





La Luz de Cristo para Perú

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The Upper Room

I was recently reading a commentary on the last 24 hours of Christ as he walked this earth, and I was struck by the chapter on the "upper room". Beginning in Luke 22:7, Jesus tells two of his disciples to follow a man carrying a pitcher of water to a house. The owner of this house will give them access to the "upper room" where many thing will occur during the evening… Jesus will take a last opportunity to teach and share and build relationships with the disciples, he will eventually wash the feet of the disciples in this room, and they will partake of their last supper together. The commentary and author make a point of saying that, given the fact that Jesus has caused quite a stir in the city at this point and that he is being sought on criminal charges, the willingness of the owner of this house to give the disciples and Jesus access to the upper room is quite a sacrifice on the owner's part. If found out, the owner could be in some trouble, too. And yet, the room was given and the events took place.

This really struck me. I see so many parallels between this part of the story and the sacrifices of Mama Elva and Alfonso. Elva and Alfonso live in Patarcocha and are dear friends of the Kuyay Talpuy ministry occurring there. But the similarities to the upper room story are striking…

When our students needed a place to eat lunches each day, Mama Elva opened up her kitchen and a room in her home. She began to cook for 20 children each day, as well as the abandoned elderly in the community whom she feeds daily.

When we were seeking a place to house two mission interns last summer, Elva and Alfonso gave the girls a room in their home and fed them daily. And again last month when we hosted 7 young missionaries for a month, Elva and Alfonso gave up two rooms in their home and rearranged their lives to host them.

When the ministry has needed anything, Mama Elva and Alfonso have been there… to cook and feed missionaries and visiting teams, to care for our students, to help our teachers, to stand up to the authorities on our behalf when the persecution was great and we were so oppressed… Elva and Alfonso are always ready to provide.

And it hasn't always been easy for them. Providing and giving has been a true sacrifice for them, both physically and emotionally. They have at times suffered persecution from their neighbors for simply being friends with us. They have suffered through rumors and lies that the "gringos" pay them great sums of money and that they are getting rich by helping the ministry. It has been tough, yet they continue to give.

The most striking gift, and the most striking similarity to the upper room story came in the past couple of months. We were forced to move out of the community building that we had been using as a ministry base, and our team was forced to decide where to move and how to continue. But Alfonso came to us and said, "Why are you worried about this? You know that our house is your house. We give it to God to be used for Him. Move here, ***into our upper rooms***. We have two upper rooms. You can hold all of your classes here, you can hold church here on Sundays, you can have youth group here every afternoon and tutoring times. Move here and stop worrying. This is God's house." And with that, they gave us the entire upper floor of their adobe home.

I don't know exactly what Jesus' upper room looked like, but ours is drafty with crude adobe walls with exposed wooden rafters and crude wooden slats for a floor. And it is a sacred gift, given by precious new believers who live to sacrifice for Him.



Laurie & Mama Elva →

What happened to Kenny?
And who is the new kid?







Every school year brings change… sometimes teachers change, classes change, policies change, etc. And almost always, there is a turnover and the students change for one reason or another. It's the same in Perú.

Our new school year began in March. In the Kuyay Talpuy programs, we have some return students who are with us for another year of classes, we have some who graduated and only come to us in the afternoons for tutoring, some have moved away, and others have stayed. And some disappeared… This is the case with Kenny.

Kenny was one of our 6th grade students in Tinyari. Tallest in his class, extremely bright, polite, and a smile that would melt even the toughest of hearts, Kenny was a standout in the classroom. We knew that he would graduate in December and we prayed that he would go on to the secondary school system nearby. So when we returned, we asked, "Where's Kenny?" We wanted to keep in touch with him and go visit him in his new school. But the answer was not what we wanted to hear. "Kenny has gone to the jungle to work on a plantation." Heartbroken, we listened to the rest of the story. Kenny had been living in Tinyari with his grandmother. His parents had been working on the plantation in the jungle for several years. But they work so far back in the jungle that putting their children in school was impossible, so Kenny lived with his grandmother so he could attend school. But now, Kenny is "old enough" and has been "properly educated", so they called him to the jungle to begin working and helping to earn money for the family. Kenny's formal education is over. Billy wept—this had been his star student. The silver lining? Kenny accepted Christ, loved to study the Bible, and is somewhere out there carrying that knowledge and love in his heart.

This week brought us a new student, but under grossly more difficult circumstances. Juan Carlos is 10 years old. He has only the clothes he is wearing. He is starving. He is very timid and doesn't trust anyone. He has been on the street until recently. His mother remarried and, as is so often the custom here, the new husband does not recognize the existence of children who are not "his". So he beat Juan Carlos daily until his mother finally took him to an orphanage and left him as "abandoned". But the orphanage found out that he wasn't truly an orphan (because he had a living parent), so they kicked him out to go back to his house. Instead, he lived on the streets for awhile, until he made his way to Tinyari to live with a grandmother. But, Grandmother can't take care of him because of her own economic issues. He is living in her home, but she can't feed him or clothe him. This morning, he drank water boiled with nettle because that was all she had. His teacher, Miss Leni, fed him this morning and is taking him home to her house tonight to help him with his lessons and feed him dinner. The Kuyay Talpuy staff is making sure that he comes to our lunch program in the afternoons so he can be fed a hot lunch, he can come to our youth program in the afternoon, and he can receive tutoring. Darwin, our director, will be following up with his grandmother and trying to get more information about how we can come alongside her and Juan Carlos… they need all the love we can give them right now.

Sometimes, our job is not easy or pretty or fun. Sometimes it is painful and complicated and culturally difficult. But we know that in sharing the love of Christ with our students and their families, lives can (and will) be transformed. Please pray for Kenny, wherever he is right now. And please pray for transformation in the life of little Juan Carlos as we begin to love him.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO...

I was reading in my novel yesterday and the main character was surprised to find out that a friend of hers in Bible study hadn't ever had a birthday party or a birthday cake or a birthday present. This didn't surprise me, because such is the life we live here. But it made me wonder if you know the reality of the people whom we serve… have we given you the big picture?

Do you know someone who:

- Hasn't ever had a birthday party or a birthday present or a birthday cake?
- Is the first person in their family tree to learn to read?
- Hasn't ever received a Christmas gift or seen a Christmas tree?
- Hasn't ever had a bed to sleep in?
- Doesn't have indoor plumbing, or plumbing of any sort, for that matter?
- Hasn't ever owned a refrigerator or an oven or a dishwasher?
- Hasn't ever seen a Bible or heard of Jesus Christ?

This entire list applies to the vast majority of the people with which we work in the communities of Iscos, Patarcocha, and Tinyari. Does this list make someone "civilized"? No, not by a long shot! We serve some of the most genuine, happy, loving people I have ever been around in my entire life. They know how to show love and celebrate life without material goods… they don't buy happiness and they don't believe that "stuff" or money will bring them joy. They care deeply and they show their affection via physical touch and laughter and via spending time with others.

Now, out of the list above, many of those things are also true of some people in your own community in the USA. When I taught school, I knew many students who didn't have indoor plumbing or a bed to sleep in, who hadn't ever had a birthday present, and whose parents and grandparents couldn't read. These people ARE in your community… have you met them? Can you reach out to them? Are you ready to spend time with them and build relationships with them? Maybe you will be the one to share Christ with them and give them their first look a at a Bible.



Praises for transformation! We are so excited by how much the communities and people are changing due to the relationships being built in the Kuyay programs. Go God!!!

Pray for Kenny and Juan Carlos and all the other children who fall through the cultural cracks and lead difficult lives. Pray that they learn about the love of Christ and find hope in Him.

Pray for the elections this weekend in Peru.

Prayers for the Kuyay Talpuy programs in Iscos, Patarcocha and Tinyari. Pray for the families, students, and the communities as they learn and grow in Christ.

Pray for our Mission Society Peru team (the Ivey family, the McEuen family, the Drum family, the Reeves family and mission intern Theresa) as we work to minister to the people of Peru. **Pray** for the Goshorn family and Louise Reimer as they prepare to become a part of the Mission Society Peru team.

Pray for our boys (Ryan and Miles) as they continue to live in the USA. Pray for them to grow in faith and for God to protect them and guide them through their 20s.

Pray for continued growth in our Kuyay Talpuy team… the team is going deeper every day and growing stronger in their faith and in their discipling abilities. Pray for strength and guidance and unity for them as they work to share Christ's love in Peru.

The Drums | HOW TO CONTACT US

MAILING ADDRESS: LAURIE & BILLY DRUM...JR. SAN JOSE 278...URB. SAN CARLOS...HUANCAYO, PERU
TELEPHONE: 979.985.5268 (TEXAS PHONE NUMBER—RINGS IN PERU)
EMAIL: BILLY@DRUMSFORCHRIST.ORG OR LAURIE@DRUMSFORCHRIST.ORG
NEWSLETTER: VISIT THE WEBSITE AT WWW.DRUMSFORCHRIST.ORG AND CLICK "NEWSLETTERS"
SUPPORT US: USE THE FORM BELOW, OR GO TO http://www.themissionsociety.org/people/drum

DEAR BILLY AND LAURIE,

☐ I will pray for you. Please send me your newsletter by e-mail: _____

☐ 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 $ _____

☐ I would like to sponsor a child's education for $30/mo. ($360/year). (Please write Special Project on your check)

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The World Race came to Peru in March, and more specifically, to Patarcocha and Iscos! World Race is a missional journey… 11 countries in 11 months. The team that we hosted consisted of 7 young adults in their 20s. These seven left the USA in January is only a full backpack and a desire to know more about God, about His mission in the world, and about how they might fit into that mission. They spend a month in each country, working alongside ministries and missionaries who spend their lives full-time for the Kingdom. Before coming to Peru, our team had spent a month in the Dominican Republic and a month in Ecuador.

While in Peru, the World Race team lived in Mama Elva's house in Patarcocha. She cooked their meals and hosted them. During the day, they worked in the Kuyay Talpuy programs - teaching children, prayer walking in the community, doing home visits and community relationship building, teaching bible studies to parents in our program, working with youth groups in the afternoons, and teaching English as a community outreach. They even did a small construction project to help with Mama Elva's house and helped community members harvest their crops.

One of the World Race team members had this to say about her transformation while she served here:

It's no secret that I signed up for the World Race expecting change. Desiring it. Craving it. But sometimes, change comes in unexpected ways. I knew when I left for the Race that I would be giving things up. A steady job. Comforts. Connectedness to the people and places that I love. But somewhere in the last month, up in the mountains of Peru, isolated from anything remotely familiar, I realized something: I have lost it all. Paul puts it this way: "Whatever was once to my profit, I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus, for whose sake I have lost all things." (Philippians 3:7). Here's the simple truth: whatever was once for my profit, even the very good things of life, are somehow now worthless compared to knowing Christ. They just won't satisfy.

SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH THE PEOPLE OF PERU.

WWW.DRUMSFORCHRIST.ORG | 979.985.5268

The World Race team…



Laurie & Billy Drum

3907 Old Oaks Bryan, Texas 77802 USA

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

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