



# The Drum Family

June 2013

## Stress? What stress? Missionaries don't have stress, do they?

I had to laugh, which probably isn't very nice when done in the face of the Urgent Care doctor, but really, I just couldn't stop myself. I had just been diagnosed with shingles and she was telling me all about the virus and why it happens and what it is. She then proceeded to tell me that it can be linked to stress and she asked if I had been under any pressure or extra stresses lately. "Well, I guess you could say that", I said, trying to keep myself together. Then she proceeds with, "I can write you a note for your employer. You should take it in and tell them that you shouldn't work for a couple of weeks. No stress." That's when I had to laugh. Really? Who do you want me to turn the note in to— God Himself? I already set my own hours and my own schedule, so I don't know what else I can do. And seriously, trying to tell *me* to be calm and sit still and don't work or do anything for a couple of weeks... could there be anything more stressful in this world for me than that?! I quickly got over the laughing part and a tear escaped and rolled down my cheek.



Just two days prior, we had been in the Emergency Room twice with Sarah. She had an insect bite that quickly got infected and became a wildfire of raging staph going up her arm. After the first two rounds of different antibiotics did nothing to stop it, she was put on two high-powered IV antibiotics and we were told that we were now fighting MRSA and trying to keep it from reaching her lymph nodes in her armpit. Thankfully, this did the trick and we had a happy, healthy kid at the end of the day. But nine-year-old kids in the hospital tend to cause parents just a little stress. Not to mention the fact that it all happened while we were supposed to be speaking to 200+ supporters down the street. Canceling speaking engagements is also a little stressful.

I managed to curb a little of my stressful activities during the next week. Billy did his best to keep me at the house and not doing too much in the way of work. I dutifully took the antiviral medications and we were able to keep the virus from spreading further than it already had. Within 10 days, I was feeling great and more-or-less back to normal.

As to the other stressors of being in transition and the work that we do... we finally have had some breakthroughs!!!

- After 3½ months of research and phone calls and emails to try to get

View from the city wall in  
Antequera, Spain





## Stress...

our criminal background clearance from Peru, we finally found a possible way to go through the Peruvian Consulate in Houston. A rush trip to Houston, a crazy hectic day with a WONDERFUL Peruvian worker there, and LOTS of stress later, we were able to send official legalized documents to Peru via UPS requesting clearance from the National Police. Those papers have now been processed and are ready for submission to the embassy!

- After 3½ months of trying to get the official invitation letters from Spain, they have finally cleared and arrived!
- To send documents to Austin to be legalized by the Secretary of State takes 10 days, but we found out that we can do it in person in 30 minutes... so off we went to Austin to hand-carry our papers to the Capital. Two hours to drive there, 10 minutes to legalize them, and two hours to drive home was time well-invested!!!
- After Round 2 of getting all other official documents together and notarized and ready, they went to the Official Translator in New York. They arrived by plane from New York to here, translated and legalized and certified and ready to go!

The last several months of stress and frustration has finally seen a huge break in the dam and it is all coming down to these next few days. Our papers will be presented to the Spanish Embassy for the official visa request today (Wednesday June 19)!!! Woo Hoo!!! That will be a HUGE stress reliever! I can't wait to celebrate!

## Other news:

Sarah finished school in Texas with fantastic grades and lots of friends. She received awards for several things: Academic Excellence in Reading, All As for the school year, and her favorite - The Laffy Taffy Award for always having such a great time learning. She also placed First in the 50 yard dash, First in Tug-of-war, and Third in chicken-throwing (don't ask... crazy Texans!). The last day of school was tough for her, as she realized that she was saying yet another goodbye to friends that she may never see again. Lots of tears.

She spent a week with Billy's mom on Lake Fork and caught many fish. She even participated in a kid's fishing tournament held by the State Parks and Wildlife Dept. and the county where Billy's mom lives. Big fun!

She returned from Texas Christian Horse Camp. We were blessed to receive a scholarship for her to attend a week of camp, bible study, and horsemanship. She had a great week of riding horses and meeting new friends. She even earned the Best Horsemanship Award. So thankful for the anonymous soul who donated to the camp for her!!!



We are doing great... getting ready to head to India for training (see page 3) and getting excited about packing and heading to Spain for our new assignment!!!

~Laurie & Billy

“Faith comes through God's Word and through praise.

Faith grows as you praise the Lord.”

~Wesley Duewel

**Praises** for our visa process! Finally, it seems that the ‘dam finally broke’ and all of the paperwork started moving at once! As we speak, our official paperwork is being handed off to the Spanish Embassy in Houston!!! We hope this means that we will be on our way to Spain by mid-August!!! Please continue to pray that all moves smoothly and efficiently and visas are approved!

**Praises** for our time of transition and grief. That aspect of this time also seems to have come to a close and we feel like we are healing and becoming somewhat whole again. We thank God for great friends who surrounded us, for great prayer warriors who prayed for us, and for a great counselor who listened and comforted us.

**Pray** for our financial needs—we continue to be about \$1,500/month lower than we would like to be in our ministry account. We also received word that one of our supporting churches had to drop missionary support due to a severe shortage in their church budget this year. Pray that we can make up shortfalls and give ourselves a little extra reassurance in the account before we go back out on assignment. Please consider how you can help.

**Praises** for health! Both Sarah and Laurie are healed and doing well after a rough run a couple of weeks ago! Also **praises** that we were able to have all three kids together for Father's Day and spend a great weekend together. Billy hasn't had all three kids together for Father's Day in several years, so it was a big day, for sure!



# India and Training with The H.T. and Alice Maclin Training Institute



On July 1st, we will board a plane in Houston for the LONG trip to India. Our mission - to serve as trainers and coaches / counselors for the H.T. and Alice Maclin Training Institute. The H.T. and Alice Maclin Training Institute is a residential training program that lasts for almost three weeks and takes place in a cross-cultural setting. During training, new cross-cultural workers are taught the fundamentals of mission preparation including those related to cultural, ministerial, spiritual, personal, and practical issues. In the past, this training was held for 4 years in Brazil and two years in Peru. This year, in India, we will be helping to train and support several new cross-cultural workers from The Mission Society who will be going out to places all over the globe, as well as training many Indian national workers as they prepare to go deeper in service to their own country and people groups.

During this time in India, we will be helping to coach new cross-cultural workers through the issues of partnership development, fundraising, preparation and training, personal development, and transition issues. Our teaching and training focus will be on using the coaching model, as well as serving as support for the other trainers in whatever they may

need for us to jump in and help teach. Sarah travels with us, too. She will take part in a program specially designed by The Mission Society for children of cross-cultural workers to help them with cultural issues, transition, and being Third Culture Kids.

One of the interesting parts of traveling to other places to work with other CCWs and serve alongside other cultures is the fact that we must learn as much as possible beforehand so we can enter well and not offend others as soon as we step off the plane! So we have been learning about appropriate dress and body language and customs for the past few weeks in preparation for our time in India. We have both had to make some adjustments to our clothing and packing plans, which has been interesting. In India, curves must be covered, the less skin showing the better, nothing remotely tight fitting or revealing, no sleeveless / strapless / capri pants / shorts... try shopping for clothing that covers everything and is somewhat cool when you live in Texas in the middle of the summer! Look around when you shop this week... there seems to be A LOT of sleeveless / short / strapless / barely there / tight clothing on the racks right now! All of the things that I own that cover up everything and are super modest are made of alpaca and meant to be worn on the slopes of the Andes! I don't think that will work in India!

Please pray for our service in India next month. Pray for the new cross-cultural witnesses and our Indian national brothers and sisters as they train and learn more about each other and about the world that we serve.

**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  
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Galatians 6:9 *And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*

## Drum's Contact Info

Laurie & Billy will be on  
homeland ministry  
assignment from January—  
August 2013. You can  
contact them:  
[billy@drumsforchrist.org](mailto:billy@drumsforchrist.org)  
979-985-5238  
Cell #979-224-8571

## Thank you!!!

Special thanks to all who have sent  
special funds to help the Kuyay Talpuy  
program continue in Peru!!!! Here is  
the most recent photo of the children  
and mothers in the program!

## No longer in the CUMC office...

We are no longer in the Christ UMC office that we have enjoyed for these past few months. Because of our travel and training schedule for the rest of our time stateside, we have bid farewell to the CUMC building and moved our things out to give them their space back. Thank you, CUMC staff, for giving us a home-away-from-home during our time in Texas!!! We love you!!!!

