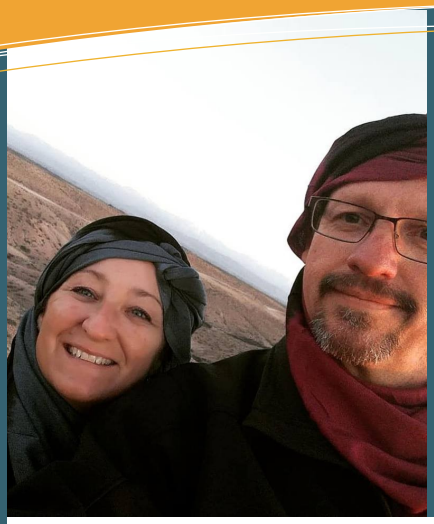
January
February
2019

Stories from Peru and Morocco and Bosnia

Monthly News
And Updates for
Partners of
The Drum Family



this issue

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Is this the reality of Matthew 25:35-46?

I was hungry …
And you formed humanitarian groups to discuss my hunger.
I was imprisoned …
And you crept off quietly to your church and prayed for my release.
I was naked …
And in your mind you debated the morality of my appearance and my lifestyle.
I was sick …
And you thanked God for your health.
I was homeless …
And you preached to me of the spiritual shelter of the love of God.
I was lonely …
And you left me alone so you could go pray for me.
You seem so holy, so close to God …
But I am still hungry … and lonely … and cold …
~ author unknown ~

This poem was read at a recent conference we attended. Haunting me still. Lord, let this not be MY reality! Let me be a person of action and outreach , of vulnerability and compassion, a person who truly loves my neighbor with more than just words and religiosity.

From camels in the Sahara to snow in Sarajevo

Y'all, really, I can't make this stuff up. In January, we were in Morocco where we met with 21 other mission workers for leadership development. I (Laurie) taught the opening development session to set the stage for the week and it kicked off lots of really deep discussions and strategic planning for development. Anyone who knows me knows that I love nothing more than teaching and training and helping people move forward with their personal and professional development! Billy did what Billy does best... he spent the week walking alongide people and listening to their stories, helping to bridge gaps and heal wounds, and giving the deep care that they need to keep them healthy and thriving in the field. And yes, part of that time was spent on a camel in the desert, because we hang out with some pretty interesting people!



Then it was back home to Spain to switch gears and change out the clothes in our suitcases. Going from the Sahara desert and camels to Bosnia snow and refugee ministry in a week's time is a little crazy! Okay… it's a lot crazy. But that's what our life looks like right now.

We attended the Refugee Highway Partnership roundtable discussions in Sarajevo. Christian humanitarian aid workers gathered together to share best practices, tools, and development support. In the afternoons, we worked with a local pastor in Sarajevo who has opened a refugee community center as an outreach in the streets and camps, and to give support to the long-term workers who continue to work the refugee crisis every day. It may have fallen out of the daily news cycle, but it is still a serious crisis for Europe and the Middle East. People continue to come, crossing borders in sub-zero temperatures with little to no clothing or personal possessions. Many arrive sick and with injuries from war or from torture received during their journey to try to escape. While we were working, one man died and another was critically injured from burns sustained when their tent caught on fire from the small camp heater they were using to try to keep warm.

The effects of the stress and trauma and difficult living conditions (for both the refugees and the humanitarian workers) is taking a huge psychological toll on people. Billy received an urgent email before the conference asking if he would be willing to serve in a care capacity during the week, taking appointments to help workers who are suffering

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from chronic trauma and exhaustion. These are people who are seeing front-line injuries, both physical and mental, and are trying to meet the most basic needs of people who have lost everything. The incidence of PTSD and serious mental breakdown among humanitarian workers who deal with refugees is a growing concern, surpassing what has been seen in the past in active military personnel.

Another note about our time in Bosnia... our local Spanish pastor (Miguel) has recently become active in refugee outreach in our town of Antequera! He has been visiting the relocation centers and meeting refugees. This has been a huge turning point for him!!! You're always afraid of what you don't understand, and Miguel has been timid and afraid to step in because he just didn't know how to do it. The turning point was... soccer. Yes, soccer. It's a language the whole world understands. He began inviting refugees to play soccer with him. Pretty soon, there were so many that he had 4 teams of them! So he held a tournament! And that led to inviting them to participate in some activities at the church. And then several started coming and using the church kitchen to cook a meal from "home" and share. And and and and... it just kept getting better!

We invited Miguel to go to Bosnia with us to participate in the conference and to learn from others. Honestly, we thought he would say no. He hasn't ever traveled out of Spain. He doesn't speak anything but Spanish. He didn't have a passport. And then, from the pulpit in church one Sunday, he announced to the congregation that he would like to go to Bosnia with us! WHAT?! We were shocked.

Our local church is tiny and our budget is tinier. The entire yearly operating budget is 24,000 euros, and that includes pastor's salary, utilities, maintenance, etc. That's it! So finding the 900 euros that he needed to travel to Bosnia would be a tough hurdle. The day before we left, he was able to raise 500. We raised 300 more for him in private donations. We went ahead on faith and registered him and bought his plane tickets and hotel reservations. At the last minute before we boarded the plane, a couple of more donations came in and topped off the deficit! He was beyond excited (and terrified). We prayed for Miguel to have a great experience, to meet lots of like-minded workers who can network with him and help him develop and grow in this area, and for us to be able to walk alongside him in this process. There is a fine line between being stretched and challenged and being completely overwhelmed and broken. We prayed for God to be delicate enough to protect him, but tough enough to push him in his growth.

God delivered BIG TIME! Miguel struggled with language and translators. He spent many days with both a wide-eyed wonder and deer-in-the-headlights look. You could almost physically see the lightbulbs going off during each session and workshop and conversation he had as he began to catch a new vision and see things in new ways. And in the end, we brought home a new man… a pastor with a new sense of service and calling and a heart for the nations. Most importantly, he has that beautiful balance between fire and peace that only God can produce in someone.



Miguel and Billy—Miguel's first ever international flight!

It has all been so good and I really wanted to share it with you. You are making a difference!!!!! Your partnership is important and good and it makes a difference all around the globe... in mission workers who gather in Morocco for development, in aid workers who gather in Bosnia for development, in humanitarian workers who need mental health care and support, in a Spanish pastor who is growing and learning to reach people in his own country and context, and in displaced peoples who come from everywhere and have desperate needs. You are making a difference! Thank you! Blessings!!!



Bosnia is still littered with land mines.



On our way to work at the refugee center… lots of snow and wind!!!



Miguel with Tomislavic—Pastor in Sarajevo



Special update from Peru - development and dividends...

Many of you will remember that our first year working in the village of San Juan de Iscos was not at all easy. In fact, it was downright scary at times. We were accused of poisoning children, human trafficking, and harvesting human organs. We were verbally abused by locals and the children in our program were attacked by townspeople swinging leather belts and beating them for associating with us. We even had local witches cast curses on us and read tarot cards prophesying against us. We wanted to quit in a big way.

It was our little team of Peruvian teachers who begged us to stay, to stand up and persevere. And so we did. Years later, we had three educational programs, a women's discipleship group, and community health and development works going in Iscos and the surrounding villages. Yet Iscos continued to be a "hard place" and we struggled to keep things going there while being people of peace amidst the chaos.

One of our Peruvian teachers, Rosio, has continued to work and live in Iscos, doing discipleship and working with the children and mothers in the area. She married a local boy from Iscos. She now has a baby and is a young mother in the town that worked so hard to persecute us for our faith. She has been a testament to all of the training and development work that we poured in to that small team of young teachers. This week, as I write this, she is holding a week-long Vacation Bible School in Iscos (it is summer in Peru) in conjunction with the opening of a new church that she and her husband have planted!!! Y'all, Rosio is planting a church… IN ISCOS! This is HUGE! This is the kind of fruit that we dream for and hope for and pray for. This is the reason that we train and mobilize and serve, that we pour out development and pour in to local believers who can carry on in our absence, who can reach their own people in their own language and culture. THIS IS IT!!!





Please pray for Rosio and her family as they begin this new work in a hard place. So exciting! Pray for the other young Peruvian teachers that we trained and developed in Peru, too. Tania has started an education program and outreach to families in Lima, and Milagros is working in areas of the Peruvian jungle where the government pays hazard pay and stipends to teachers because of active terrorism and narcotrafficking. And thank God for watering those seeds that we planted during our time in Peru. You sowed seeds of support and love and prayers in to us - we sowed seeds of love and encouragement, discipleship and development and formation in to the local people - Rosio and Tania and Milagros continued to tend those seeds and work that field - and now look what's springing up! Thank you for being a part of that! Sometimes it take a long time and we have to have a long-term vision, but God is faithful and He will bless our faithfulness and obedience to loving our neighbors well.





First day of Vacation Bible School in San Juan de Iscos! Rosio (teacher in red sweater) is planting a church for children and families in this rural community in Peru… a place we have prayed for over many years!

Please join us in prayer and praises:

We are honored by your faithfulness to partner with us in prayer for the things that we see happening in the world and for the ministry that we partner in with you. Thank you for laboring with us!

- Praises for our recent travels to Morocco to learn and to train with TMS leaders from around the globe!
- Praises for the Bosnia trip and for the important work that we were able to participate in there, as well as for the development and learning that we received.
- Praises for our ability to take Pastor Miguel with us to Bosnia. SPECIAL THANKS to those who stepped up and funded this very transformational time for him!!! We couldn't have done it without you! You guys are superheroes!!!
- Please pray for our friend, *Ahmed. He has completed his first 6 months in an asylum placement center and is now moving out and integrating in to an apartment in Antequera. He has another 6 months of relocation and integration support, and then he will have to be fully on his own. Pray for this time of learning and growth, and especially for him to feel loved and welcomed in Spain… his new home.
- Pray for our team as we work to help Miguel with new vision and new initiatives for neighboring well with refugees entering our community.
- Pray for us as we continue to care for other CCWs and host people in the La Posada care apartment. Just today, we had to turn away 2 different requests for dates because we are already booked with care services and debrief sessions. It's a busy season!

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!

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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:_____

ECFA MEMBER

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Address:_____
City:_____ St ._____Zip_____
Phone:_____ Home Church:_____
Email Address: _____

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