April / May 2022

Kingdom Mosaics from Spain

Monthly News
And Updates for
Partners of
The Drum Family

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Help Needed! Family Vacation spot that won't cost us our life savings

Our family has been "split" for 15 years, living on two different continents and two very separate lives. When we see each other, it is always us coming to the USA and seeing the boys one at a time because of distance and work schedules. Our boys are now in their thirties, Sarah is 18, we have a 4 year old granddaughter, and we would really like to take a family vacation together!

We have a window during the beginning of August that would work, but unfortunately that is also high summer vacation season in the USA and everything is SUPER expensive or already booked.

So, this is our call for help.

We need a location—cheap! Any ideas? Do you know of some place that would be available in early August, that isn't hotter than Hades in August, and that won't cost us the $8-10,000 that everything else is going to cost for a family of 6 adults and 1 kiddo??? Somewhere that would be fun for people who range from 50+ to 30s to 18 to 4 years old??? (Basically, I just asked for magic and Disney World, didn't I? Haha!)

Let us know if you have ideas! Contact Billy at billy@drumsforchrist.org



Ukrainian refugees and how we're helping

We had hoped that we would never have to see Day 60 of this war. We had hoped that peace and reason would prevail and that this would all end sooner rather than later. Instead, it just keeps getting worse. The UN has documented over 5 million refugees fleeing Ukraine, with numbers much, much higher for those displaced within the country.

Having worked with refugees and having studied 'normal' refugee patterns and routes over the past several years, we braced ourselves for what was to come and prepared to accept what we believed would be thousands of homeless Ukrainians in Spain. However, that has not proven to be the case. In contrast, most Ukrainians are going the least distance possible from their homes, entering in to the surrounding countries and hunkering down for the long haul. By far, the phrase we hear from almost 100% of them is "I'm waiting to go home". To go far away would mean to emotionally and physically give up that hope. So, they are basically sheltering in place as soon as they find refuge in a neighboring country and leaning in to that hope that this will all end soon and they can return home.

Some Ukrainians have spread further in to Europe, that is true. But most have gone to places where they already had family members or people they are connected to. For example, there is a substantial Ukrainian population that live in a town in southeastern Spain, and another in Madrid. Most Ukrainians who have entered Spain have gone to those areas to be with others whom they know and to wait this out in community. They are not seeking official refugee status, but rather coming for a 'short stay' with family and friends. Those who have sought refugee status are mostly staying in major cities where there are others who speak Russian or who share their culture. In their minds, this is not a long term move, so there is no need to seek refugee status or to find a new suitable 'home'.

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While crossing the Romania-Ukraine border, Billy talked to several people who were GOING BACK IN! They had waited until bombing had stopped in their city and they were headed home. One family had gone to Turkey for a few weeks, but had decided that "it is now time to go home" and they had all of their possessions and their children and pets loaded in the car, headed back across the border to see what remained of home. Many other Ukrainians were also there at the border crossing, trying to get out. It was an odd mix of coming and going, of returning home and of fleeing for safety.



We have been frustrated with the response of local authorities in our town in Spain. We attended meetings with local nonprofit organizations and humanitarian workers to see how we could plug in and help on a local level. However, the mayor and the director of social services suggest that everyone channel efforts and work through the local Red Cross and Catholic charities (Caritas). We felt that we had better connections on the front lines, less overhead, and we could help more by going another direction.

Billy is on the leadership team for the Refugee Highway Partnership. He serves on that team with another cross-cultural worker from another organization (Rev Rodrigo Assis da Silva at All4Aid). All4Aid's main focus as an organization is to work with displaced people to enhance their quality of life by facilitating humanitarian assistance, cultivating social inclusion and fostering educational development. They work in multiple countries in Europe, helping refugees and showing others the love that Christ has for all. Billy and our teammate Ryan Marcum talked with Rodrigo about how we could partner with his workers in Romania as they help to aid Ukrainian refugees crossing the border.



The men went to Romania and worked alongside other cross-cultural workers and volunteers. The Romania work of All4Aid is complex. They have three different housing programs - one in a church building, one in a donated storefront, and one in a donated school building. While on the ground, Billy and Ryan were able to help ready housing for refugees coming in. *To read more about a visit with families in one of those houses, our blog article on our website www.drumsforchrist.org/ministry.*

The team has been working to send resources to pastors in Odesa who remain in Ukraine and are tending to their congregations. Because these pastors are men of 'fighting age', they are required to remain in -country. Most of their wives and children have left the country, but some of their congregations remain behind to care for elderly parents or to hold out hope. Our team sponsored the purchase and delivery of two vanloads of aid (approximately 3000kg / 6000 pounds) - food staples that are non-existent in Ukraine now (flour, oil, etc), diapers and baby food, medications, and first aid supplies. Billy, Ryan, and a handful of All4Aid volunteers loaded the vans and drove them across the Romania-Ukraine border nearest Odesa and delivered them to the pastors who met them on the Ukraine side to offload the van and receive the aid. They then took the aid back in to the Odesa region where their churches are being used to distribute food and necessities to their communities.



Please pray for all effected by this war. Pray for our partners on the front-lines, working to shelter those in need. Pray for the hearts of aid workers who hear hard stories, who hold hands and dry tears and care for others 24/7. This is hard, heartbreaking work. Most of all, pray for this war to end and for peace and justice to prevail. Pray for God’s Kingdom to reign.

What's Next? How we are continuing to help and serve...

We will continue to aid in the Ukrainian refugee situation. Because the local situation has not been as we expected, our team will go where we are most needed and give and serve where we can:

- Our team has decided to continue to partner with Rodrigo and his team with All4Aid as frontline workers and sponsor periodic aid deliveries to pastors in Odesa.
- Billy is working with Rodrigo to provide monthly care and counseling to Pastor Nixon (Romanian) as he and his church work to house refugees as they come to Romania.
- We have elected to help with the rebuilding of Nixon's home after it suffered an electrical fire and he lost almost everything. The electrical fire happened because of an overload on the box when they began housing refugees. Because he is a pastor and a cross-cultural worker living on the donations of others, there is little to no funding for the rebuilding of his home.
- We also partner with another faith-based organization REMAR (from Spain). We worked with REMAR in Greece in the Moria, Malakasa, and Kara Tepe refugee camps. They are amazing witnesses and experts at working with the needs of refugees. We are helping to sponsor feeding tents and refugee housing in Ukraine, Romania, and Poland.



- Many cross-cultural workers and humanitarian aid groups do not have adequate care and training for this kind of work. We are now working to resource frontline refugee workers. 1) We are bringing in a team of trainers and hosting a Trauma Competent Care training for frontline refugee workers. As of this update, we will be training 16 workers from Cyprus, Romania, Spain, Germany, Jordan, Albania, United States, and Mexico! 2) Billy is working with other member care specialists to give care and counseling to people who are doing refugee work 24/7. Listening to the stories of war and trying to care for people in trauma can be overwhelming and can cause secondary trauma to aid workers. Billy and others are working to bring care and counseling to those people in various ways.





We will continue to keep you updated as we continue to aid others and do what we can for the people of Ukraine and those who are showing them the love of Christ by caring for their needs.

Please join us in prayer and praises:

- Prayers for all of our friends and contacts who are working tirelessly to aid in the Ukrainian refugee crisis. Prayers for the people who are forced to flee their homes and country for safety. Prayers for all those navigating unwanted transitions and loss and grief.
- Prayers for Billy as he cares for refugees and aid workers and helps them process all that is happening around them. Pray that his heart is covered with a special measure of peace as he hears difficult stories and helps others walk through tough situations.
- Prayers as we plan to host a Trauma Competent Care workshop in Spain, and as we continue to work to train and develop cross-cultural workers around the globe. We are coming up on a few very busy months of facilitating courses, retreats, and travel for those events.
- Prayers for Sarah as she is in a very busy season of competition and training. She also has an opportunity to go and train and work in Germany. Weighing options and making decisions.
- As always, keep our family in your prayers as we navigate living on different continents. We would like to take a family vacation and have all of our children in one place in August, but summer vacation season in the USA is expensive!

TMS Global

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- Our greatest desire is to see people become who God created them to be and to live in to their purpose. We believe that everyone has value. Everyone has talents, skills, and unique abilities. We want to see that come alive!
- 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 what we're about - developing and caring for people so they can live into their unique design and God-given purpose.

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

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Dear Billy and Laurie,

I will pray for you.
As God provides, I plan to partner with you by giving
$_____Per month / year.
Special note:_____

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