Monthly News And Updates for Partners of The Drum Family

August/ September 2024

Kingdom Mosaics from Spain



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Prayers, and Praises:

Prayers and Praises:

- Praise - We traveled for 3+ weeks to lead three different trainings in the USA. We went to Atlanta for a week to do a pre-launch training for university students who were headed to Thailand and Cambodia for mission and cultural immersion. Then we headed to Kentucky to do a 7-day cross-cultural training for mission leaders, pastors, new mission staff, and cross-cultural workers. After a quick day off, Laurie then led a training and retreat for mission trainers and facilitators (train-the-trainer). Whew! It was a crazy three weeks!!!

- Prayers - We shared last time about Sarah's car that was in a 3-car accident. Sarah was NOT in the vehicle when it occurred. Two of the vehicles were totaled. That wreck happened on May 28th. We STILL do not have Sarah's car back. After lots of difficult conversations with insurance and not knowing how to proceed, we finally hired a Spanish lawyer. Lo and behold, we began to get answers two days later! Now, work has finally begun on the car, but it won't be finished until September sometime because everything closes in Europe in August. So… more rental car time and more money… Ugh!

- Praises and continued Prayers for Billy's health. He was recently diagnosed with diabetes. Praises that he's doing great with his new meds and lifestyle. It was difficult to travel and we had a big learning curve trying to deal with the differences in American foods vs. European foods. There is a VAST difference in ingredients and how his body is effected! Pray for his continued learning and ability to adjust.

- Celebrate with us! We just crossed our 17-year anniversary of serving in mission with TMS Global! From Costa Rica to Peru to Spain and around the globe, we are honored to be serving God's people. Thank you for partnering with us in the work that we do! YOU are a vital part of the mission. Many of you have been with us for 17 years and we are so very, very grateful to serve God alongside you.

Training, Writing, and Hospitality for the Kingdom: Updates from Summer ministry

Greetings from Spain! We are excited to share some wonderful updates and highlights from the past couple of months. Your unwavering support and prayers have been instrumental in making these achievements possible, and we are eager to give you a glimpse into the impact of the work being carried out.

Successful Trip to the Atlanta, GA and Wilmore, KY





We recently returned from a fruitful trip to the USA, where we had the privilege of leading 3 weeks of training sessions for cross-cultural workers and church mission leaders. This training was an enriching experience, allowing us to share valuable insights and strategies for effective cross-cultural ministry. The sessions were well-received, with participants expressing gratitude for the practical tools and encouragement provided. It was a joy to reconnect with familiar faces and establish new relationships, all while equipping fellow workers for their vital roles in global missions.

One training participant remarked, "This training was packed full of great information and tools from everything from scripture engagement to conflict. We were able to engage with the content in a variety of ways so it can sink in, which is always a plus when lots of information is coming your way at once." Another commented, "It's like getting a degree in cross cultural ministry - packed with knowledgeable, experienced ministering professionals who not only know their stuff, but also really care about people and the work."

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Season of Writing and Publication
In addition to our travels, this season has been marked by a flurry of writing. Billy has been dedicated to authoring several articles aimed at publication, focusing on various aspects of cross-cultural work and care ministry. These articles delve into the challenges and triumphs of our journey, offering a candid look at the realities of worker burnout as well as care, rest, and sabbatical. We believe that sharing our experiences will not only inform and inspire but also foster a deeper understanding and support for cross-cultural workers among the broader mission community. Keep an eye out for these publications, as we hope they will be a source of encouragement and insight.

Engaging with Our Community and Neighbors
Closer to home, our commitment to community and neighbor engagement continues to be a cornerstone of our local ministry. We have been involved in numerous activities designed to build relationships and share the love of Christ in tangible ways. A highlight has been meals with neighbors, bringing together individuals from various backgrounds to share food and fellowship on our patio. These meals have become a melting pot of cultures and backgrounds and stories, fostering an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding. It has been heartening to see relationships deepen and new friendships form around the dinner table. We are continually amazed at how a simple act of hospitality can open doors for meaningful connections and gospel conversations. Please continue to pray for hospitality ministry and table time with various neighbors who are seeking connection and deeper conversations.



We have also been actively participating in local music festivals and cultural events, seeking to immerse ourselves in the life of our community. These summer events have provided a great avenue to celebrate alongside our neighbors and share in the joy of building relationships around fun activities. By being present and engaged in these communal activities, we aim to break down barriers and build bridges of trust and friendship.

Looking Ahead
As we reflect on these past couple of months, we are filled with gratitude for the ways God is working in and through us. Your partnership in this work is invaluable, and we are deeply thankful for your prayers, encouragement, and support. Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie before us. We remain committed to serving our community, sharing the gospel, and supporting cross-cultural workers around the world.

Please continue to pray for our ministry, especially for wisdom and strength as we navigate the complexities of cross-cultural engagement. Pray also for the seeds sown during our training sessions in the USA to bear fruit and for Billy's written articles to touch hearts and minds.

Thank you for journeying with us in this mission in Spain and around the world. Together, we are making a difference for the kingdom of God.



Participants at one of the three training events we led in June and July. Pictured are cross-cultural workers, pastors, mission leaders, and others who are training to better work in their contexts and support missions, both locally and globally. *DO NOT SHARE THIS PHOTO! Some participants are serving in high risk security areas.

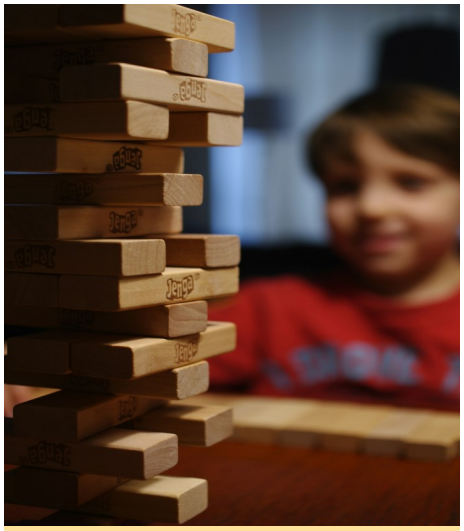
Photos and Updates from Summer







Billy continues to perform with the city choir in Antequera. The choir is subsidized by the city and is contracted to perform at city and government events as well as many local religious and cultural observances. These performances are often in historic buildings or centuries old churches. June was a busy month with several performances. The director does not shy away from tough musical pieces, with one performance requiring the choir to sing in Latin, French, Spanish, and English! Singing with this group has become an artistic outlet, as well as a great way to make local friends.



Due to security and privacy, we cannot show actual photos of the children. Thanks for understanding.

Many of you answered the call to get involved when a group of Ukrainian orphans needed to be evacuated and rehomed. UPDATE: Several of the children have been successfully moved from Ukraine to the House of Grace home in Bucharest, Romania, run by our partners at All4Aid. This is the home that Billy helped to renovate specifically for refugee housing. Three children were evacuated and rehomed in the USA. The remaining children are in the care of a church in Ukraine and awaiting final paperwork to cross the border to Romania. Sadly, bureaucratic paperwork is creating havoc. But, understandably, officials want to be very thorough when it comes to moving children across international borders! Many thanks to all who helped make this possible! We will continue to work and partner with All4Aid in their refugee projects in Romania (House of Grace home), Greece (Lesvos refugee community center), and Cyprus (Larnaca refugee community center).

**Stay tuned!!! We have a new partnership in the works with All4Aid and will have upcoming opportunities for you to be involved via volunteer opportunities and serving in various ways.*



We continue to host lots of meals for neighbors on our patio. Kingdom conversations happen around the table.



Facilitator Training Lab and Retreat—July 2024—led by Laurie and Karen Couch

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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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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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