



La Luz de Cristo para Perú

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Breaking the cycle, Empowering Change

Our month has seemed like a constant uphill battle. Since the week that school was to begin (our school year runs from March – December in Peru), we have been entrenched in a battle between a Peruvian school teacher, the parents of the community, and our Kuyay Talpu program. The problems began several years ago, before we ever moved to Peru. Without going into all of the details, suffice to say that the problem involves a lot of deceit, lying, and pride. Our month has been an exercise in trying to investigate the facts, stay calm, claim the 'high road', and be an example of how to handle problems in a Christian manner. I won't lie... there have been days of extreme frustration, tears, and confusion during this whole endeavor. But God is completely in control and we have had to rely on that promise A LOT! The great part is that The Enemy will almost always tip his hat and show his true colors, and in doing so will set his own trap and ensnare himself! And that is exactly what has happened!!!

The Peruvian teacher who has been causing so much trouble for us this month finally committed her fatal error... she lied to the people of the community about the law, trying to threaten them by saying that their children wouldn't ever be able to enter the Peruvian school system if they went to preschool and kindergarten in our Christian program. The parents were also threatened that the Department of Education would cut off their water if they didn't put their children in classes with this Peruvian teacher. *(We live in a very poor community where many are not educated. The fact that they do not know their rights is used against them often.)* We knew that this was false and we stood up to this teacher in front of several community members. We confronted her with the fact that this was a lie, which she denied and said that we didn't know what we were talking about and that she was an authority of the law. So, we took the high road again, thanked her for her time, and said we would be in touch.

This is where things took an incredible turn... One of our Kuyay Talpu teachers (Peruvian) took it upon herself to go and look up the law. She spent the afternoon and evening reading and studying and came back on Tuesday with an empowered spirit. "Hermana!," she said to me. "That woman lied to us! She lied to us and she lied to those parents and to this community!" She was

so amazed that we had been correct and that this other teacher had tried to take advantage of the people of Patarcocha. She called a meeting and she explained the law to the parents and their rights under the Peruvian Department of Education. The parents were so excited to know their rights and to hear the law. They thanked us many times over for teaching them and helping them stand up. They suddenly had knowledge, and knowledge is power, and they decided to use it. As of Friday, the community had denounced the teacher in question and decided to stand behind the Christian education that their children are receiving via our program. Knowledge was the key ingredient to change!



The Kuyay Talpu program is breaking the cycle of illiteracy and poverty for many. This month, I would like to introduce you to the first two people to ever attend school in Guillermo's family—Guillermo's youngest children, Jesus y Luz Clarita, are attending our program in Patarcocha. They have older sisters who do not attend school. Fear and family illiteracy have kept them prisoner in a cycle that the family has not been able to break. Even the parents have been fearful and cautious about allowing their two youngest to come to our program. But, little by little during this month, the family has warmed up. These two cuties are the FIRST to really attend school! They have a long way to go. Neither one speaks more than a handful of words. But they understand love and they are the first to hug you or hold your hand when you enter the classroom... quite a change from the first week when they cried and tried to escape every time the door opened. In fact, there are days in which they stay and stay and stay until someone walks them home... they LOVE school now!

Please pray for the Kuyay Talpu program, the families that it touches, and the community of Patarcocha. Pray for these cycles of illiteracy and fear to be broken. Pray for empowerment of the people to continue and for truth and knowledge to prevail. God is so good and He is able to do all things - even break these chains of poverty and illiteracy that have imprisoned these people for centuries!

REAL Southern Living... Our life in rural Peru

Painting at church

On Sunday afternoons at 3pm, we hold a church service for the people of Patarcocha. Our Peruvian teacher, Rosio, is generally the one who plans the service and teaches the lesson for the week. Occasionally, Rosio cannot make it and we take over for the week. This month, we had occasion to lead the church service one Sunday and we had such a great experience with our activity! Generally, the service consists of a couple of songs, then the telling to a Bible story and the reading of the text, some questions to ponder, then a time of snacks, fellowship, and prayer before departing. On this week, I wanted to switch it up and bit and go out on a limb... maybe it would be well received, and maybe it would be a flop, but we would try.



As people began to gather, it was a glorious sunny day - one of the first really sunny days after the rainy season. The congregants decided that they wanted to meet outside in the sunshine. So we sat outside and I began to tell the story of The Sower and The Seeds. I choose this story to coincide with the agricultural timing in our community... many are planting now, some are harvesting from earlier plantings, etc. I sat and read the story, then told the story again from memory, then asked questions about what the story meant to them and how it relates to our lives here in Patarcocha. Pretty straight forward so far.

But then, I threw in the big difference. I brought out paints and paintbrushes and paper and asked everyone to respond to the story through art. They could paint whatever came to their minds that would be their response to the Bible story that we had just read and learned together. We had young and old in attendance that day. The young ones were excited and jumped right in. The middle-agers were a little hesitant, but soon caught the spirit and really began to paint. But the elderly were very apprehensive and reluctant. And then we found out why... they hadn't EVER painted before! This was a completely new experience for them. A couple of them were scared to death to even pick up the brush, fearful that they might do it wrong and break it. And so, we began to have painting lessons with our 80 and 90 year olds.



Billy very patiently placed brushes in hands and showed them how to pick up the paint colors on the brushes and begin to paint. I walked around and encouraged them and patted backs, relaxing the frightened and spurring them on. Some stayed and painted for 2 hours! In the end, everyone took home their paintings. We heard tales later of how these paintings are proudly displayed on the walls of their homes. What fun we had at church that day!



Photos from Patarcocha

Breakfast club photos...



Lots of smiles and laughs at Breakfast Club ministry each day!!!

Praises and Prayers for the Breakfast Club ministry. We have 32 elderly that come to eat breakfast each morning! Many of these same sweet souls have begun coming to the Sunday church service that we have in the same dining room. We have been able to build relationships, care for their health, make sure that they are well and up and moving each day, and properly care for their nutritional needs - not to mention their emotional and spiritual needs! On several occasions we have gone to aid an ailing granny or granddad when they haven't shown up at breakfast. This has been a beautiful ministry. Please continue to pray for the elderly of Patarcocha.

Pray for our Kuyay Talpuy team (Johana, Rosio, Tania, Milagros, and Susy) and for the communities of Iscos, Patarcocha and Tinyari. Our team is working well together, growing in their missionary and ministry abilities, deepening their faith, and working more and more with the people of the three communities.

Pray for our Mission Society Peru team (the Ivey family, the McEuen family, the Drum family, the Reeves family and Louise Reimer) as we work to minister to the people of Peru. **Special prayers for Louise**—she had to return home last week for medical reasons.

SPECIAL PRAYER: For several of the families on the field, the past couple of months have proved to be very challenging economically. Funding continues to decline for many of us which puts us on tighter budgets... not an easy task when the value of the dollar is also falling in Peru and our costs are rising. See coupon at left if you can help with ←funding.

The Drums | HOW TO CONTACT US:

MAILING ADDRESS: LAURIE & BILLY DRUM...APARTADO 013-SERPOST...HUANCAYO, PERU

TELEPHONE: 979.985.5238 (TEXAS PHONE NUMBER—RINGS IN PERU)

EMAIL: BILLY@DRUMSFORCHRIST.ORG OR LAURIE@DRUMSFORCHRIST.ORG

NEWSLETTER: VISIT THE WEBSITE AT WWW.DRUMSFORCHRIST.ORG AND CLICK "NEWSLETTERS"

SUPPORT US: USE THE FORM BELOW, OR GO TO [HTTP://THEMISSIONSOCIETY.ORG/CONNECT/CONNECTMISSIONARIES/PEOPLE/DRUM](http://THEMISSIONSOCIETY.ORG/CONNECT/CONNECTMISSIONARIES/PEOPLE/DRUM)

DEAR BILLY AND LAURIE,

- I will pray for you. Please send me your newsletter by e-mail: _____
- As God provides, I plan to partner with you by giving \$ _____ Per month / quarter / year for _____ years.
- I would like to donate a one-time gift of \$ _____
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See below for one of the many ways that you could help the work here in Peru:

The school in Tinyari (where our daughter Sarah is attending and where we teach Bible classes each week) was scheduled to host a short-term team in March. This team was coming to build a playground. Currently, this elementary school of 60+ students has no playground, no swings, no climbing equipment—nothing. Unfortunately, the short-term team backed out due to a lack of funding and did not come to build the playground. Therefore, the school remains without a playground or equipment for another school year. The parents of the school and the community members have agreed to build the equipment and supply all of the labor, but they will need help with the purchase of the materials. We will happily purchase the materials and lead the construction with the community, but we will need the funding to do so. A playground with swings, climbing apparatus, seesaws, etc. costs about \$800 US.

If you can help with this funding, please see the bottom of page 3 (previous page) for how to send a donation to our work here in Peru.

Opportunities to help



Children from the pueblo of Tinyari have no playground or play equipment in their town or school. The elementary school has 60 students this year. Could you help answer their prayers for a playground?

SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH THE PEOPLE OF PERU.

WWW.DRUMSFORCHRIST.ORG | 979.985.5238

Photo header on page 1: The Huaytapallana Glacier range in Peru... the view from our front door!

Laurie & Billy Drum

3907 Old Oaks Bryan, Texas 77802 USA

E-mail: billy@drumsforchrist.org
laurie@drumsforchrist.org

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