people we are meeting along the way.
- For an amazing Men's Mission in Reynosa, Mexico in January. Billy led his last men's group into Mexico to cut lumber for our Spring Break groups. Many churches and denominations were represented and worked together as the body of Christ to serve others.
- Praises for open hearts and willing hands! We were so blessed by the story of a Muslim woman who gave $500 to help with the January Mexico trip. Fully aware that the money was going to be used in the name of Jesus Christ, she gave so that she could help others in need.
- God moves in the workplace, too! Praise for the offices and work partners who are pledging their support by collecting change in their workrooms, break rooms, and lounges to help the people of Peru.

***Prayers:***

- Pray for safe travel as we go to Atlanta in mid-February for a week with fellow missionaries at The Mission Society. Pray for us as we learn from others who have gone before us and have already walked in these shoes.
- Pray for all of the people (like YOU) who are partnering with us in ministry through their pledges and prayers. Pray that they recognize and experience God's faithfulness and blessings as they faithfully support us and the people of Peru.
- Pray for the missionaries that are on the ground in Peru right now… the Ivey family, Obed & Cindy Alvarez, Todd Weeks, Justin Grogg, all of the Peruvian missionaries working within their own country under the discipleship of the Ivey family and the Alvarez family.
- Pray that funding moves rapidly for us. We need to have 100% pledged by June for our timeline to work with our training calendar and children's schooling. Pray for our patience as we count the days until we can return to help God's children in Peru.

The Mission Society

The Drum Family… Sarah (3), Billy, Ryan (19), Laurie, and Miles (16).

# The Drum Family

## Serving Christ in Peru

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The Mission Society

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www.drumsforchrist.org

## Pledging with Faith

We are so blessed by the pledges that we are receiving and the stories behind them. It takes $500,000 to support us and our ministries in Peru for 5 years. That is a large amount of money, but people are stepping up and pledging in faith. It is wonderful to be in partnership with people who are listening to the Holy Spirit speaking in their hearts, and believing that He can provide through their pledged gifts...

- A children's Sunday School class pledged $10 per month for 5 years. During their first month of support, children brought in their mission money and dropped it in the jar. On the last Sunday of the month, they counted their donation… they exceeded their pledge and brought in $23 in change! They hope to do even more next month! They serve a BIG GOD!
- A small office staff at Texas A&M has pledged to send at least $10 per month. Staff in the office are giving up their soft drink money and spare change to meet their pledge.
- A church mission committee has pledged $5000 per year. That amount is not in their budget, but they have committed to find the money and step up to the plate to meet their pledged donation. In faith, they believe that God will provide.
- A 5th grade student has pledged $20 per month and his prayer support. I'm positive that God is so pleased with the prayers of a 10 year old boy!
- A sweet lady had been talking to me about a book she was reading, and how she was learning about God's faithfulness and provision. Soon thereafter, we received a substantial pledge from her. She stated that she and God had been talking about it and she was certain that this was the correct amount for her to pledge and that He was going to provide it. Wow!
- A precious woman sent in a pledge a few months ago. When we saw her last week, she told us that God had laid it on her heart and she was sending in a new pledge for a higher amount.
- An 80+ year old woman on a fixed income pledged $100 per month for 5 years because of her belief in the ministry that is taking place in the people of Peru.

Can you step out in faith today? It is our honor to be in ministry with you!

Peru has a national poverty rate of 54%. In the Huancayo, Peru (where the Drums will be working) the rate is closer to 70%.

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