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.
- 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 who we are… the care-givers!

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



Photo credit: Kat Marcum

Mail to The Drums:
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Contact The Drums:
Skype billy.drum
USA ph# 979-985-5238 (rings through to Spain)

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:_____

Name (PLEASE PRINT) _____
Address:_____
City:_____ St ._____Zip_____
Phone:_____ Home Church:_____
Email Address: _____

TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS MAY BE SENT TO:
TMS Global
PO Box 936559
Atlanta, GA 31193-6559 USA
DESIGNATE GIFTS: "**DRUM-0321SUP**"

Monthly News
And Updates for
Partners of
The Drum Family

December
2018

¡Feliz Navidad!



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On December 4th, TMS Global held their Annual Day of Prayer. Our team here in Spain participated with TMS CCWs and partners around the world. We met for a prayer breakfast at our favorite local café. Being the first week of Advent, we decided to focus on Hope and shared our prayers of Hope for our team, our community, Europe, the World, and TMS Global as an agency. We wanted to share a few of those prayers with you and invite you to join our team in praying Hope over these specific issues:

- Praying for unity and forgiveness in the churches of Antequera
- For opportunities for authentic relationships and discipleship
- For joy and love of our callings, for hope and resilience in the hard times
- For people of peace to come together and be the Light to their communities
- For a movement of home groups, for a new spirit of belief and desire to grow in community
- For a realization around the globe that we are all interconnected
- Hope for eyes to open, so we can see each other, for humanity and a spirit of compassion
- For a spirit of encouragement
- For our team and our community to live out "love your neighbor"





Neighbors and Navidad

We have a tradition of putting up the tree and Christmas decorations during the weekend after Thanksgiving. It's a common tradition in the USA. We try to keep as many of our American traditions overseas as we can, in an effort to honor our own heritage and culture and family, and as a way to share and teach those things to Sarah, our daughter has who only lived 3 of her 15 years in the USA. It's a way to keep her connected to her American culture and family.

We also have a mix of Peruvian and Spain traditions that now weave in to the tapestry of our lives. We will eat chili on Christmas Eve, just like our family has always done in Texas. We will also have *panettone* sweet bread and hot chocolate, just like we did with our Peruvian neighbors. In the kitchen as I write, there is a heap of cinnamon *mantecado* cookies, a traditional Christmas treat in Spain - Sarah's favorite. And tomorrow we will spend the afternoon with some of our neighbors at a *flamenco* Christmas lunch.

Christmas is always different and strange and a little bit hard for us. It's always a time of mixing old traditions with the new, remembering Christmases past, and struggling through the grief of being far away from loved ones. But it's also a time of learning new customs and doing things in new and different ways.

Last year, we kind-of missed Christmas in Spain… it just disappeared. We had just moved in to this house last November and we weren't even unpacked well yet when a terrible flu swept through Spain and knocked us off our feet for weeks. The three of us literally spent Christmas in our pajamas for days, curled up on the couch with Kleenex and blankets and medications, not able to eat anything, and feeling like death would be preferable to the aches and coughing and Billy's two emergency room visits for breathing treatments and chest x-rays. We didn't even shop for gifts. We just let Christmas pass us by and prayed for relief.

We did recover (obviously), and we were able to travel to Texas to see family and meet our new granddaughter, Lily. So, our Christmas holiday was redeemed in January!

This year, we are settled in our home and neighborhood and the house is decorated and ready. We were the only people on our block with a tree up at the end of November! Christmas customs are a little different here and the idea of decorating the house quite so much for Christmas definitely sets us apart. But here's the great part… IT'S DIFFERENT! On most days, we try to fit in and NOT be different. But during the holidays, different is a big plus! It's a great way to start conversations!

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Just last week, someone came over for coffee and pastries in the afternoon. Part way through our time together, he pointed to our stockings and said, "They all have your names on them. Did you buy the names separately, or how did you get the names on them?" (The custom of stockings is not a tradition here, but they know about it a little bit from TV and American movies.) This was one of those open-door moments when I got to share about my family and the stockings that were handmade and beaded by my great-grandmother, then how the tradition passed down and my aunt made the family stockings for years, and how it fell to me by the time that Sarah was born. So, our mantle and our stockings are a glimpse in to family history and generations of tradition.

We have had people notice our advent wreath and candles and wonder about that. Here, that has been traditionally only a catholic observance and the fact that a protestant celebrates advent is different and cause for conversation.

Even our tree has caused conversation over the years. Some are surprised that we even have a tree, because many protestants do not have Christmas trees or decorations… so we are different. Again, the "party lines" have been pretty strongly divisive here with regards to Catholicism and Protestant believers. And don't forget the growing number of nominal believers, marginalized believers, and non-believers. So, the fact that we have different customs has opened doors to those conversations about belief and faith, form and meaning and tradition. And the fact that we have nativity scenes from different cultures – those have been conversation starters, for sure!

Next weekend, we will break with cultural norms (again!) and have an Open House Christmas Party for our neighbors. Christmas is a family holiday here. Christmas here is celebrated much like Thanksgiving is in the USA – extended family travels to the big family gathering and there is a giant family feast on Christmas Eve. There really are no Christmas parties among friends in private homes. Office workers may have a dinner together at a restaurant but going to an individual's home is just not the norm. But we're going for it. We've invited folks from our street to come over and enjoy party foods and each other's company.

"If it's not the norm, then what makes you think they'll come?" Because it's DIFFERENT! Curiosity. Just the fact that people don't invite people in to their homes makes this interesting. Only 2 of our neighbors on our block have ever been in our home. We're confident and can't wait! We're hoping that this is the beginning of new conversations and deeper relationships with our neighbors. We're stepping out and breaking down barriers to build bridges. Please pray for this time of connection with our neighbors on December 22nd.

Christmas and holidays are perfect times to reach out. People want and need connection. And Christmas can be a time of loneliness and isolation for some. Invite someone over for Christmas cookies and coffee. Invite a few neighbors over. Or take them a cookie or a muffin and a Christmas card. Just do something to break down barriers and build bridges. Love your neighbors.

Merry Christmas and *Feliz Navidad*!



Photos: Right top and right bottom—Billy singing with the community chorale group in their Christmas performance this weekend. This has been a great way to meet people and be a part of the community! Below—We were excited to have the opportunity to drive to the mountains (1.5 hours away from our home) to spend a couple of days enjoying the snow during Spain's recent 4-day national holiday! It was pretty cold for this Texas girl, but Sarah and Billy took advantage of lots of snowball fights and sledding time.







Give the gift of mental health support this Christmas!

Exhausted from holiday preparations?
Fed up and overwhelmed with the materialism of the holiday season?

Why not give something that doesn't require wrapping paper or bows or crowded shopping centers?

Give the gift of mental health support to a cross-cultural worker who desperately needs a helping hand.

We work with cross-cultural workers, international pastors, and humanitarian aid workers... all who are out there on the front lines doing tough work in really hard places. We provide coaching, peer counseling, and encouragement to weary workers when they find themselves in the rough patches and they need that important mental health support.

You can help!

$40 = one night stay + care services in the La Posada care apartment (Goal: to cover at least 24 nights for needy workers=$960)

$50 = one hour of on-line coaching support for an overseas ministry worker (Goal: to cover 400 hours of online coaching support=$20,000)

$280 = one week of care and rest for a cross-cultural worker in La Posada (Goal: to raise funds for at least 12 weeks of care for workers=$3360)

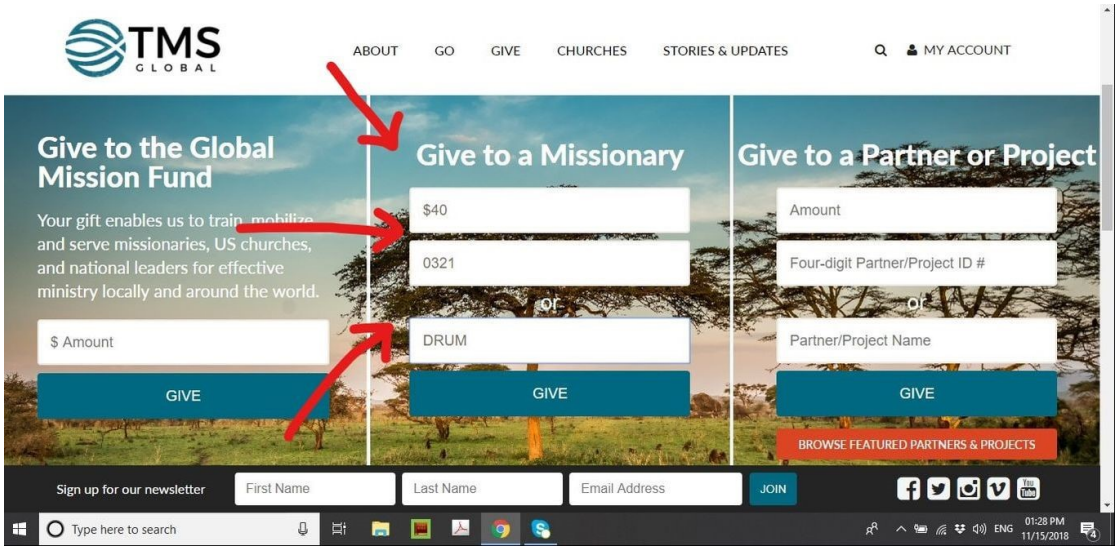
$500 = 3-day debrief retreat (stay in La Posada, meals, debrief services) (Goal: to scholarship at least 6 full debrief retreats to workers in need=$3000)

You can make a difference in the resilience and longevity of a cross-cultural worker or aid worker in the field! Give them the gift of mental health support and time to be cared for and restored and ready to continue their important work.

Go online at www.drumsforchrist.org/christmas-2018 to give any amount and help us meet the needs of weary workers who need a helping hand. If you want to donate as a gift in honor of a friend or family member, just let us know and we will send you a downloadable gift card to share for Christmas!

It's easy! You'll be directed to the giving page for TMS Global - fill in the **Give to a Missionary** box with your amount and our information (see the example below). You will be directed to a sight to finalize your donation so your gift will go directly to our care ministry account. It's that simple!

Thank you for making this vital service available to aid workers in need. We can't do it without heroes like you! Merry Christmas!!!



Please continue to join us in these Prayers:

- That we would be vital members of our community
- For improved communication in our marriage
- That we would grow and become better care providers
- For team dynamics and loving, supportive community
- For improved communications with our family in the USA
- For healthy lifestyle amidst the challenges of living overseas
- That we would each develop deep and lasting friendships in Spain
- That our home would be open and welcoming and give peace to all who enter
- That we would have more open doors to the refugee and immigrant community
- That we would hear from God about our involvement in the local church
- That our Home Team and community in the US would be anchors of authentic connection and support
- For Kingdom thinking to break forth in Antequera
- For people to live out the beauty of Kingdom and "love your neighbor" in our community
- For La Posada care apartment and ministry to be used to it's potential and purpose
- For improved financial provision
- For our family to be growing in The Word and in prayer
- For Antequera to have a beautiful model of church and Christian community
- For a movement of small groups, house churches, and dinner church groups to take hold and grow and live out the beauty of faith communities
- For us to each feel valued and feel that we are using our unique gifts and talents in ways that make a difference to others and to the Kingdom