

La Luz de Cristo para Peru

April 2007

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He will Provide

Our life right now is a whirlwind! In this last month, we have put our house on the market, sold many of our belongings, put in our resignations for our teaching positions... in other words, we are about to be homeless, jobless, and penniless - and we gladly and joyfully take these steps in His service! Not to say that we don't have quiet moments of tears as we remember the good times spent in our home, raising the kids in small-town America in a two-story house with a white picket fence. And we, like most Americans, have amassed a lot of "stuff" that we are now boxing, or selling, or giving to others. It is very hard to hear your 3 year old daughter tell your pastor, "I sold my toys yesterday." It has been a tough month.

Maybe the hardest part of this month has been the realization that other people don't believe that we are going to be able to raise the funds necessary to move forward in this ministry. It has been hard to hear people say, "Do you really think you are going to make it? That's really a lot of money." A very sweet supporter put her arms around me one morning and gave me a big hug and said, "I'm just so worried about your funding. I'm just not sure it's going to come in time." The beautiful thing is that God has been preparing us for this very moment for many years! We know that the money will come and we know that His timing will be perfect! He has already taught us about provision.

Several years ago, we had a photography business. I quit my teaching position to run the business full-time, and Billy followed suit a year later when we were so busy I needed his full-time help. We were doing on-location portraiture, commercial photo business for clients in Conroe, College Station, and Houston, sports team photography, weddings... the full-blown photography business. Then the tragedy of 9/11 hit. Several major businesses in our area began laying off employees and many of our clients found themselves in financial crisis. People weren't very interested in portrait photography. And we didn't have a financial base strong enough to stay afloat. Under pressure, Billy and I respond very differently... My competitive nature gets stronger and I look for a way to win, while Billy quietly looks for



Billy Drum and Arthur Ivey speak at a Quechua Indian church in Huancayo, Peru. Billy delivered his message in English, Arthur translated it into Spanish, and the pastor translated again into Quechua!

another door to a solution. But in this case, neither one of us could find a way out. Our business went under and we were without jobs in one of the worst times in history. And when we thought we were in really deep, we found out that I was pregnant! No money and no insurance and running out of ideas. What we were forced to do was to stop worrying and planning and just **look up**.

God was there, just waiting for us to trust him to provide. And He did. When we had no idea what to do for food, someone would bring us dinner or groceries. When Christmas rolled around, an anonymous package full of Christmas gifts arrived for the family. A church member brought the boys gift certificates. God sent us an amazing doctor who was willing to take us on and work with us without insurance during the pregnancy (and he was a missionary!). We won tickets to a Dave Ramsey Financial Peace live event, and then joined the class so we could work to get rid of the debt we had from our business. There are so many stories of His provision from that time in our lives. We firmly believe that God placed us in that position in 2001-2003 so that we would learn that He will never leave us or forsake us. He will provide for all of our needs. It took drastic measures for us to focus on Him and believe that He is in charge and He can do all things. He can do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine.

We believe. We have faith in Him for provision. This is His ministry, not ours. He knows what it needs and who He will call to provide for those needs. We are privileged to be a part of what He is doing in Peru. Have faith! He can do it!

From the Jungle

Update from Arthur Ivey, our missionary leader in Peru:

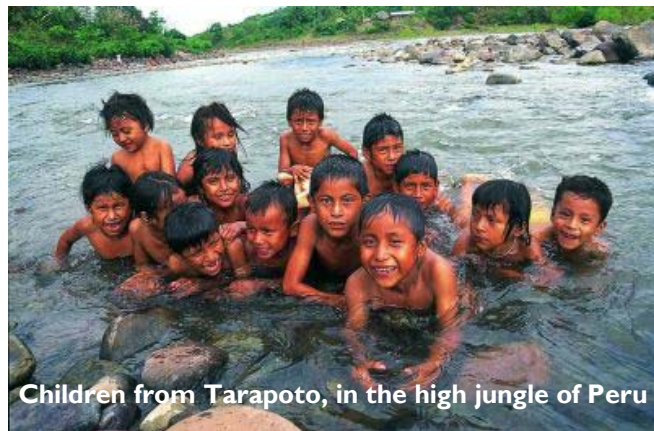
Early this month, we sent a Peruvian mission team to Shiringamazu and Villa America. This is the rainy season and it is a difficult time for work, but they are doing well. They will be working until the end of May and possibly longer. The physical challenges of this area are significant, from having to cross swollen rivers to avoiding snake bites and insects. Finding food to eat each day can be a challenge and often times they are limited to a half can of tuna each. The ministry in the jungle is producing fruit in abundance with 40 people in discipleship classes in Puerto Bermudez, many of whom are young people. In Shiringamazu, there are 70 people in discipleship and some of them are traveling approximately 3 hours from their homes to help us establish other disciples in Villa America. By June, we expect to have at least 200 more involved in the discipleship ministry of the jungle.

From Todd Weeks, missionary intern in Peru (3-6 months):

In the northern jungle town of Tarapoto, I had the privilege to work with a medical mission team that came down from Dalton UMC in Dalton, Georgia. The team consisted of doctors, nurses, and other volunteers who sacrificed a week away from their families and jobs to serve the Lord here in Peru. In the 5 days that the clinic was open, over 2,300 people were attended to. The team also made possible several surgeries that were needed, one of which was a leg amputation of a man who had Elephantitis for 25 years. To all of us serving in the clinic, the thing that brought us the most joy was that over 1000 people accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior during the week!

From Justin Grogg, missionary on 1-year commitment in Peru:

The small village in the jungle (Shiringamazu) was a 13 hour drive away, and then we had to walk in. While in the jungle, there is no other way to get around but walk. Each day we walked literally hours to get through the jungle to get to different families to minister, visit, etc. We easily walked an average of 3 to 4 hours each day. And walking in the jungle is no easy hike. Genaro had said that I would have to cross bridges, but I did not realize that bridges consist of one log across a swollen river. And these rivers are deep. In some instances there was no bridge and we had to strip down to our skivvies and swim across. On one long days journey, we traveled 6-8 hours by foot to celebrate the birthday of a village chief. The chief is a Christian, but many of his "family" are not.



Children from Tarapoto, in the high jungle of Peru

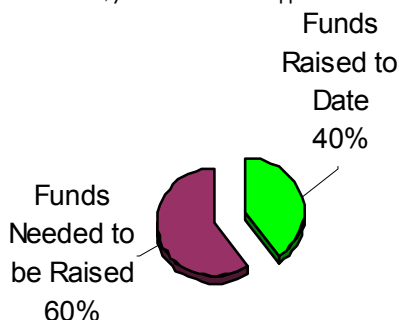
Ministry Needs... What can I do to help???

The ministry needs in Peru are as wide and varied as the ministries themselves. We serve people in the Amazon jungles, in the native Quechua areas of the Andes mountains, and in the desert areas near the Pacific coast. Each area has special needs...

- ⇒ We will be working with **Kid's Club bible study groups** in the Andes mountains. It takes \$100 per month to sponsor a Kid's Club for approximately 150 children (\$1200 per year). There are currently 1600+ children involved in bible study groups. There are 3000+ homeless children on the streets of Huancayo, Peru today. Can you give enough to cover one bible study group for the children of Peru? Just think of what they could learn about Jesus through 5 years of bible study!
- ⇒ It costs \$140 for one adult to receive **books and discipleship materials**. Our goal is to disciple indigenous adults and get them to a point in their walk with Christ so that they can go out and disciple others. We are not only making disciples, we are empowering disciple-makers! How much will you pledge to disciple adults and teach them the word of Christ? Can you be a disciple-maker by giving the gift of discipleship materials?
- ⇒ **Fuel** is expensive! We must drive 13 hours to reach the jungle, then hike into the villages to teach The Word. Your gift will help us to keep the vehicle running so we can reach out to the unreached people groups of the Amazon.
- ⇒ Our children will not receive a free **education** in Peru. It costs \$65 per month for our children to attend school in Huancayo. That seems inexpensive for education, but that is unattainable for most people in Peru. We need sponsors to help send our children to school.
- ⇒ We currently spend \$175 in **postage** each month sending out newsletters and personal thank you notes to our supporters. Another \$15-20 is spent on **paper / printing costs**. Did you know that if everyone who receives our newsletter pledged \$10 per month, we would be over-funded and could be spreading the word of Christ in Peru right now????!!!

Funding Update

We must have 100% of our funding pledged in order for us to go into the field full-time. We are only 2 months from our goal departure date of June 18. Together with God, you can make that happen.



What would it take?

- * If 100 people would pledge \$50 per month, we would be fully funded.
- * If 50 people would pledge \$100 per month, we could pack our bags.
- * If 300 people would just pledge to give \$1000 over a 5 year period, we could begin to teach the bible to the children of Peru.
- * Could you give \$1 per day so someone could learn about Jesus? We need 166 people who are willing to spend \$1 each day to spread the word of God.

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"



Join in The Mission...

How can you help the people of Peru?

“If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”

~ Jesus

Matthew 21:22



Prayers & Praises

Praises:

- ◆ We survived our vaccinations for Yellow Fever, Typhoid, Hepatitis A, and Hepatitis B... all at one time! Sarah was very brave; more so than her mom!

Prayers:

- ◆ Pray for our missionary friends around the globe. There are 203 missionaries in the field right now with The Mission Society, serving in 32 countries.
- ◆ Pray for all of the people who are partnering with us in ministry through their pledges and prayers. Pray for continued blessings as people faithfully give to Him. We are blessed by the dedication of others in their monthly giving.

- ◆ Pray for the sale of our home and belongings.
- ◆ 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 the children’s schooling.
- ◆ Pray for our focus and patience as we count the days until we can return to live with God’s people in Peru.
- ◆ Pray for our friends and family as they are experiencing the reality of our nearing departure. Pray for comfort and peace for them.
- ◆ Pray for us to use this time of fundraising as a faith lesson & ministry to those around us. Pray for our strength to lead others.



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



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Serving Christ in Peru

The Drum Family

Peru in Photos...



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



Special thanks to *Living in Peru* news for giving us permission to use photos from their gallery to share the sites of Peru with our supporters.