

*The Drum
Family*

SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST AROUND THE GLOBE

January 2013

The Last, the Least, the Lost, and the Left-out

In working through our transition, we have been in debrief counseling, we have been in many meetings with our peers and mentors, and we have sought wise counsel. I can happily report to you that we are on the right track and headed forward. I'm not at all saying that this time of transition is easy - just saying that we are getting plans in order and things are shaping up nicely. And God is speaking to us LOUDLY!

When we served in Mexico, we were serving a population of people who were struggling. They were out of place, away from 'home', out of what was familiar and struggling with the unfamiliar. They were people who had left everything behind in search of something better, only to find that 'better' wasn't so great.

When we worked with college students, we found ourselves serving young people who, too, were away from home and not in familiar territory. They were struggling to find themselves, to find their place in the world, and to find out what God had for them in life. Life as a young college student isn't all fun... it is sometimes scary and unfamiliar. Sometimes, you just need someone to understand, to listen, and to lift you up and make you feel 'at home'.

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Ringling in the New Year Continued . . .

When we worked in Costa Rica, we worked with Nicaraguan refugees who had fled their homeland due to severe poverty and political strife, and warfare. They found themselves in a land that wasn't home, where no one understood them or their culture, and where the native people group hated them. Again, a group who had left behind everything, but their new home didn't seem like home at all.

In Peru, we served a struggling community of Quechua Wanca people. The world was growing up without them and becoming more and more modern, while they struggled to continue with their rural agrarian lifestyle. Some in the community were refugees from the massive terrorism movement in the 80s and 90s. They were forced from their homes and landed in unfamiliar territory, where they were not exactly welcomed, and still aren't to this day. They speak a different dialect of the Quechua language, they dance a little different, they cook a little different... and they are outsiders.

Over the past few months, Billy and I realized that we were never called to a map. We were never called to serve a particular country or place... God has been calling us to serve a particular people! He has been calling us to serve **the last, the least, the lost, and the left-out**. He has been calling us to them all along!



And in thinking through that, we also realized that WE have been among the last, the least, the lost, and the left-out for our entire time of missionary service! We left everything that was familiar. We are not 'home'. We are out of our culture, out of our comfort zone, out of our native language. We know what it is to be lonely, misunderstood, and left-out. We know how it feels to realize that you 'don't fit'. God called us **out** of our comfort zone and **took us to** people not so unlike ourselves, yet very unlike us at the same time.

In our new mission assignment, we will be living in Spain and working among immigrant and refugee populations from North Africa, namely people who have left Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and the Western Sahara. We are particularly excited about a work that we will undertake in partnership with missionaries who serve the Saharawi people! More to come on this later!!!

Pray for us in the coming weeks as we travel to Turkey to train other missionaries in coaching techniques, as well as participate in missionary leadership meetings with others from around the globe. Pray also for our trip to our new assignment location in Spain - we hope to come back in late February with lots of answers to our questions (and yours) regarding the exact location, housing, school for Sarah, etc. Most importantly, we hope to return with photos and information that we can share with you regarding the people we will serve... the last, the least, the lost, the left-out... and the LOVED by God! We can't wait for you to meet them!!!

“Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts.”

— *Mother Teresa*



Praises that we arrived home in Texas safely and we were able to spend Christmas and New Year holidays with family!

Pray for our transition back into USA culture. We've only been here a couple of weeks and we are struggling with re-entry. We mostly struggle with the pace of life and trying to figure out a routine that works for us.

Pray for our very busy schedule in January and February (see Schedule on page 4). Our schedule of travel and speaking and meetings does not lend itself to a 'routine' lifestyle (see prayer above).

Pray for our Peruvian friends and family that we left behind... we miss them! And pray for our future mission assignment and the people that God is calling us to - we know that He is working ahead of us .

Saying Goodbye in Peru

On many occasions, we have been told that goodbyes are harder when you love deeply. Just this morning, we received a note from a long-time missionary/pastor/counselor that said, "If the goodbye was hard, the being there was good.." Well, if these statements hold any truth, then our time in Peru must have been filled with lots of good and lots of love because the goodbyes were more than difficult. Our last week in Peru was filled with visits to the homes of many people with whom we had deep relationships. Saying our final goodbyes and hugging our last hugs were so tough. Peruvian culture is highly emotional and places great value on family relationships. There were lots of tears shed and lots of prayers said over us. We have come a long way from our first months in Peru several years ago!

It was impossible to forget the first time we met the Veli Family... we wandered into their home workshop several years ago. The Velis are artisans—they carve gourds. On that first day, we sat and chatted about life, about why we were living



in Peru, and just general 'getting to know you' things. The matriarch of the home introduced herself as Juanita. After several more visits to their home, as our relationship slowly grew, "Juanita" had a confession to make... "My name is not Juanita - it's Paulina. I didn't trust you, so I didn't tell you my real name. But now we are family. So, you need to know my name." The Velis adopted us into their Peruvian family and said that as long as we were without a mother and father and so far away from 'home', they would be our Peruvian parents.

On our last day with the Veli Family, Paulina cried and held me tight. She sobbed in my ear, "I'm so afraid for you to go so far away. I'm afraid of the people and the place that you are going to, but I know that you go with God. He'll take care of you, and we will always be praying for you and your safety."



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 \$ _____



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TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS MAY BE SENT TO:
The Mission Society
 PO Box 922637
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DESIGNATE GIFTS: "DRUM—0321SUP"

Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God.

- William Carey

Drum's Contact Info

Laurie & Billy will be on
homeland ministry
assignment from January—
May 2013. You can contact
them:

billy@drumsforchrist.org
979-985-5238
Cell #979-224-8571

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!!!

January and February Schedule

- Jan. 1-5 Family time
- Jan. 6 Trinity Lutheran, Navasota, TX
- Jan. 8-15 Atlanta - Mission Society office
meetings, speak at Roswell UMC
- Jan. 16-20 Little Rock, Arkansas -
mission training /education
- Jan. 27 Shiro Presbyterian, Shiro, TX
- Jan. 31—February 10 travel to Turkey -
mission training / meetings
- Feb. 10-16 Spain, vision and planning trip , visit
immigrant & refugee populations, strategy
with other CCWs
- Feb. 17 St. Paul's UMC, Bryan, TX

Laurie & Billy Drum

3907 Old Oaks Bryan, Texas 77802 USA

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

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