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What are you going to do?

By Billy Drum

People ask me all the time, “What are you going to do in Peru?” So much of my identity throughout my life has been based upon what I do - in other words, my profession. I have been a student, landscape contractor, golf course superintendent, forest consultant, urban forester, division manager, teacher, intern director, etc. So often, I have placed these identities above being a husband, father, son, or grandson.

To answer the question about what I will be doing in Peru, I have to say that I don't know. Not that I have no ambitions or ideas, but I really don't know exactly what I will be doing. The mission field is wide open in Peru. There are many opportunities for discipleship – the people there are hungry for the word of God. There are more people wanting to be in disciple groups than there are workers. In the jungle areas, there are people who have never heard the gospel. There are over 3,000 children living in the streets of Huancayo, abandoned and homeless. The need is great!

The people of Peru are very spiritual. Many continue to worship Inca and Wanka gods, in addition to what little they may have been taught or exposed to in terms of “organized religion”. Idolatry is rampant. In the Canta Valley (outside of Lima), entire villages are accepting Jesus Christ due to the work of short term medical teams that the Mission Society has been able to bring in. Historically, this has been an extremely difficult area for missionaries - the people have been very closed to the teaching of the gospel and have worshipped idols of other religions. In the same valley, Mision-AMEN and the Mission Society are working to establish an agricultural center to help teach the farmers of the valley better methods and varieties to increase yields. These are first-generation land owners who are welcoming help. Opportunities abound!

During our work in Atlanta, we served the homeless population from a downtown church kitchen. Our morning in-



These beautiful little girls attended the Christmas celebration for all of the Kid's Clubs in the Huancayo area. So many children attended that we had no way of counting all of them! The children prayed together, sang wonderful songs of praise, presented dramas and song performances on stage, and answered Bible questions from their studies in a review game. The event ended with a feast of hot chocolate and panetone for everyone.

cluded preparing and serving breakfast and sack lunches for the people of the streets. As people were filing into the church, I had the opportunity to greet them. I made an effort to touch every person and look into their eyes. I saw despair, anger, and sadness. In many, there was an emptiness. In others, I saw light - a spark in their eyes, a little hope.

Inside the large room, men and women waited for their food, anticipating what might be served. Brother Barrett shared scripture and led the group in song. Some participated, others didn't. During this service, I spotted a man that I had greeted at the door. He was a middle-aged man with a salt and pepper beard. When he entered, he had been wearing a jacket. Now that the jacket had been removed, I could read the soiled white t-shirt he was wearing. It said “I am J. Christ”. At that moment, all movement and sound in the room ceased for me. I stood there, thinking of only one thing - I just served Jesus Christ. Matthew 25:40 stuck out in my head, “Whatever you did for the least of these, you did it unto me.” I have never had more clarity in my entire life.

To answer the question about what I will be doing in Peru... I will be serving Jesus Christ!



“They are so beautiful!”

By Laurie Drum

I have never been filled with such beauty in my life! Yes, the countryside of Peru is awesome, but I'm talking about the people... they are so beautiful! As soon as my feet hit the ground, I began noticing that everyone is lovely. I was so struck by the fact that I was literally drawn to their faces. It was all I could do to not physically touch the faces of children in the streets and women who smiled as they passed. I DID reach out and love on many sweet babies. I just couldn't believe that there were so many wonderful faces in one place. And so many sweet spirits... loving, welcoming, precious people. I was truly awe-struck.

Then it hit me - the biggest Aha! Moment that I have ever had. I had been praying for God to allow me to see people through His eyes. It is a prayer that I share with Him over and over again. I beg him to show me how he sees others. I beg him to let me see people in my family, in my town, in my classroom, in my church through his eyes. “Show me what it is that you see!” He hasn't revealed others to me in that way, but I believe that he began to show me his people in Peru... he began to allow me to see them through his eyes. Oh, how I hope that he sees me in the way that I was able to see them!

I LOVE these people! I don't even know most of their names, but I LOVE them. My heart was full of hopes for them, the same kind of hopes that a parent has for their children. I wanted to build relationships with everyone... impossible in two weeks, but I have such a desire to sit with them and share stories and laugh and cry together. How much does our father desire that kind of relationship with us?

I am desperate to get back to the people of Peru. The time spent waiting to return is killing me. I can't bear the thought of all of the people who don't know Christ. There is so much work to do and so many relationships to build, and I can't be there to help them until the funding is complete. It's just too much to comprehend! I pray that God will raise up witnesses and workers in His name. He loves the people of Peru and desires a relationship with them. They are his beautiful children. So beautiful! I have to get back to them. There's no time to waste.

From the Field

Ministry opportunities abound in Peru! Below are just a few of the opportunities that we will have for ministry and mission...

Discipleship Groups - currently, there are many Peruvian men and women who want to attend discipleship study groups, but there are not enough group leaders to handle the teaching load. These groups are not only in the Mantaro Valley (near Huancayo), but also in the jungle areas (200+ people waiting for groups) and in the Canta Valley (near Lima).

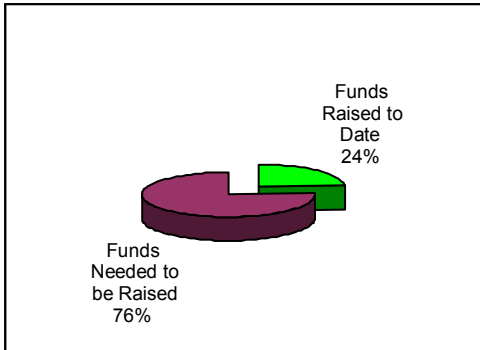
Agricultural Center - In conjunction with Mision-AMEN, the Mission Society is working to establish an agricultural center in the Canta Valley to teach first-generation farmers how to better work their land and improve their yields.

Short-term mission teams - We will help with project coordination and leading teams into various ministry fields of Peru. From the jungles to the Andean highlands, there are construction projects, medical missions, and evangelism work to be done.



Funding Update

We must have 100% of our funding pledged in order for us to go into the field full-time. Thank you so much to those who have stepped out in faith and pledged to support us and the people of Peru! We are so thankful to have you as a part of our ministry. With your support, we will work to spread The Word and the love of Jesus Christ. Pray for others to join us in the ministry through their financial pledges.



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!

"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." ~ 1 Samuel 2:8

Prayers & Praises

Praises:

- ◆ Miles celebrates his 16th birthday this month!
- ◆ God is AWESOME! He must have had so much fun creating our world. He did a fabulous job on Peru!!! Very creative! The land is beautiful, the people are beautiful... He has given us such wonderful gifts on this earth.
- ◆ I knew God was working on \$10-20 people! We were so blessed by the people who came forward with pledges in December. A children's Sunday school class from a small, country church even pledged to each bring \$1 each month for the ministry in Peru - that is so touching to us! The kids are all anxiously awaiting their own copy of the newsletter :)
- ◆ Our Sunday school class had t-shirts printed and is selling them as a fundraiser for us. They are excellent!
- ◆ Lots of people own great luggage! Thank you for offering to share with us for our trip.

Prayers:

- ◆ 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. Their workload is enormous, but our God is a HUGE god!!! We can do all things with Him who gives us strength!
- ◆ Pray for the school in Huancayo (Colegio Cristiano El Camino) where Laurie will be working and ministering. Pray for their finances and their Christian impact on their students. They are currently in a situation where they could purchase the building where they are housed for \$40,000 US dollars. Pray that God will raise partners for them in this mission.
- ◆ 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.



The Drum Family on their Dec. field visit to Peru... Sarah (3), Billy, Ryan (18), Laurie, and Miles (15).



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Serving Christ in Peru

The Drum Family

Government officials accepting Christ



Presidential Palace of Peru (Lima)

We knew that a meeting had been arranged. We were to meet with Obed Alvarez, director of Mision-AMEN in Peru. As guests of Mision-AMEN, we are legally in the country under their invitation. Mr. Alvarez has the power and authority to grant us our visas, so we were scheduled to meet him and discuss our mission and ministry to Peru. We were escorted to a conference room and seated at a large glass table. In walks Obed Alvarez, a bouncy, bubbly, charismatic man - all smiles and personality. Not at all the staunch, straight businessman that I was expecting. We spent time discussing our appointment and calling to Peru, and he spent time telling us the most wonderful stories about the awakening occurring in his country right now.

Just in the past 6 months, the president of Peru (Alan Garcia) has openly accepted Christ. Obed Alvarez has become President Garcia's prayer advisor. Mision-AMEN coordinated a celebration and blessing ceremony for the president following his inauguration ceremony in July. At President Garcia's request, Obed and his staff have worked in the presidential palace to pray for the country and to cleanse the palace of past atrocities, specifically witchcraft. The second floor of the palace had been dedicated to the practice of witchcraft and idolatry. President Garcia wanted to start with a clean slate. This is the first time in 120 years that the president has openly embraced the evangelical church and proclaimed Christ as his savior.

Soon after President Garcia, the mayor of Miraflores (Lima), also sought the counsel and guidance of Obed Alvarez. He, too, accepted Christ and wished for Obed to pray over the municipal palace and cleanse the building of past evil.

Obed and his wife, Cynthia (a California native), are charming people! After spending a wonderful evening with them and their children at dinner, it was easy to understand why others are drawn to them. They exude energy and enthusiasm for Christ. Their vision for ministry in the world is HUGE! Obed is the chairman on a board for 2500 third-world mission organizations. We are so honored to be involved with them and their ministry in Peru, and we look forward to serving with them in the near future.

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