



The Drum Family

July 2013

Training new cross-cultural colleagues in India

I write this to you from my desk in my temporary home (for this month) in India. We are here serving as part of a training team with The Mission Society. We have been in India since July 1st, teaching and training missionaries in various courses: cross-cultural challenges, culture shock, discipleship training, storying, coaching skills, spiritual warfare, theology of mission, mission preparedness, prayer and spiritual discipline, Understanding Hindu and Muslim religion backgrounds, just to name a few! The entire training will conclude on July 22nd. The trainees are from a variety of cultural backgrounds - some from the USA, some from Canada, one from Brazil, and many are Indian nationals who are missionaries and pastors to other parts of their own country.



Training begins each day with a time of worship and bible study together. Lectures and activities take up the rest of the day. From 8 a.m. until 6:30 p.m., we train and study together. Billy and I spend time in the “off hours” counseling and coaching new missionaries and helping them debrief, process, and prepare for their terms of mission service.

Today, I write to you immediately following an intense hands-on study afternoon. Today was one of the training activities— one of our ‘community visit days’. The trainees are placed into groups and sent out into communities to practice using their cultural observation skills and to learn as much as they can about a community. They enter the community ‘cold’ and they seek out people who are willing to talk with them and help them learn. We emphasize the idea of entering a new culture as learners. So today, Billy and I led a group of trainees into a small village in rural India. We rode a public bus and got off the bus in the center of the village, literally stepping off the bus and landing directly in the yard of a 300+ year old Hindu temple—the town anchor. Imagine something straight out of an Indiana Jones movie. Hindu temples are almost always under a banyan tree, and this was no exception. The tree had managed to weave itself in and out of the temple as though they were one. The front of the temple was strung with garlands... offerings of flowers and leaves. Old men from the community sat on the steps and chatted. Across the village square sat a school, and many children immediately decided that the new visitors in town were MUCH more exciting than their studies. They yelled and motioned for us to come to the school to visit them, which we did. I don’t think I have ever in my life seen so many children jammed into one classroom! Many



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India...

ages and sizes, all packed into the room. So many that there were not enough desks and at least a third of them were sitting on the floor. There was no teacher to be found, only some older boys (maybe 10 or 11 years old?) who seemed to be the ones in control of the situation. When someone would act in a way that they deemed inappropriate, the older boys would smack them with a switch from the tree outside. No one seemed to be offended... this seemed the norm for this group. The extent of English knowledge was a mere "Hello. How are you? My name is..." which was followed by loads of giggles when they exhausted their few words. Our translator spoke to them in Kanada (a language of the area). We soon said our goodbyes to the school children and we moved on into the town.

We visited another temple just down the street. This temple was built to another Hindu god (Hindus have MANY gods). An elderly couple sat outside the temple as caretakers. I sat and had a short conversation (through my translator) with the old woman and she told me that she is more than 80 years old. I asked her about children, and she said she never had any. She



told me that the man is her husband, and I asked how long they had been together. She just belly laughed at me and said that there was no way to remember that! It was a very long time! She was so

precious! She reminded me of the elderly ladies in the ministry in Peru and she made me a little homesick for my "other home"... I really miss my little old ladies in Patarcocha!

We walked up and down several streets in this village, meeting people as they sat outside their homes or as they passed us and started conversations. A Muslim man came to meet us in the street and brought his family out to see us. He was very open and talkative and we enjoyed his company for awhile. A lovely woman came out to meet us and she took us into her garden to see all that she is growing. She then showed us her goats and her fruit trees. She shared several fruits with us before we moved on. We came upon three elders sitting on a step and we asked a few questions. We found out that they are the town elders—a kind of tribal city council. One of them decided to take us around the village and show us life there. He spent almost 2 hours with us. He was particularly drawn to Billy and they walked and talked and laughed like old friends.

It was a fantastic day. We learned so much, the trainees learned so much, and India has a place in our hearts forever because of the kindness showed to us in this village through its people.



~Laurie & Billy

"If you obey my teaching, you are truly my disciples." ~John 8:31

Prayers and praise... Laurie's grandmother died this week. This is a joyous time in that she has been in very poor health for years and she has been ready to go to Heaven for a long time. But, at the same time, she kept hanging on. Every time we left Texas, we left with the idea that it would probably be the last time we would see Gama... this time, we were right. It isn't easy to be on the other side of the world when these things happen. We would like to be with our family. We tried to go home early, but flights were full and any existing seats costs \$thousands\$. Please pray for our family as we both mourn and celebrate the life of Laurie's Gama.

Praises for our time in India, teaching and training missionaries from India, the United States, Canada, and Brazil! It was a very fruitful time and we look forward to continued relationships with these cross-cultural witnesses as they go out and serve in the world.

Pray for our move! We will move to Spain in mid-August. We will stay with another couple who are serving there until we find a house. Pray for the Spaniards who are already helping us get housing, find a car to use, and who are ready to meet us and welcome us. It is so nice to know that someone goes before us and is willing to help!

Pray for our financial needs—we continue to be about \$1,800/month lower than we would like to be in our ministry account. We received word that one of our supporting churches had to drop missionary support due to a severe shortage in their church budget this year, as well as a few good supporters who have had financial status changes. Pray that we can make up shortfalls in the account before we go back out on assignment. Please consider how you can help.

Pray for our last couple of weeks Stateside. We will only have a short time back in the States (between India and Spain). Pray that we have sweet goodbyes and that we finish our time there well. Pray for our boys as we again leave the country and become a family separated by an ocean and many miles. Pray for our church family as we say our last words to them and celebrate our commissioning (August 4th).

YOU ARE INVITED! Please come celebrate our commissioning!

Come celebrate with us! Please come! Two final opportunities to visit with the Drums:

Sharing the Mission : A Morning with The Drums

Want to hear more about the mission in Peru? Want to hear about the new mission in Spain to immigrant peoples? Want to share in a time of stories and videos and photos and testimonies from the mission field? Then DON'T MISS SUNDAY MORNING!!!! Come for coffee and lots of great stories.

August 4th, 2013

Two times... 9:30 a.m. OR 11:00 a.m.

Christ United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall - Annex Building
4201 S. Hwy. 6
College Station, Texas 77845



Commissioning Service

Come share in a time of commissioning for our new mission assignment, pray for us and for the people we go to serve, and come fellowship together. We are leaving for Spain very soon! We would love to share one last evening with you! All are welcome! We are having this service in the afternoon so that our friends and supporters from other churches and other areas can all come and participate... please come pray with us, commission us, and say goodbye. This will be our last Sunday in the USA.

August 4th, 2013

5:00 p.m.

Christ United Methodist Church
Sanctuary
4201 S. Hwy. 6
College Station, Texas 77845



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) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Home Church _____
Email Address: _____

TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS MAY BE SENT TO:
The Mission Society
PO Box 922637
Norcross, GA 30010-2637 USA
DESIGNATE GIFTS: "DRUM-0321SUP"



Laurie & Billy Drum
3907 Old Oaks Bryan, Texas 77802 USA
E-mail: billy@drumsforchrist.org
laurie@drumsforchrist.org

PRESRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
BRYAN TX
PERMIT #102



Luke 5:12b "...they left everything and followed him."

Drum's Contact Info

Laurie & Billy will be leaving
for Spain in mid-August. You
can continue to contact them:
billy@drumsforchrist.org
Ph # 979-985-5238 (Texas
phone that will route to Spain)

