

*The Drum
Family*

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST AROUND THE GLOBE

February 2013

Street signs, road maps, and a lot of blessings!

We arrived in Spain after a 10-day training and leadership trip to Turkey. We were exhausted and the delayed last flight had put our landing time at 12 midnight. We made a mad dash to the rental car stall, in hopes that they hadn't given up on us and closed for the night. Thankfully, they were still waiting for us and had us in our rental within minutes.

Now to navigate the foreign highway system and roadways and drive the 45 minutes to where we would stay for the week. Have you ever tried to drive in a foreign country in the dark with no knowledge of the roads or road signs? Probably not the smartest idea we ever had! What does a circular road sign with a T and a red line mean? We quickly learned that it means 'dead end'. What does a white sign with a red minus mean? Oops... that means 'don't enter, one way'... we learned that one when several 2am bar patrons ran after us down the street yelling "No!!!!" And, by the way, when you see your exit on the highway and you also see an exit that seems like it says it is an exit for emergencies, that probably isn't the case... we accidentally took the runaway no-brakes emergency exit that lands you in a roadway filled with deep sand and gravel. Stressed and a little tense, but still laughing at ourselves, we arrived at our residence for the week.

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**"Let my heart be broken with the
things that break God's heart" —
Bob Pierce**

Street signs, road maps, and lots of blessings!

Thus began our planning trip to Spain. We spent the next several days scouting towns and cities, looking for what would be best for our living situation, Sarah's school situation, and especially our ministry focus. We searched for immigrant peoples, housing options, and daily necessities. We scouted out what prices were like, what the cost of living would be, and what the general feel and attitude was in each place we visited. And we did a lot of praying and asking God to show us what was best and what He had for us.



We finally settled on the town of Antequera. In Antequera, we found a town that is within our hoped-for 1-hour distance to an airport (to meet our needs for frequent travel to other areas and other missionaries) and our desire to have services available for Sarah's education and development needs. This town of 40,000 has a small town feeling, yet has options for housing and ministry. In walking and investigating the area, we found many immigrant peoples. We asked LOTS of questions. Interestingly enough, there are many latino immigrants in the area—Spanish speaking people from South America! We also found people from Pakistan, Somalia, and Romania. We shared a delightful lunch with Amir from Pakistan. He talked with us about life back home, struggles with life in Spain, being a young immigrant who is trying to learn the language and customs, and how hard it is to be a Muslim in a place that doesn't accept his culture... we

actually had lots in common and enjoyed our time together. We look forward to finding him again when we move.

We then met up with a couple whom we had met a year ago when we took coaching training together. Greg and Gigi hosted us in their home and helped answer many questions for us. One of our many prayers and desires has been to find someone who we could connect with on a professional level and on a personal level, who could be in community with us, and who could be spiritual family with us. Greg and

Gigi have been praying the same thing for several years! We praise God for putting us together at this time in life for each of us!

On our last day, literally the last hour that we had before we had to go to the airport, we were given the INCREDIBLE GIFT of a Spanish sponsor for our visas! Pastor Miguel (Greg and Gigi's pastor) came to the house, met with us, and agreed that the church would apply to sponsor our visa process. Pastor Miguel was a delightful man, full of life and smiles, and continually deferred to God and His plans. We are so blessed and so grateful for this gift! God's timing is always right—even when it comes in the last minutes!

Due to visa issues, we will now be in Texas a little longer... August will be our departure date. Can't wait to get back to Antequera and our new friends and new ministry opportunities!

All God's giants have been weak men and women who
have gotten hold of God's faithfulness. — *Hudson Taylor*

Praises for a fantastic training trip to Turkey! We were able to train 25 missionary leaders in Christian coaching techniques and how to use coaching in their ministries and in their own personal growth and development.

Praises—HUGE PRAISES for our trip to Spain! The main goals were (1) to find a 'home base' town that would meet our needs for ministry and (2) to find a Spanish sponsor who would be willing to extend their hand to us and sponsor our visa process. WE FOUND BOTH! And, best part, we reconnected with mission friends serving in Spain and are so very excited to look at a future of community and friendship and mutual support with them! Praise Jesus!!!

Pray for our visa process to move smoothly along and for the timing of all important issues to be perfect.

Pray for our financial needs—we are currently speaking to individuals and churches to secure our financial support and prayer partners for our new deployment. Please consider how you can help.

Pray for faithfulness and fruitfulness in our current work and transition time. We are training others, training ourselves, coaching and counseling others, and traveling to speak and teach.

“Run faster! Hit harder!” oh, not that kind of Coaching

Many of you have looked at us kind-of funny when we have shared that we are now certified coaches. Let me explain:

When we first arrived on the field, the title "missionary" seemed to translate to the local people as "pastor / counselor / psychologist". We had a line at our door - people who wanted and needed a listening ear, advice, and counseling on the deep issues that effected their lives. Of course, we tried to be what they needed, but the fact of the matter was that we were NOT counselors or pastors or psychologists... we came to the mission field as school teachers and lay people!

I continued to listen to people, cry with people, and try to help. I lay awake at night worrying about the conversations and situations that I had listened to. I had such a burden to help, but just didn't feel competent at what I was doing. What if I said the wrong thing? What if I gave bad advice? What if this person's situation didn't improve, but worsened because of my inability to do the right thing? It didn't take long for me to succumb to 'compassion fatigue' - I just couldn't live with the weight of not knowing what to say and how to help, yet people continued to come to the door and share their problems and tears with me. Eventually, I closed myself in and shut everyone else out in an effort of self-protection - not a good place to be as a missionary!

Billy attended an Introduction to Coaching course in 2011 and was blown away. He called me on the phone each night and told me about how wonderful it was and how it "was the answer to my problems". He was so convinced that we signed up for the full training and certification program that was offered in Spain that year. He was right! This was the training that I needed! I now had tools and skills to help others AND free myself from the incredible burden of 'playing God' and having all of the answers. I don't have to have all of the answers, because HE does!

We immediately began using coaching in a variety of ways. We each began coaching people in places all around the globe via Skype and telephone. We coached with people from France, the USA, Spain, and

Peru. We also had coaches for ourselves, so that we could be coached and tend to our own issues and personal growth. We continued our learning via a coaching course for Coaching Teams and Groups - learning which we put into use with our two teams in Peru (our Mission Society missionary team and our team of Peruvian national workers). Not only was coaching working in one-on-one situations, but it was empowering teams to grow and move forward in positive ways.

Coaching has become a natural part of our lives now. It is so honoring and validating of the other person because of the huge focus on listening and empowering. It has changed relationships around us and helped others to grow and become more of what God wants for them. It's really beautiful!

In our current role, we are coaching other missionaries in a variety of ways. For those preparing to serve, we are helping them navigate the transitions and find their way to the mission field. For those already in the field, we are coaching them through ministry growth and transition, through personal growth, and through visioning for the future. Sometimes, coaching looks like helping people see their current situation from another perspective and find a way through the tough times - the whole idea of 'can't see the forest for the trees' - coaching questions and a listening ear can usually clear up the fog and shine a light. For most people, it is all about asking them the right questions to spur their thinking forward. For others, it is about helping them to see their priorities and put action to their goals. It is beautiful to watch someone's dreams take wing and fly when their ideas are unlocked!

We are now certified trainers and we travel to other fields to train people in the coaching process and methods. It is a part of stewardship for me... I have been given a beautiful gift in the tools and methods of coaching, and I feel it is a part of my calling to share the gift with others and equip them with a tool that they can use to empower others and themselves.



DEAR BILLY AND LAURIE,

- I will pray for you.
- 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 \$ _____



Name (PLEASE PRINT) _____
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TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS MAY BE SENT TO:

The Mission Society
PO Box 922637
Norcross, GA 30010-2637 USA
DESIGNATE GIFTS: "DRUM—0321SUP"

God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply"

— Hudson Taylor

Drum's Contact Info

Laurie & Billy will be on
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assignment from January—
August 2013. You can
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We are so excited to have been given the gift of OFFICE SPACE!
Christ UMC has given us an office to use while we are in The
States! This will allow us to have a place to work, to focus on
ministry and support-raising, and a place to meet with YOU! We
will be available to offer Christian coaching and counseling
services and give back to our church family and community via
mission training and teaching! Drop by and visit us in the CUMC
offices: 4201 State Hwy. 6, College Station, TX or give us a call!
The coffee pot is ready... Hope to see you soon!!!

March Schedule

- Mar. 5 A&M UMC UMW group,
Bryan, Texas
- Mar. 17 Covenant UMC, Dothan,
Alabama
- Mar. 18 teach Perspectives course,
Dothan, Alabama
- Mar. 19 First Baptist, Chipley, Florida
- Mar. 20-23 emcee The President's
Gathering event, St.
Augustine, Florida
- Mar. 31 Easter! Hallelujah!!!!

The Mission Society 

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