



September
October
2017

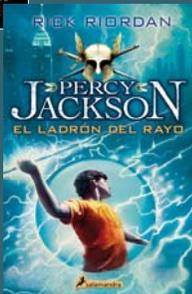
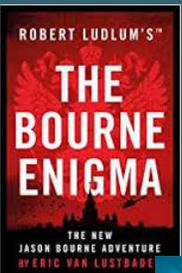
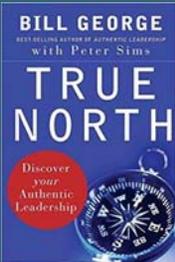
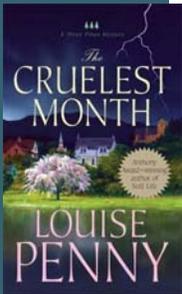
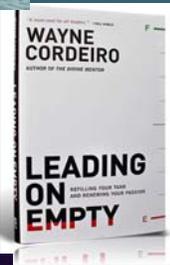
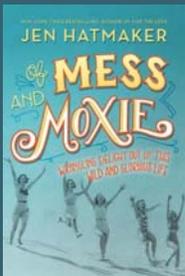
Monthly
News and Updates
for Partners of
The Drum Family

Refuge from the Storm

Take refuge in a good book!

Thought you might want a good book suggestion or two while you

weather the storms of life. These are our current reads:



Sarah's current read



this issue

- Refuge from the Storm of Life and Work **P.1**
- Finding refuge in a book **P.1**
- Refuge from Hurricanes **P.3**
- YOU are a refuge for others!
- Partner with us and give refuge to others **P.4**

A Note of Thanks to YOU

While we were in Texas during July and part of August, we were able to visit with many of you and share some of the stories from our work. You heard stories of work we do with the local church in Spain, within our community, with refugees, and with other workers around the world. Our hearts were warmed by conversations we had with you and by the response you had to our work in hospitality, care and counseling.

Just yesterday, we received the following note and we were asked specifically to please share it with you, our partners and the heroes of this work:

Dear Friends of Laurie and Billy,

Greetings from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. My name is Tabitha Cox. My husband, Trent and I just spent 6 weeks at Billy and Laurie Drum's house in Antequera, while they traipsed around Texas visiting as many of you as they could. While there, I felt the urge to write you, their prayer and financial supporters, to say "thank you" for your support of the Drums and their incredibly multi-faceted ministry both in and out of Spain. Between refugee work in Greece, church work in Antequera, mentoring and coaching missionaries all over Europe and the Middle East, as well as new missionaries about to leave for the field, they pour into countless lives and impact the nations for Christ in unimaginable ways. And this year, we became one of those lives.

Trent and Billy grew up together in a small town in Texas, but as usually happens, once kids leave home for college and lives take different paths, they tend to lose touch. Fast-forward a "good number" of years and, much to the surprise of any Caddo Mills resident I assure you, both Trent Cox and Billy Drum end up on the mission field – one in Ethiopia and one in Peru. Yet given that they were with different organizations on different fields and living quite remote, without normal telecommunications, they still did not have contact with each other.

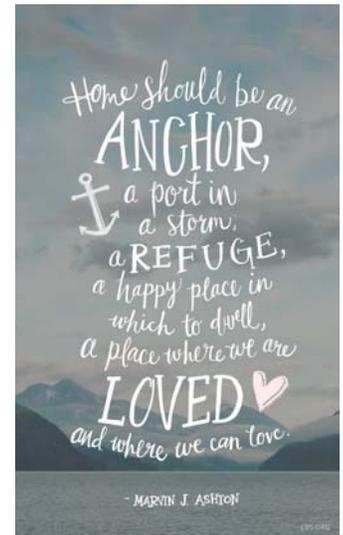
Well, that changed last fall when Billy reached out to us with a short message during a stressful time of political unrest here in Ethiopia, offering prayers and a place to stay should we need a break. That one-week in October shaped this whole last summer as Trent decided to take a mini-sabbatical with Billy coaching him through the preparation and even joining him for the first 3 weeks of walking El Camino de Santiago. Not that Billy was needing any more work, not that he didn't have anything to do for 3 weeks before leaving Spain for the States, but simply because

that's what they do...help where they can. It doesn't matter if you're with another organization, or on another continent, Billy and Laurie serve everyone selflessly and without prejudice.

Not only that, but they also offered for us to come and stay in their house for the second half of the sabbatical. They offered their home as a place of rest and refuge. Now I don't know about you, but there aren't too many people who would open up their home to a family of five, but they did. And they did so lovingly and generously.

So again, I want to say "thank you." By loving and supporting the Drums, you have done the same for us. You won't know in this life time how many lives you've touched and how many people you've blessed through your partnership with this fine family: Peruvians, Spaniards, Refugees, and even other missionaries. So please accept the gratitude of just one of the many beneficiaries. God bless you. Your gifts are surely a sweet smelling offering to the Lord.

Sincerely,
Tabitha and Trent Cox



"Your home should be an open place of refuge to family, neighbors, and community. Your home is an embassy of the King. Your home is one of your best opportunities to reach people for Christ. So many people are longing for a place where they are loved and encouraged. Your home can be that place."

~Your Home is an Embassy

Friends, we too would like to thank you again and again and again for the faithfulness you have shown to this ministry. Many of you have been supporting us with your prayers and financial gifts since the very beginning. Some of you have joined our team along the way. And some of you are brand new teammates. It takes all of us to do this work around the globe, and we are so honored to be doing it with YOU!

We continue to have other workers and families contact us and ask for a time to come to our home in Spain and receive care and counseling and rest—to take refuge from the storm of life and find warmth and safety and respite. These are people who work in places like the Middle East, East Asia, and other tough areas that we cannot name for security reasons. Because of your generous support and our hands-on hospitality and counseling, we are able to offer healing and renewal that keeps people in the field. Thank you—we thank you, and the people we care for thank you.

PS... not only did Trent and Tabby (Ethiopia) stay in our home and receive respite and retreat this summer while we were away, but our pastor and his family also spent time in our home and were able to have people over to visit and share fellowship and fun times in a different setting. It was fun to return home and hear stories from the congregation about how much fun they had barbequing and sitting on our patio, playing with the dogs, and enjoying our place with our pastor as host. Our home was definitely well-used this summer and we are so happy to have been able to share it with others. I love that our home is a place of safety and rest and community!



This Month's Prayer Requests

WE ARE PRAYING FOR YOU! Please know that we are praying for Texas and Florida and for all of our friends and family who are touched by the floods and storms of the past few weeks. Our friends here in Spain are also praying for you and asking about your welfare. You are in our hearts!!!

Please pray for us as we transition back to Spain and life here. Special prayers for our living situation... we will need to find a new house and move soon. Our current home no longer suits us and our work - our water well is almost dry and we only have water 2 days out of each week. It's hard to live like that, and even harder to host people who come to stay with us! Best case scenario would be that we can find a permanent home (with water and sufficient space!) and get out of rental situations. Plan B would be to find another rent house.

Pray for Sarah as she begins her 3rd year of ESO (secondary school) - the equivalent of 9th grade in the States. She is excited and nervous about this year. Pray for her friendships and her teachers and her course load. This is notoriously a tough year of school in Spain.

Hospitality, Caring, and Hurricanes

We returned to Spain from our time in Texas with bittersweet emotions... so happy to get back to Spain and back to our work and our friends and family here, but also it is always tough to leave friends and family behind in Texas and say 'adios' until the next time we get to come Stateside.

We left on a sunshiny day and a small tropical storm was floating around in the Gulf. Just three days later, Category 4 Hurricane Harvey began his assault on our beloved homeland. We have amazed and been deeply saddened by the news reports that continue to scroll across our news feed.

One of our sons (Ryan), lived in Corpus Christi and evacuated as Harvey upgraded to a Category 3. Both he and his girlfriend Sara are staying in my mother's home for now. On Wednesday (before Harvey hit), they had been given 30 days notice that their apartment building had been sold and they were being evicted as the new owners take over the building. Now, evacuated and with no apartment to return to, they are permanently seeking a new life and living space in College Station. This is a time of upheaval, transition, and grief for them as they leave the place that has been home for many years (10 years for Ryan, and a lifetime for Sara).

Miles and Hattie and our yet-unborn granddaughter Lily ♥ (news flash!!!) live in the Montgomery area. Their apartment building's bottom floor was reached by an over-full Lake Conroe, but they did not have to evacuate. They have, however, lost work hours due to being cut off from road travel—work hours that this young couple CANNOT afford to lose! It takes every penny to pay the rent and doctors and buy groceries. There is not enough each month, and there certainly isn't any extra. This is a time of great stress for them.

In the midst of all of this, it is so hard to be so far from Texas and our loved ones. As care and counselor people, it is hard not to be there to listen to stories and help people navigate their feelings and grief and all that comes during these times. As hospitality people, it is hard not to be there, opening our doors to others and doing all that we can to feed people, provide for people, and care for those who need a safe place to land and regroup and recover. This is what we DO! And it's so hard to not physically be THERE to DO IT!!! *silently screaming*



It is, however, warming our hearts to see so many of our friends and neighbors rising to the occasion and doing just that... serving and loving and caring for their neighbors. Some of YOU, our partners (we already knew you were the best!), have been in the big fat middle of this crisis. You have gone down to affected areas and physically rescued people. You have literally opened your doors and given up bedrooms and seats at your dinner table. You have made your homes and businesses places of hospitality and giving. You have taken donations of goods to distribution centers. You have personally gone out to serve the rescuers and those in staging areas. YOU ARE AWESOME! We knew you were!

And the fact that you are serving makes us both proud and makes us feel, in some way, connected to our greater Texas family.

Your heart should be touched to know that your Spain friends are concerned for Texas and Florida. News reports of the storms and devastation have gone international and our friends are watching. We have had many of our Spanish friends contact us and ask about you. Everyone here knows that we are Texans—we don't even remotely hide it! We wear our Texas heritage like a banner! Actually, it is a literal banner... we have a Texas flag hanging on the front porch of our home in Spain! Several times each day, friends have sent us texts to check on our mothers and our families. Those who have met some of you when you have come to visit us in Spain have asked about you by name. They have seen photos of flooded churches and homes and they want to know that 'our people' are okay. In a very real sense, they consider you brothers and sisters, family in Christ. Last Sunday during church, there was a special time of prayer for Texas and Florida and some of you were mentioned specifically by city and by name. You are being prayed for and loved. Please know that!



Billy loves fishing in Texas! (August 2017)

Billy has a new role!

Over the summer, Billy was asked to serve in a new role in TMS Global. He is now Team Leader for the TMS Member Care Team.

The TMS Member Care Team seeks to encourage and build up our cross-cultural workers (ccws) via on-going preparation, equipping, and empowerment for healthy, fruitful, and sustainable life in the field. We care for the physical, emotional, mental, social, and spiritual needs of TMS ccws. The TMS Member Care Team goal is to develop and sustain resilient people who not only survive, but who thrive in the field.

At present, Billy is in the process of building the team and hashing out the necessary protocols and expectations for the team to launch well and meet the needs of the TMS ccws and their families. The team will officially launch in it's new form in mid-September.

This does NOT change anything that Billy was already doing. He will continue to work with local leadership development and discipleship in Spain, as well as the care and counseling work that he has been doing for several years.

TMS Global
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- Sharing the Love of Christ with the least, the lost, and the left out... immigrants, displaced peoples, the lonely, the abandoned, those who need a friend.
- Nurturing and developing people to be healthy spiritually, physically, emotionally, and relationally - because "care" is not just an emotional feeling word, "care" is a verb - an action. That's who we are... the care-givers!

Become a Partner! We would love to have you on our team!



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España

Contact The Drums:
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USA ph# 979-985-5238
(rings through
to Spain)

Whatsapp: #34
652 144 783



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.



Name (PLEASE PRINT) _____
Address: _____
City: _____ St . _____ Zip _____
Phone: _____ Home Church: _____
Email Address: _____

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