

## The Drums

Billy holds a degree in horticulture and is a certified science teacher. He spent 12 years as a traditional and urban forestry consultant, and has spent the last five years teaching. Laurie has a degree in education, with emphasis on reading, science, and health education. She has been an elementary teacher for 14 years. We are both trained as mission project coordinators.

In 1997, the Drum family was looking for a new church home. They visited a congregation who happened to be celebrating missions and showing a slide show from their recent mission trip to Mexico. Laurie and Billy were hooked! They sat in the pew and cried &ndash; and they KNEW that this was what God was calling them to do with their lives. They began going to Mexico to build homes for the poor and conduct children&rsquo;s bible school in the colonias in 1998. What began as a weekend commitment, soon turned into weeks, and then months of time spent serving the people of Mexico. Eventually, Laurie and Billy became short-term project coordinators, leading mission teams from different churches into Mexico and teaching others how to become servants for Christ. The Drum children have grown up serving others on the mission field. &ldquo;It&rsquo;s a way of life for us,&rdquo; says Laurie. &ldquo;It&rsquo;s what our family lives for.&rdquo; Sarah, the youngest Drum, was even baptized on the mission field. She thinks that Jesus Loves Me is supposed to be sung in Spanish &ndash; she gets upset if you try to sing it in English! Ryan and Miles have many friends in Mexico. If Laurie & Billy travel without them, the whole community is sad that the boys aren&rsquo;t there. They have truly become &ldquo;fishers of men&rdquo; with the youth of the colonias. In April 2005, Billy attended a Global Focus mission conference &ndash; a weekend that would soon change the course of the Drum family&rsquo;s service in missions. God was calling the Drums to step out and go into full-time missionary service. Laurie and Billy had heard God calling them in this direction for a long time. He began speaking louder and clearer than ever before. After much discussion and prayer with their bible study group, they applied to The Mission Society to become career missionaries. The Drums were accepted in July 2006 and assigned to full-time mission service in Peru. Isaiah 6:8 &ndash; Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, &ldquo;Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?&rdquo; And I said, &ldquo;Here am I. Send me!&rdquo;