





La Luz de Cristo para Perú

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Sandcastle Princess | Iris



She stands on the edge of the scene, watching tourists drink margaritas and piña coladas and enjoy their day on the beach under thatched grass huts, their toes dipping in the white sand. This is her beach. Her village lies just over the hill. This is just one day in "paradise" for them, but just another ordinary day for her.

She timidly wanders up to our table carrying a handful of trinkets to sell. No smile, no eye contact, a mumbled sales pitch with no hope that we will actually buy something. Her face registers both surprise and a little fear as we actually speak to her in her native language (Spanish).

"What do you have?", I ask.

"Little insects and animals," she replies as the little wooden bobble headed trinkets wiggle and wobble in the box lid she carries. She tells me their prices.

"They are cute. Which one is your favorite?", I ask.

"This one—the caterpillar," she smiles.

"I like that one, too", I smile back. "How old are you?"

"Seven", she answers. Her response completely slays me… she's the same age as my daughter, Sarah. I almost can't complete my conversation because I am so suddenly and deeply wounded by the reality of this child. "What is your name?", I request.

"Iris."

"That's a beautiful name, Iris. Do you go to school?"

"Yes, I go in the morning session. I get off at noon. Then I come here to sell," she says, but her face is not shining anymore and she is suddenly timid and sad again.

"I am a teacher. I teach in the USA and I teach in Peru. (Iris smiles again) What is your favorite subject in school?"

"Science," she smiles.

"That's my favorite, too!", I exclaim and we both giggle. I buy the caterpillar to end our conversation because the restaurant owner is getting angry that we are entertaining an unauthorized "street vendor". I give her a hug and off she goes, table to table trying to sell the remainder of her trinkets.

We continued to watch Iris as we sat and ate our lunch. She continued to make the rounds at other tables until she had exhausted the current tourists and their inability to speak to her or understand her. Eventually, she put down her wares and headed for the edge of the water. And then, an amazing transformation took place… she began to dance. She danced and twirled and jumped, all the while smiling with her eyes closed and her head tilted high to the sky. We watched her dancing in the surf on the wet sand, sunshine sparking like jewels behind her in tiny wet footprints. Again, I see my own daughter in this precious little girl dancing in the waves. My heart is being crushed by her.

After the imaginary music stops, Iris sits in the sand and begins to build a sandcastle with her hands. And in that castle, in that moment, God struck me with such clarity. She's a princess. She's an heir to the throne. She's a child of the Most High King! She's seven years old. She wants to build sandcastles and dance and be a princess. But her day-to-day reality is that she is a "salesman" and her job is to get out of school at noon and sell trinkets on the beach to tourists so her family can make ends meet. After her brief time as a child on the beach, she collects her trinkets and goes back to the tables to try to sell to tourists who don't pay her any attention. My heart is broken and I begin to sob. I had prayed for God to give me eyes to see these children as He does, but the pain is immense.

This is the reality of so many children around the world. Not just in Peru, but all around the world. We have had occasion to meet these children in Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, and Costa Rica in the past two months. They are everywhere. And their stories are all similar. We can't save them all, but we can do our part in Peru… thank you for making the Kuyay Talpuy education programs possible! Never stop praying for our little princes and princesses!!! In this New Year, may your heart break a little for the littlest ones...

Christmas on The Mountain

Kuyay Talpuy celebrates Christmas and Graduation

December is a time of celebration for so many reasons. In Kuyay Talpuy, not only are we celebrating the birth of the Savior Jesus Christ, but we also celebrate the end of a school year and the graduation of some of our students from our project. Hope you enjoy these sweet faces and celebrate this wonderful time with us!



Above: Kuyay Talpuy staff enjoy traditional panetone bread and hot chocolate at the Christmas party for the students and their families.



Above: Students show off their new Bibles at the Christmas party.



Left: Ten students graduated from the Kuyay Talpuy project in Patarcocha.

From Perú to a church near you — The Drums speaking engagement calendar

We are still back "home" in the USA for our furlough/homeland ministry assignment. We will be in the USA for 2 more months, spending time with family & friends, reconnecting with churches and supporters, and sharing the news from the field. We would love to see you and share about the work in Peru! Call us at 979-985-5268 to set up a coffee date, lunch or dinner date, etc, or you can catch up with us at any of our remaining speaking engagements:

January 9 - Trinity Lutheran Church; Navasota, Texas. Fellowship Hall. Mission presentation, Q&A session, photos, videos, fellowship.

January 15-16 - First United Methodist Church; Lafayette, Louisiana. Mission presentation, Q&A session, photos, videos, fellowship.

January 23 - First Presbyterian Church; Shiro, Texas. Sanctuary / worship service.

January 27 - First UMC; Wheelock, Texas. Mission presentation, Q&A session, photos, videos, fellowship.

January 30 - A&M United Methodist Church; College Station, Texas. Sanctuary / worship service presentations (8 a.m. & 11 a.m.). Fellowship Hall: Mission presentation, Q&A session, photos, videos, fellowship (9:30 a.m.).

February 2 - First Presbyterian Church; Navasota, Texas. Family Life Center (Wednesday Fellowship Supper 6 p.m.): Mission presentation, Q&A session, photos, videos, fellowship.

February 5-6 - Halltown Baptist Church; Halltown, Missouri. *Weekend schedule TBA.*

February 13 - Christ UMC; College Station, Texas. Sanctuary / The River worship service (9:30 a.m.)

February 15 - COMBINED FELLOWSHIP of First UMC Millican, Texas and First Baptist Church Millican, Texas. Millican Community Center (6:30 p.m.) Full mission presentation.

February 20 - Christ UMC; College Station, Texas. Sanctuary / worship service presentations (8 a.m. & 11 a.m.) Fellowship Hall (9:30 a.m.): Mission presentation, Q&A session, photos, videos, fellowship.

February 27 - First United Methodist Church; Bryan, Texas. Fellowship Hall (9:30 a.m.): Mission presentation, Q&A session, photos, videos, fellowship.

WHAT ARE YOUR DREAMS?

STAFF/TEACHERS FROM KUYAY TALPUY SHARED THEIR DREAMS FOR THE PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY WITH US...

We frequently sit down with our teachers, staff, Peruvian missionaries and our director and we have a share-fest about our prayers, our hopes, our struggles, and our dreams for the program. We thought it would be important to share their ideas with you:

- **Milagros:** *I hope that we won't ever be in a position to abandon these children. I want to follow up and stay with them. I want to continue to tutor them and support them and give them skills. I want to empower them to go further. I would like to see a program where we teach skills for their future and they learn how to get into college, how to get jobs, and how to succeed.*
- **Tania:** *God brought man to life with His breath. I want to breathe life into our students and their families. I want to awaken their dreams and aspirations and hopes.*
- **Rocio:** *I pray for swings. There are no parks for children in Iscos. I take ropes out to the field every day and we loop them over the soccer goal posts and swing on a rope. I wish the kids had a place to play. The kids have prayed for swings, so I know God will send them somehow.*
- **Johanna:** *I'm praying for God to use me and my time in Kuyay Talpuy to teach me and to strengthen me in my missionary abilities. I'm praying for the people of this mountain. I'm praying for relationships. It's all about relationships. And while I'm here, I dream of building relationships for God. (Johanna is a Peruvian missionary serving with us while she tries to raise funds to become a missionary to India.)*
- **Darwin:** *I pray for our teachers to learn more and grow more. I believe that the Kuyay Talpuy program is going to continue growing. I'm praying for a miracle. I'm praying for funds so we can keep marching up the mountain and helping families and teaching them more about God.*



Prayers and Praises

Pray for our 5 year old student Brayan (Iscos). His father was killed in December. This leaves his mother as a widow caring for several children. **Praises** that his extended family (grandparents) have come forward and want to start a bible study in the home to learn more about God and what happens after death.

Praises and Prayers for the disciple projects in Iscos, Patarcocha and Tinyari. Pray for our Peruvian missionaries as they work to teach the Bible and to usher new believers into relationships with others so they can grow and learn more.

Pray for the Kuyay Talpuy education projects and for the communities of Iscos, Patarcocha, and Tinyari. **Pray** for our teachers as they strive to teach and help people to apply Godly principles in their lives. **Pray** for the community outreach programs that our team is currently implementing during January and February.

Pray for us as we work to share the mission in Peru through our speaking engagements and our time here in the USA. Pray that more doors open and people are mobilized to serve and give to missions.

Pray for our Peruvian workers as they pick up the slack and stand in the gap while we are in The States. Pray for strength and wisdom for them as they serve the people of Peru. Pray that they grow and flourish as a team.

The Drums | HOW TO CONTACT US

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NEWSLETTER: VISIT THE WEBSITE AT WWW.DRUMSFORCHRIST.ORG AND CLICK "NEWSLETTERS"

SUPPORT US: USE THE FORM ABOVE, OR GO TO http://www.themissionsociety.org/people/drum

DEAR BILLY AND LAURIE,

☐ I will pray for you. Please send me your newsletter by e-mail: _____

☐ As God provides, I plan to partner with you by giving $ _____ Per month / quarter / year for _____ years.

☐ I would like to donate a one-time gift of $ _____

☐ I would like to sponsor a child's education for $30/mo. ($360/year). (Please write Special Project on your check)

Name (PLEASE PRINT) _____

Address _____

City_____ State_____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Home Church _____

Email Address: _____

TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS MAY BE SENT TO:

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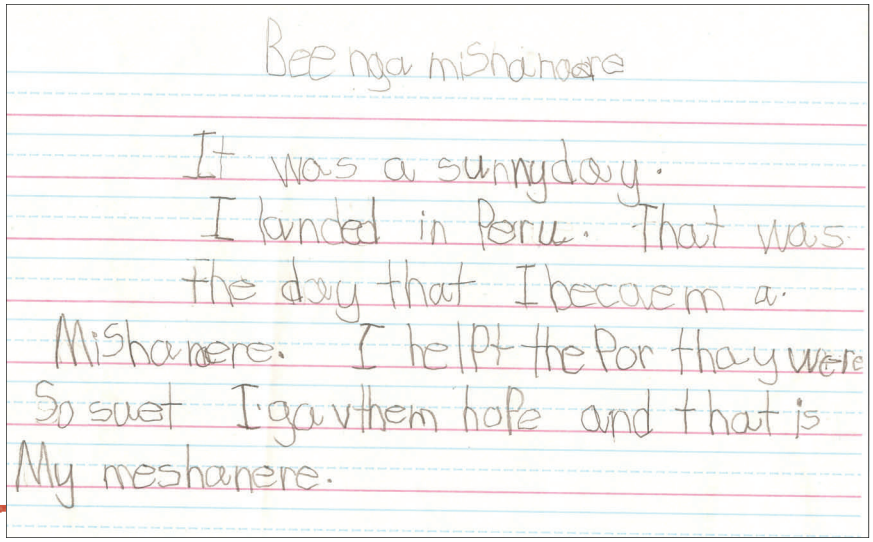
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Norcross, GA 30010-2637 USA

DESIGNATE GIFTS: "DRUM—0321SUP"



Sarah's first grade teacher recently sent home this excerpt from Sarah's journal. We thought we would share it with you...



Being a Missionary

It was a sunny day. I landed in Peru. That was the day that I became a missionary. I helped the poor. They were so sweet. I gave them hope and that is my mission.

SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH THE PEOPLE OF PERU.

WWW.DRUMSFORCHRIST.ORG | 979.985.5268

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