

Taken for Granted

A fully-stocked grocery store less than a mile away... clean water to drink... electricity that always works... free education that must meet national standards... knowing who you can call in the middle of the night... having a best friend who will come over and sit on the front porch with you after a bad day... medical care within minutes of your home... a 911 emergency system... It seems like the closer we get to our departure and assignment in our new country, the more I realize what we take for granted here. Sometimes I think about everyday simple things that I won't always have anymore (reliable electricity and water), and sometimes I think about the safety nets that our society has built for us (911 dispatch, 24 hour pharmacies). You never realize just how much you have and how much you take for granted until you give it up or lose it.

We understand some of what we are facing. We know that the water quality in Huancayo is very poor, the effects of a mining industry and poor environmental controls. We know that we will have to install serious water filters and purification devices - we saw this system in place at Arthur and Mary Alice Ivey's home when we visited in December. We are prepared for this and know that we will have to budget for this necessity.

When I go to the grocery store now, I think about how much we have access to and how regulated our food is for our safety. In Peru, we can buy an amazing variety of fruits and vegetables, but we will have to spend much time and effort to wash everything in a bleach water solution to kill off the microorganisms that our bodies do not have immunities to. We will shop at a huge "farmer's market" for vegetables, go to a different market on a different day in a different area of town to purchase meat, go to a bakery for bread, and go to a "grocery store" for non-perishables. Meat will have to be very well cooked to kill bacteria... gone are the days of a medium rare steak grilled in the backyard.

Sometimes I consider health issues... when I ruptured the disc in my back last year and was in immense pain, Billy had me in the emergency room within 20 minutes. Within the hour, a doctor



Chicken and turkey hanging in the meat market in Peru.

had seen me and I was being given painkillers and sent to a specialist to discuss surgery. When a high fever refused to break and our 9 month-old son was having fever-induced seizures, doctors were rapidly moving in with a spinal tap and other tests to find out what was wrong. As missionaries, we own a book called *Where There is No Doctor* because we will often be in a situation where we will fend for ourselves or depend on the medical knowledge of men and women who have never been to a "doctor", only the village wise man. In the jungle, it is possible to be a 3 hour hike, then a canoe ride, then a bumpy truck ride away from a hospital. We will own a first aid kit like no other!

Probably what we take for granted the most is our relationships with others. On any given weekend, we can pick up the phone and call our closest friends and have everyone in our backyard within the hour. When I've had a bad day at work, I can always count on Jennifer to come sit on the front porch and talk it out with me. When Ryan had a car wreck in Navasota and we were in Mexico leading a mission trip, we called Michael to go to Ryan and pick up the pieces for us... How many people can you call from another country and ask them to go take care of your child and your insurance issues?!

As we move closer to our departure, we recognize more of what is taken for granted and how much we have been blessed. I urge you... take stock of what you have in your life and all that God has blessed you with! Consider all of the little things that make your life wonderful. Praise Him! Cherish every minute you have with your friends and family. Use your blessings to bless others. Give of yourself. Take nothing for granted.

Thank You, Daddy

By Billy Drum

My daughter, Sarah, is 3 years old. For her 2nd birthday, I built a swing in the back-yard for her. We drove miles to find the right materials. It is built of rough cedar posts and has an arbor over the top. We planted a wisteria vine on one post which has now grown to cover half of the arbor. We designed it so that later, when it was no longer a little girl's swing, it would still fit into the landscape and hold a porch swing or garden bench. Sarah loves to go outside and swing in the afternoon. She constantly asks, "Did you build this for me?" When I reply that I did, she then says "Thank you for building this swing for me, Daddy." The same words every time. Each time she does this, it makes me aware of how much she really enjoys what I have given her. I never tire of hearing those words.

One afternoon while I was pushing her on the swing, as we went through the same set of questions, answers and thank yous, I realized something. I often find myself praying and thanking God for a beautiful day, or my family, or any blessings that may come to mind at the time. I have often wondered if God really appreciates my thanks for such seemingly mundane things. It was that day that it came to me—God never tires of hearing us thank him for his creation. He never tires of hearing us thank him for the beautiful day that he gave us to enjoy. So often I take those things for granted. So often we take those things that our friends or family do for us for granted. Neither people or God tire of being thanked for the blessings that they have given to us, even the little things in life.

Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. ~Psalm 105:1

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. ~1 Chronicles 16:34



Sarah's swing, built by Daddy



Father and daughter swinging at the park.

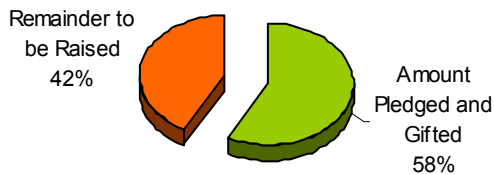
Stories of support

We love hearing the stories of how people are supporting us and how they are being blessed by the experience!

- * The faithful children from Millican Baptist church pledged to give \$10 a month several months ago. Each month, they FAR exceed their pledge! In April, they donated \$60!!! One student said, "That wasn't hard at all!" Another said, "Well, God multiplies your blessings!" These kids really understand giving. By the way, there are only 5-7 students in the class.
- * Two school campuses are raising funds for the ministry in Peru. The teachers can pay \$2/day to waive the dress code and wear jeans to school. As of this writing, they have raised over \$1000 in one month!!! That's amazing!
- * Some faithful supporters have come together and planned a benefit dinner for the ministry. What began as a church dinner in the fellowship hall has grown to include live entertainment, a silent auction, and corporate sponsorships! Oh my goodness! These supporters are inviting others to the dinner to introduce them to the ministry in Peru and hopefully gain new support.
- * An AVON representative has been running a special product sale for a month, donating a percentage of the proceeds to our ministry account. I never knew people needed so much nail polish and lotion... all for a good cause!
- * A local youth group came in under-budget on a recent mission project. They donated the remaining balance (\$1300) to the Peru ministry. They also pledged to support us for \$100/month, with students bringing in donations weekly to meet the need.
- * Give a big round of applause to the Ladies!!! The Trinity Lutheran Ladies invited us to be their keynote speakers for their yearly dinner banquet. We are also scheduled to speak to United Methodist Women—Navasota. The Presbyterian Women - Clarksville, TX have already pledged their support. UMW-Lafayette, LA are also supporters! Go Girls!!!
- * David and Allyson Sweeney interviewed us for their weekly internet podcast program. You can hear the interview at www.catholicfamilypodcast.com under "Special Peruvian Edition" (episode 50).

Funding Update

We must have 100% of our funding pledged in order for us to go into the field full-time. We are only 1 month from our goal departure date of June 18. Together with God, you can make that happen.



What would it take?

- * If 70 people would pledge \$50 per month (\$600/year), we would be fully funded.
- * If 35 people would pledge \$100 per month (\$1200/year), we could pack our bags.
- * If 210 people would just pledge to give \$1000 over a 5 year period (\$200/year), 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 115 people who are willing to spend \$1 each day (\$365/year) to spread the word of God.



Prayers & Praises

Praises:

- ◆ Incredible growth in funding and supporters!
- ◆ We have an incredibly full calendar of speaking engagements and people who want to meet with us about the ministry.

Prayers:

- ◆ Pray for our missionary friends around the globe and the daily trials that they face. Most especially, the cholera outbreaks in Ghana and our peers who are in ministry with the Ghanaian people.
- ◆ 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 are about to be faced with very serious decisions regarding our timeline and school for our children.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Pray for The McEuen Family - assigned to serve with us in Peru. They have just found out that they are expecting a baby!!! Pray for their fundraising efforts, their ministry, and for Audra's health.

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



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

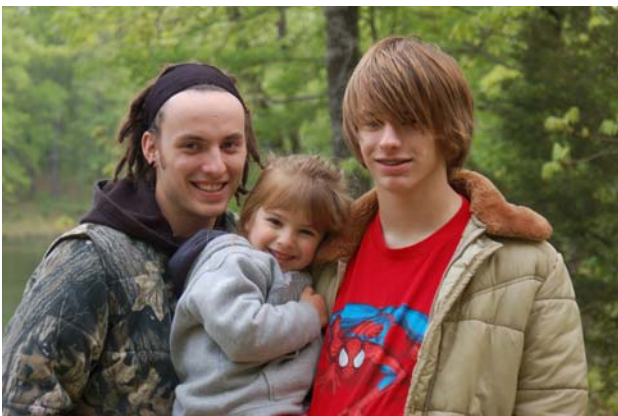


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Serving Christ in Peru

The Drum Family



The Drum children at the family farm for Easter... Ryan, Sarah, and Miles.

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

Sarah rides on Billy's shoulders while hiking on the family farm.



Drum Family Photos



Sarah with her Easter basket and her baby "Hannah"



Miles attended Prom this month

Children are a gift from God. Please keep our precious children in your prayers.