Monthly News And Updates for Partners of The Drum Family

August September 2025

Kingdom Mosaics from Spain



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Prayers & Praises

Praises:

- **Cross-Cultural training in Panama** - see pg 3
- **Peru visit** - see article pg 1-2. It was truly the gift of time and memories and love to get to go back to Peru and visit old friends and ministries! God has been so gracious to us to allow us to see the impact of His work in the lives of all the people we loved and served. We still deeply love Peru and our neighbors there. Elva is actively petitioning for us to retire and return to Patarcocha to live in the village. It was an amazing visit and we are blessed beyond measure.
- Machu Picchu FINALLY! In all the years we lived in Peru, we never got to visit Machu Picchu. Well, the wait is over. We were blessed with a 3 day vacation while we were in Peru for a ministry visit, so we hiked Huayna Picchu.

Prayers:

- Billy is leading a Camino Men's Retreat in September. This group has walked together for 4 years and will complete the full 790km Camino Frances route this year.



Homecoming in Peru!

After several years away, we recently returned to Peru—the place that shaped so much of our family's life. We weren't sure how it would feel to walk those familiar streets again, or how we would be received after so much time had passed. What we found was a homecoming filled with warmth: neighbors who greeted us with open arms, old friends whose smiles hadn't dimmed, and a sense of belonging that wrapped around us the moment we arrived. Peru welcomed us back not as visitors, but as family. It felt like home all over again. Homecoming is more than return; it's rediscovery. We found thriving ministry. We found not just the place we had missed, but the people who make it feel like home.

> "A home is not one place. A home can be a place where you are born and brought up… But in the end it is only one thing: the place where your heart is. And you don't have to be there in your bodily self; you can carry it with you in spirit wherever you go…. Like love." - Mary Brown





After eighteen years of life lived across cultures and continents—from Costa Rica to Peru to Spain and all places in between—our hearts have become a mosaic of all those homes and people. Each place, each friendship, each neighborhood or village has woven itself into our sense of belonging and community. We've learned that home isn't a fixed dot on a map, but a living network of people and memories carried within us, growing wherever we are together.

We took the 8-hour bus trip from Lima up to Huancayo, crossing over the 16,000 ft pass midway and praying we didn't feel the effects of the altitude. Grace be to God, we faired well. As we got closer to our destination, nostalgia welled up. We began to see familiar scenes in the land. We could see the snowcapped Huaytapallana mountain and glacier looming in the distance, a scene that always signaled the home was not far now. Almost there. It was surreal to be back.



We rented a vehicle so we could travel out to the communities where we have so many friends and memories. On the first day, we headed across the Mantaro Valley and up the mountain to Tinyari. Years ago, when teachers in this small rural public school noticed the transformative effect that our other

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school programs were having in two other villages, they invited us to bring our program into their school. We led a school-day version of Kid's Club and bible classes for the entire K-6 school. The director and teachers gave us free reign for several hours of teaching and activities each week.

That work began 15 years ago, and it still continues today!!!!

We were thrilled beyond words to walk back into that little country school and be greeted by those exact same teachers. One of our Peruvian teammates (Rosio) continues to go to Tinyari every week and lead Kid's Club and bible classes. "She is always faithful and shows up for our students. She never leaves us or forgets us. We can always count on her to be here and love the children", said one of the teachers. Rosio has even expanded the work to include a Sunday "Escuela de Padres" (Parent's School) to teach bible lessons and have parenting conversations, bringing the whole family into the picture and helping build bridges of cooperation between families and the school. And she has recruited two other old friends into the ministry to work alongside her, too - Joshua and Rocio.



It was a wonderful start to our visit! We participated in Kid's Club and being in the classrooms again with the children. We enjoyed talking with the teachers and catching up on time gone by. And we enjoyed a lunch of boiled potatoes, hardboiled eggs, and delicious aji salsa!



The next day sent us the opposite direction to the village of Cochas Chico to visit the Veli Family. This family is one of my all-time favorites! We met Pedro Veli and his wife, Paulina, soon after we moved to Perú in 2008. We wandered into this small village of artisans who specialized in traditional carved gourds. But Pedro was different. Pedro was a believer and he used his art to tell bible stories and share the Gospel.

Over the years, we spent lots of time with the Veli family. If you've ever been to our home, you've seen many, many examples of their artwork. Their gourds are everywhere, still telling bible stories and sharing the Gospel with everyone who sees them.



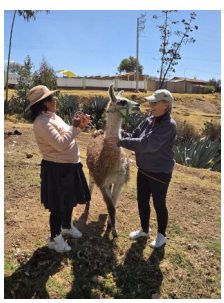
It was such a joy to be back with the Velis. Unfortunately, Paulina passed away a few months ago - a grief that still hangs heavy in the hearts of all who loved her. She would have loved that the family was all gathered, celebrating being together, making a traditional Pachamanca, sitting at the long table in her family home, laughing, telling stories, looking at photos, and carrying on the age-old traditions of good food and amazing hospitality.

We were humbled and blessed to be "welcomed home" again by Pedro and Wilfredo and Isaias and all of the Veli family. It felt like Thanksgiving. It felt like coming home.



On our final day, we again crossed the river valley and headed up to Patarcocha, the village where we lived and loved for years. This Quechua village high in the Andes was our home. In lots of ways, it still feels like a place where part of our heart is anchored. Life there was slower, more peaceful, more relational. We had the gift of time there. Time to be together while we tended goats or sheep or shucked corn or peeled potatoes. Time to gather around a giant embroidery frame and stitch and tell stories and laugh. Time to raise kids together, grow food together, cook together, and love our neighbors together. Time to sit and watch village life go by and talk for hours.

Going home to Patarcocha for a visit was such a gift.



Elva is still Elva. Still laughing. Still raising kids (and grandkids). Still feeding the village elderly and taking care of others. Still collecting animals and making them pets and then fussing because she has too many animals.

When we started the school program in Patarcocha, her youngest two were in our school. Harry was all boy - into everything, covered in dirt, always running and looking for adventure. He couldn't care less about anything we did at school. Cielo was one of the littlest ones in our school. But feisty! She was a fighter. Always had a lollipop (ChupaChup) in her mouth. A little bit sneaky. A lot of sassy! She wanted things her way and she let you know it. All of the kids in our program in the village had their own unique little personalities and we loved every bit of it.

Today, Harry is in his final two years of vet school. Cielo is starting her studies in nursing school. Some of our other students in town are also now grown and out in the world. One is in the police academy. One is in university studying psychology. Another is in engineering. I never would have dreamed that his sleepy little Quechua village and all of those tiny little kiddos in our program would be where they are today!

While we were in Patarcocha to visit, we got to slow down and spend the day at the pace of village life again. Long talks while sitting in the grass, watching the animals, laughing with the kids, telling stories and laughing till we cried. Of course, Elva and I were right back at it... joking and laughing and dreaming and planning to take over the world... or at least the village.

Our visit back to Peru was a gift. No single place claims the title of "home." Instead, home is the love we encountered in Peru, the laughter of old neighbors, the bonds we strengthened and tended while there. That is what we carry forward. Love. Home.

Training that Transforms

This summer, 35 cross-cultural workers from 14 nations gathered in Panama for two weeks of cross-cultural training called the HT and Alice Maclin Mission Training Institute. We were part of the 8 person facilitator team that led the training. Laurie is the Director of Training and Formation and is responsible for oversight of curriculum and all training events. Billy serves as a trainer, and also as a member care specialist, caring for cross-cultural workers and pastors in their emotional and spiritual needs. It was a powerful event. Cross-cultural workers and pastors came from barrios, villages, and cities, ages 15 to 65, all with the same heartbeat: *to bring Jesus' love to those who have never heard.*

Most were only able to attend because of scholarships funded by a Bolick Foundation grant and by special gifts from friends like you. Truly—you helped make this possible! Many of you will remember our pastor in Spain—Miguel. Your gifts helped Miguel and his assistant pastor, John, to attend Maclin training by helping us help them with their travel costs. For the majority of this year's trainees, a lack of funding is the biggest barrier to receiving the training and resources they need to carry out their work. Special scholarships and grants allow us to ease that burden so that cross-cultural training and equipping can happen.

One pastor from Kenya, now serving a diaspora church in Washington, said:

> "We've been doing missions the wrong way. Now, I want to go back and train others. Me and my friends—we can change Washington State."

Missions isn't "the West to the rest" anymore. It's "everywhere to everywhere". God is sending people from every corner of the world. This training brought together people from Panama, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Mexico, Honduras, Brazil, Spain, Colombia, Kenya, USA, Congo, and Argentina to learn together. Their mission reach is huge! Several are working among unreached or least-reached people. Some are church planters. Some are children and youth ministry workers. Some own small businesses. Some are teachers. Several are actively in the process of launching to countries on the other side of the globe, while yet others have a call to reach their own communities and countries in deeper and more effective ways. Some feel led to Muslim communities or refugees in Europe; others to prisoners, street youth, or people with disabilities. A few sense God's call to Spain, where over one million people still have little access to the Gospel. Did you know that there are officially 15 unreached people groups in Spain?!

We are excitedly watching this particular group of trainees! Already, in just the few short weeks since training ended, this group has been transforming their ministries. For example:

- Miguel and John have been teaching their congregation many of the lessons they learned in Panama. John said that this training clarified his calling and passion - to minister to immigrants in Spain and to walk alongside them in their transition to a new culture and new life.

- Saul, a young missionary from the Miskito indigenous people of Nicaragua, immediately took all of the training sessions and materials and began working with a friend to translate all of the information into the Miskito language so that they could teach and mobilize their people for missions.

- Brayan and a couple of other young missionaries went to the jungle in Peru after our training and began using what they had learned. They reported back that the training was transformative and changed how they did their mission work, as well as gave them tools to teach and go deeper with the community they were working in.

- Karla immediately took one of the teaching activities from training and used it to teach 45 leaders in her country of Costa Rica. She reported back to the group about the impact of the activity and can't wait to use more of the training with others.

T**hank you.** Your prayers and gifts are multiplying in ways we can't yet see (and in ways we are already seeing!) —rippling out from Panama to the nations. Ordinary people, carrying extraordinary hope, because you said *yes* to helping train and care for cross-cultural workers. You said *yes* to partnering with us in spreading the Gospel to the ends of the Earth. Acts 1:8



To read more about the Panama training, go to the TMS Global website and see the Stories & More tab. Empowered to Carry the Gospel Across Cultures, Even to the Least-Reached - TMS Global

To see the highlights video from training, go to Maclin 2025 in Panamá - Highlight on Vimeo

TMS Global

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- Our greatest desire is to see people become who God created them to be and to live into 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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