

Children in Need

“... And, Father, we lift up prayers today for the children of Peru. Especially the homeless and the children orphaned in the rampages of the Shining Path. Father, our hearts ache for children who watched as their parents were murdered by terrorists...” These words pierced my heart and literally took my breath away. A missions colleague was closing a meeting in prayer and these were among the words that he lifted to God that day. We had not spoken to him of our passion for these children. We had not discussed the Shining Path and the devastation that is still felt just a few short years in it's wake. And here were his words, echoing in my soul. I cannot help but consider - if I ache this deeply for these babies, how much more does our Father ache and weep for them?

Our calling grows more and more each day. It is painful to wait patiently through our iteneration process. Because in my heart, I need to be in Peru. The sense of urgency and immediacy is overwhelming. Some days, it literally brings me to tears to consider the children who are without someone to love them today. To consider that one of them is hungry - for food, for shelter, for a loving touch and a smile, for a mom or dad... It is pain beyond measure for me.

The statistics are alarming. In Huancayo, where we will live, there are an estimated 3000 homeless children on the streets each day. Billy's heart was immediately broken over this. How can we foster 3000 children? In the park on Christmas Day, a sweet little girl of about 6 or 7 years old followed him everywhere. Right by his side. Her shoes were worn out, torn open at the toe so they would still fit. She had freckles and a precious smile. And no one to go home with.

We have a heart and a passion for all of the children of Peru, homeless or not. We have always loved working with children. Serving with bible school in Mexico for 8 years has been a challenge and a joy. Nothing is more wonderful than the smile of a child. Or that laugh that comes from deep within when children are truly happy. And the pleasure I get from playing Duck, Duck, Goose or blowing bubbles with 100 children at a time is

There are an estimated 3000 homeless children on the streets of Huancayo, Peru. They fend for themselves every day, finding food and shelter wherever they can. Many take care of younger siblings or other children who are also on the streets alone.



immeasurable. There is something incredibly peaceful about holding a child in your lap and teaching them to sing “Jesus Loves Me” in their native language.

James 1:27 says, “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” Could that be God's call on us? Could He be sending us to care for the orphaned, the hungry, the naked, the fatherless, the weak, the oppressed, the lost... In Matthew 25 Jesus said, ‘For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me.’ Can He be calling us to serve Him by serving the precious children on the streets of Huancayo? We hear His call. We are certainly willing! Here I am, Lord. Use me!

Maybe the key to the Kingdom lies within children. Jesus says in Matthew, “And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.” And again later Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Mark 10:16 says, ‘And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.’ Maybe by loving His children, we can be His hands and shine Light on the futures of many.

I need to get back to the our babies in Peru...

Here I am Lord... SEND ME!

Stepping out in Faith

We continue to be blessed by the many people who God has called to help support us and partner with us in ministry to Peru. Praises to The Father for all of the stories below:

- ◆ After a delivering a sermon recently and sharing the people of Peru with a congregation, a sweet young girl in the 3rd grade handed us a prayer card and a \$1 donation. How touched we are by the prayers of an 8 year old for the children of Peru!!!
- ◆ A college freshman recently signed up to serve on our prayer team. He also donated \$20. We all know how much of a sacrifice twenty dollars is for a first year college student!
- ◆ We received a donation in memory of a friend's uncle who recently passed away. In lieu of flowers, they donated the cost of an arrangement to the ministry.
- ◆ So blessed were we by the sisters who, instead of exchanging gifts, exchanged donations to a charity in each other's name.
- ◆ Being invited to speak to churches of many denominations has been so wonderful! We are truly seeing the body of Christ work together. (Romans 12) It is awesome to have the opportunity to worship in different places and with different congregations and different styles and know that we are all raising up a sweet offering to God. Thank you to the Methodists, Baptists, Lutherans, Catholics, non-denominational worshippers... thanks to all who have risen above the lines of separation and embraced our call to serve. We can't do His work alone... it takes the whole body of Christ to build the Kingdom.
- ◆ A Home Interior representative gave a party as a benefit event. All of the proceeds and profits were sent to the Mission Society in our name. God had put it on her heart as a way that she could help. Now an Avon representative is sponsoring a special sales event for the Peru ministry, as well.
- ◆ After much prayer, a family is giving up two meals each month and donating the money they save to Peru.

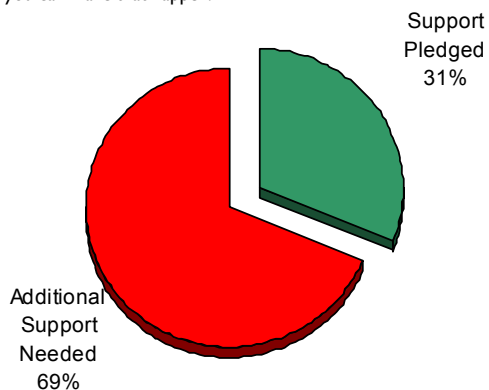


- ◆ We spent an evening being interviewed and recorded by a couple who does a weekly podcast / internet radio show. "This is not about denomination to me - this is about building the Kingdom. This is our chance to be a part of spreading the gospel to the world." (David Sweeney ~ catholicfamilypodcast.com)
- ◆ We continue to be amazed by the children in a K-3rd grade Sunday School class in a small Baptist church. They pledged to support us with \$10 per month. In their first month, they were able to send in \$26. This month, they sent in \$34! **And they aren't satisfied with their giving!!! WOW!** If the world had the dedication to God that these babes have... just think what The Body could accomplish for Christ!
- ◆ People we don't personally know are signing on to support us. One of our college interns from our Mission Discovery years shared our story with her parents and her parents are now on our donor list. Friends and relatives of people on our mailing list are sending in donations after someone shared our newsletters with them. They are not giving to us out of obligation or friendship... They are giving because God is speaking to their heart and they are giving to HIM. Please, do not give to us... give to God through us! This is NOT about us... this is about serving God and following his plan for his people. This is about answering his call and doing what you can to spread his word to the people of the world.

We are truly in awe of the power of God and how He moves in the hearts of others to accomplish His will. We know that we have been called and we know that He will provide. Jesus says in Matthew 6:25-34 that we should not worry - God will provide. "But put God's kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all of those things will also be given to you." We walk in faith and press on toward the goal, knowing that God has a plan and He is preparing the hearts of others to love and care for His children in Peru. How is God speaking to you today? Can you find a way to give \$10, \$25 or \$50 each month to share the gospel with people who are desperate for The Word?

Funding Update

We must have 100% of our funding pledged in order for us to go into the field full-time. We are only 4 months from our goal departure date of June 18. 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!

"No one has the right to hear the gospel twice, while there remains someone who has not heard it once."
 ~ Oswald J. Smith



Prayers & Praises

Praises:

- ◆ See page 2 of this newsletter for the many people and blessings that we have encountered this month!

Prayers:

- ◆ Pray for our missionary friends around the globe. They have been called to some wild, far away places. Pray that they build wonderful relationships and that they each have found a precious friend in their country of service.
- ◆ 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 our family as we begin to feel the extreme pressures of moving away. It is exciting, but it is sad to leave friends and family behind. Selling a house and 21 years of possessions is HUGE!
- ◆ 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 Drum Family... Sarah (3), Billy, Ryan (19), Laurie, and Miles (16).



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Serving Christ in Peru

The Drum Family

Frequently Asked Questions



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

Why does it take so much money for you to go to such an impoverished country?

Our budget includes many things that are over and above what it will take our family to live in Peru. Our family income will actually be less than half of what we bring home as teachers in Texas per month. A very large portion of our mission budget covers actual ministry costs. For example, it costs \$140 to cover materials for one person in a discipleship class/group. It costs \$100 to cover the cost of one Kids Club bible study (there are currently over 1600 children involved in Kids Clubs in the Huancayo area). We also must fund the costs associated with extensive travel within Peru to lead ministries that are already in place in the Amazon jungle basin, the Andes mountains, and the desert of the Canta Valley region. Education is not free for our children in Peru, and that must be funded, as well. There is no fluff in the budget. There is evacuation insurance in case of political unrest or health emergency, visas and permit fees, immunizations that must be kept up to date if we are going to survive in the jungle, etc. And basic cultural expenses... it isn't uncommon to feed several extra people at a meal because they are visiting in your home for discipleship - it would be culturally unacceptable to send them away.

What will your house be like? Will you have running water and electricity?

That is a multi-faceted question... We won't know what our exact house will be like in Huancayo until we get there. We will not own a home, we will rent. When we are 2 or 3 months from being "on the ground", we will have Peruvian scouts go out and find a few housing options for us. Then we will make a decision when we arrive. Rent will cost us around \$500 per month. We will most likely have water and electricity, most of the time. When we are working in the jungle areas, we will sleep in hammocks or on the floor of our hosts in the village. No, we won't have water or electricity during those times (or recognizable food, for that matter). When we are in the Canta Valley working with agri-missions, we will be hosted by someone in the valley, or we will base out of Lima and Mision-AMEN headquarters.

What will Laurie's teaching salary be in Peru?

Laurie will not be earning a salary. Our visa states that we are residents in Peru, but we are there for religious purposes and cannot earn a salary. Teaching will be a part of the ministry to the people of Huancayo and to the children in the school. By hiring Laurie at no cost to the school, they are able to offer children a reasonable cost for education and keep the overhead of running the Christian school to a minimum.