December
2019

# Shine

Monthly News
And Updates for
Partners of
The Drum Family



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## Christmas in Spain

We are headed in to the Christmas season in Spain. Christmas continues to be a paradox for us… both wonderful and also a little painful. No matter how long we are out of our home culture, it seems that holidays always hit us hard. We miss the customs from our church and family back home… the Hanging of the Greens service, the advent candles, the Christmas carols, etc. In stark contrast, our church in Spain has no Christmas decorations in the sanctuary, no singing of Christmas carols each week, and they do not celebrate the season of advent. There will be no Christmas Eve service, no nativity scene, and no candles for singing Silent Night. Someone a long time ago came in and taught the protestant churches that they shouldn't do anything that the catholic church does, so, sadly, a lot of church traditions became taboo. Sometimes, history causes a lot of division. Ugh. Therefore, we try to carry on with our own customs and culture and do those things in our own home. We have our tree and our carols and our advent candles. We have our nativity scenes depicting the birth of Jesus. Christmas Eve will still be hard for us, because there is something special about standing and singing Silent Night with your church family and holding that candle. Enjoy those traditions and hold them in your heart!

## Made to Shine

by Billy Drum

*Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, **wise men** from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his **star** when it rose and have come to worship him." (Matthew 2:1-2 ESV)*

This part of the nativity story has struck me in the last few years. I cannot wrap my head around the idea of someone taking off on an epic journey to follow a star; a journey to find a baby that was promised in sacred writings. The wise men came from a great distance to worship a baby; a baby who was a king; a baby who would be the Light of the World.

In our American tradition, we call them wise men. In Spain, these men are called *los reyes* (the kings). If you look in the original Greek, you will find that they are called μάγοι (magoi) or magi which could be a sorcerer, wizard, magician or astrologer. Being magi, they were not following Jewish law which strictly prohibited these types activities. That leads me to think that they were not of the Jewish faith or cultural background and were probably not worshippers of the one true God. What really fascinates me about this story is that these men followed a star, a shining object in the sky, to the source of freedom for the entire human race - not just for the Jews, but for everyone. They could see what others in Jesus' own culture could not. They saw something that stood out from the ordinary. It was different and gave them hope of things to come. A star, a light in the sky, directed them, even though they were "non-believers", to the place where they felt they would find something special, a

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king worthy of worship.

Think about that… this star, this light, was shining and was attracting people of all races and religions to come and see.

That reminds me of another story. I have a friend that is a relatively new believer. Umar* was raised in the Muslim faith. One day he was in his room and he saw a vision of a light so bright it was indescribable. It didn't hurt his eyes to look at it. In that moment, somehow he knew that the light was Jesus (he had heard about Jesus in the Quran) and he sought to find out more about Him. Umar* was attracted to something that was different, something he didn't understand, but he knew that he needed to learn more and to understand who Jesus really is. He continues to walk in that Light today, learning and growing in his new faith.



**Billy, S*, Laurie, and F* at La Mesa Turquesa**



**Christmas craft workshop hosted at La Mesa Turquesa. We had women from 12 different nationalities in attendance.**

Last week, I was reading an article about Mr. Rogers in the New York Times online. It recounts a story Fred Rogers told to a gathering a few years ago:

> "I know of a little girl who was drawing with crayons in school.
> The teacher asked her about her drawing, and the little girl said, 'I am making a picture of God.'
> The teacher said, 'But no one knows what God looks like.'
> The little girl smiled and answered, 'They will now.'"

I found myself weeping after reading that story in the article. I was thinking about the star and the light again. I think that our lives are meant to be like that little girl's drawing of God, helping people to catch a glimpse of what He looks like. Our lives are meant to be like that star, something different shining in the darkness. It makes me wonder if I am shining a light to point others to Jesus. Do they see something different in me? Do others see the way to Jesus when they see me? If they look at me, can they see God's light shining through?

Jesus said: "You are the light of the world. …let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16 ESV).

I think that we are to be light - like stars - for others. We were made to shine, to glorify God and to point others to Jesus.

~Billy



**Sarah with 6 month old Benedict. Benedict is a twin. He and his sister were born after arriving here as refugees.**



# Thankful for You - Our Teammates!



We are thankful for all of the amazing teammates we have serving alongside us in this work! Although many of them will never actually walk on the soil of Spain or any of the other places where our team serves, they are ALL a HUGE part of sharing the love of Christ with the world! Without these incredible, faithful superheroes, we could not serve the people that benefit from this ministry. Thank you to all who have stood beside us in 2019!!! We are proud to have you on our team!

Aldersgate UMC, Chuck and Julie, Phillip and Peggy, David and Jeanne, Roberto, Jeanne, Bernie and Paula, Brandon and Cathy, Jackie and Susan, Scott and Cynthia, Shannon and David, Doyle and Sara, Ambrose and Doreene, Nancy, Jerry and Connie, Gerald and Robyn, Myra, Steve and Ann, Neel and Lisa, Trey and Meg, J. K., Bryan First UMC Adult Bible Study Sunday School, Adam and Dana, Kim and Glenda, Leon and Dana, Sharon, Tracy, Christ United Methodist Church, David and Joanne, Norman, Kathleen, Connie, Leroy and Wanda, Bob and Deborah, Richard and Claire, Allen, David and Jayne, Thomas and Karen, Covenant UMC, Homebuilders Class CUMC, Chris and Randi, James and Cathy, Mark, Jeffrey and Laura, Dripping Springs UMC, Deryl and Ann, Mike and Debby, Jeff and Kristin, Sue, Rick and Dianne, Dean, Jim and Cheryl, Kirk and Regina, Frank and Carol, Dan and Shari, Sam and Carol, Mike and Teresa, Faith and Deeds Class CUMC, Jennifer, Dennis and Katey, Sharon, Louis and Sherry, Don and Barbara, Paul and Kim, Stephen and Marty, LeGrande and Ann, Mark and Liz, Dianna, Jeri, Lee, Steve and Janis, Andrew and Ange, Bill and Komang, Patricia, Jerome and Lana, Mick and Jane, Gary and Gwen, Jim and Charlotte, Don, Jack and Cindy, Ray and Margaret, Scott and Donna, Totsy, Charlie and Gwen, Paul and Sharon, Susan, Wes and Beverly, Nancy, Rob and Shannon, Vern, Royce and Mary, Mike and Janet, Chris, Walter and Cindy, Richard and Ginger, Frank and Tami, David and Diane, Ronnie, Linda, Tom and Sherry, Aaron, Larry and Carol, Bill, Tom and Susan, Bobbie, Terry and Karen, Heath and Jo, Wilson and Julie, Harry and Judy, Jim and Dianne, Josh and Amanda, Irene, Janet, Redith, Averyt and Randi, Hank and Liz, Chris and Susan, Deborah, Ferrel and Sue, Dan and Kim, Jim and Cathy, Larry and Gail, David and Glenda, Eddie and Denise, Chuck, Dale and Kathy, John and Nan, Bill and Carol, Marilyn and Ernie, Fred and Allison, David and Jana, Tommy and Donna, Cliff and Sonia, Sally, John and Lisa, Bill and Jackie, Garner and Coece, Gail, Chris and Angela, Midge and Betty, Maretta, Matt and Terri, John and Shelaine, Kris, Cindy, Dave and Donna, Peggy, Richard and Becky, Don and Candy, Ron and Amanda, John, Buzz and Katy, Rob and Rhonda, Raymond James Financial, Inc., Kelli and Jim, David and Susan, James and Sheila, Barbara, Don and Lynita, Jim and Vergie, Ronald and Pam, Darwin and Charney, Sanctuary Class CUMC, Michael and Jeremie, Polli, Richard and Beverly, Hendrik and Cindee, Neal and Lois, Bob and Suzanne, Leah, Shiro Presbyterian Church, Alan and Jennifer, Nancy, Ross and Donna, Aaron and Megan, Brian, David and Jamie, Forest and Kelly, Harold and Rebecca, Johnny and Courtney, Ronald and Priscilla, Sondra, Trudie, St. Lukes UMC, Ken and Carolyn, Michael, Judy and Ralph, Sid and Vicki, Randy and Kim, Jim and Ginnie, Jim and Lynne, Carol, Les and Debby, Tommie and Ashley, Greg and Cathy, Tom and Linda, John and Linda, Andrew and Shelley, John and Barbara, Shelly and Kevin, Trinity Lutheran Church, Walter and Cindy, United Methodist Women Lafayette, Andy and Susan, Steve and Sue, Tom and Annette, Jim and Cindy, Jon and Michelle, Todd and Linda, William and Tracy, Erwin and Susan, Roger and Anna, Wheelock Methodist Church, Glinn and Marlilyn, Jim and Paulette, Michelle and Ken, Jim and Phyllis, Dick and Linda, Gerald and Shirley, Chad and Darla, Pascual

## *Please join us in prayer and praises:*

- **Prayers** for financial covering for the ministry and work we do. We are grateful for the many ways that we have seen God's provision in the past month and for those who have stepped up to help.
- **Pray for our family** as we step in to new leadership roles and learn to navigate new responsibilities alongside our local work and international outreach. Pray for us to find healthy rhythms and ways to stay strong as a family amidst lots of change.
- **Pray for Sarah** as she works toward finishing this semester and taking finals. It has been the toughest course load yet, but she is hanging in there and working hard.
- **Pray for the people at La Mesa Turquesa.** Many are spending their first holiday season away from family and friends, in a new country with new customs. Pray for them to feel loved by our team and to find "home" in our center.
- **Pray for us** as we weather another round of big family holidays away from our boys. Thanksgiving and Christmas are always hard on us, each in our own way. It doesn't seem to matter how many years we are overseas, it never gets easier to be apart on these big holidays.
- **Praises** for the people and groups that found extra ways to help with the economic struggles of the ministry last month! People hosted bake sales and fundraising dinners and passed the collection plate for special donations for La Mesa Turquesa and for our family. Thank you so much!!!!!!!
- **Praises for heat!!!!** We were able to fix our chimney and fireplace this month!!! We haven't had heat for 2 years! We are now cozy and warm with our working fireplace!

TMS Global

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TMS GLOBAL

- 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. Walking alongside our neighbors.
- 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!

***Contact The Drums:***
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(rings through to Spain)

Whatsapp: #34 652 144 783

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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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