Monthly News
And Updates for Partners of
The Drum Family

To the Nations:
Serving in Spain and Reaching Beyond

July
August
2026



this issue

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Prayers & Praises

Prayers and Praises:

- Billy will lead a group of 8 cross-cultural mission workers on a spiritual formation trek on the Camino de Santiago in September.
- Partnership with Cortijo Carrillo, Asociación CARE, and La Posada Training and Care - IT'S WORKING! Billy has had one Burnout Recovery coaching weekend this month, and he has another one set for September. He also has a Critical Incident Debrief weekend scheduled for next weekend with a family in need. This three-way partnership is proving to be a great way to serve mission and ministry workers.
- Praises for the cross-cultural training event held in Antequera this summer!!! This was the biggest we've hosted in years! We served 80+ people (mission and ministry leaders). They represented 20 countries. (See the article pg. 3 for details.)
- Ministry care apartment (in our home) - the apartment continues to function for it's purpose. We have someone staying in the apartment for a week for missionary care at the end of September.
- Sarah's new equestrian center is getting clients each week from the adjacent hotel and she has new livery clients. Special thanks to all who have sent special gifts to support this effort!
- Laurie started coursework with PATH (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) to become a specialist in Equine Assisted Learning. She will be specializing in three areas: Personal Development, Organizational Leadership, and Education. This will allow her to come alongside both Billy in his coaching and care work, as well as come alongside Sarah for workshops and equine sessions at the stables.

Healing, Hope, and Second Chances

We drove out into the countryside, down small side roads and winding country lanes till we found ourselves in a tiny farm town. Google Maps kept us moving forward, but the road continued to get smaller and we began to wonder exactly where we might be going to see this horse that was for sale.

The road literally ended in front of an old metal pole barn with a ginormous Mastif dog chained outside. Of course, his name was Oso (Bear) and he had enough hair and size to match that idea. Around the barn were at least 187 different rusty, dead farm vehicles and old implements.

The horse we came to see was already tied inside the barn door and waiting. That always gives us pause, since we didn't get to see him in the field or in his stall, we didn't see him being caught or haltered or led. Are there issues that we haven't seen yet? Is the seller trying to hide a vice? The horse is an absolutely huge PRE (Pura Raza Espanola). His genetics make him stunning! But there are signs that can't be ignored… he has scars on his face from years of a torturous bridle that has metal teeth on the noseband, designed to cut into his face if he tries to raise his head. This is sadly a common practice among some Spanish horse people, especially with the large PRE breed. But when Sarah got on him, she was pleased with how he handles and finds him to be a good option for what she wants to do at the barn.

After trying two more horses and spending some time talking about paperwork and price, we decided to move forward with buying the horse. Then we asked, "What's his name?"



"Rastrojo."

Sarah immediately says, "*Pobrecito* (poor baby)" and the man just shrugged his shoulders and turned away. Sarah's demeanor changed and I wonder what had just transpired. This isn't a word that I've heard before, but that wouldn't be uncommon. I've really only been around showjumpers in Spain and they all have flashy, big, sporty names like Tornado or Apollo or Wavebreaker.

Later I found out that the word *"rastrojo"* means field trash. It's the word for the leftover vegetation and damaged plant matter and junk that remains in the field after they cut or harvest. Literally,

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someone named this horse Field Trash. Not only that, but they put it on his official registered pedigree papers. Field Trash. And he has been living for 17 years being called Field Trash, and obviously physically traumatized with heavy-handed training techniques.

We bought him.

We believe that words have power, and that there is something in a name that speaks life (or darkness). So we immediately changed his name. We were never going to let this horse be called *Rastrojo* (Field Trash) ever again. Bless him. Seriously… we wanted to speak blessing over him.

We named him Rocky. It fits. He's easily the biggest guy on the property, but he is truly a gentle giant. He looks like a prize fighter who has had his nose damaged one too many times. But he definitely doesn't act like it. We put gentle tack on him and started giving him the love he deserves. He gives love right back. You can't out-love this horse!

In July, we hosted a group of 8 teens for a morning of team-building and riding. They are all third-culture-kids, children of mission and ministry workers who live in a culture that is not their passport culture. Teens are a special lot… hormones and emotions and trying to find themselves. A couple of the girls immediately fessed up that they were nervous, but willing to try. One young girl was terrified – we knew we needed to put special eyes on her. One boy was being "all teen boy" and acting tough and brave, but it was the mask that he wears to cover his fears. Horses are masters at sensing the mask and tend to mirror it back to the rider, so we knew this one was also going to need some extra help.

And then there was Felipe.

Felipe was the biggest and oldest kid in the group. He was excited to come to the stables, but he was uncharacteristically quiet and reserved on this day. However, he said that he had riding experience and was familiar and comfortable with horses, and he seemed to do well as we started approaching them. It wasn't until later that he told us his story (which was confirmed when his parents told us their version):

Felipe had been an avid equestrian all through his growing up years. He loved his time riding horses. But in 2023, he suffered an accident that left him with an injury between his L4 and L5 vertebrae. He spent 6 months bedridden and without the use of his legs. He relied on his father to help him with all the tasks of basic daily living. During that time, his family and the church (Felipe's father is a pastor) prayed for a miracle. He says that he felt the constant prayers of others while he was without his legs and dependent as he lay in bed all day. No one knew if he would ever recover his ability to walk and care for himself again. But they prayed.

That miracle came in 2024 when he was suddenly healed of all pain and the ability to use his legs returned. He recovered his ability to walk and be a normal teen again, but there was still some trauma remaining. "I still had a fear of riding a horse again, though." He hadn't conquered that yet.

Felipe didn't tell us about his accident or his past. He had found the courage to try to ride again, and a visit with this teen group was his ticket. And guess who we happened to pair him with? Yep… the gentle giant - Rocky. We didn't know about Felipe's past trauma, and he didn't know about Rocky's trauma either. But they connected. Horses know. Rocky was gentle and loving as Felipe mounted and had a beautiful, confident, joyful ride. When we looked at the photos later, we could see the joy on his face. And Rocky carefully and confidently carried him through. Felipe says of his time with Rocky in July, "God enabled me to overcome that barrier (fear of horses)." And Rocky was the one God used to make that happen.



"After everything I've been through, riding again wasn't just a return to a sport I loved, but proof that God has restored not only my body but also my confidence. Today I look back with gratitude and am certain that the One who began this work in my life is faithful to complete it," Felipe says.

Rocky has found his place, and I think we have discovered his purpose for being with us. He has a forever home here.

If you would like to sponsor Rocky and his work with other riders like Felipe, you can donate to that work at https://www.tms-global.org/give. Choose the box Give to a Worker and type Laurie & Billy Drum. Our acct # is 0321. Billy and Sarah partner in using the horses with Billy's care clients (mission and ministry leaders – and their children) People like Felipe and his parents find healing in their care sessions. Just in the past two weeks, Billy has had burnout recovery clients and critical incident/trauma clients come for debriefing and coaching, which includes sessions with the horses. If this is work you would like to support, please click the link to give or contact us for more information.

Laurie and Billy

UPDATE: Training event in Antequera was INCREDIBLE!

“It is a high intensity, learner's paradise. An immersive non-stop cross-cultural experience that if you allow it, it will change your entire perspective as you journey with Jesus.” That’s how one of the trainees described the cross-cultural mission training intensive that we just finished hosting in Spain.



More than 80 people from 20 different countries came together to learn about how to live and serve in their different cross-cultural contexts. We had so much diversity in the room... young people in their twenties who are going to serve overseas, all the way up to a pastor in his 70s who wants to know how to reach out to his own neighbors and community in more meaningful ways and support the church as it evolves in an ever-changing world. We had people from Brazil, Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama, Mexico, Zimbabwe, France, Syria, Russia, Kazakhstan, Colombia, USA, Puerto Rico, Senegal, Ireland, and more!

The training was translated into English, Spanish, and Portuguese by amazing translators who were doing live simultaneous translation on the fly. These translators were true rockstars! Our two media guys were working fast and furious to run everything behind the scenes – mics, three projections of teaching slides in different languages, instruments for daily worship, sound boards, 80 translation headsets and all the other translation equipment, AND they were jumping in to help with facilitation! Doing all of this in another country in a venue that you don’t know is a feat and they really kicked it!

The 50-hours of curriculum is intense and challenging. We work to make it extremely interactive and keep the energy high with lots of discussion and activities and connection between participants. The fact that we have so many different cultural perspectives in the room adds to the fun (and challenge) as we learn from each other and see differing ideas play out as we tackle tough subjects. Even Scripture has a different feeling and depth when you listen and learn with people from other cultural backgrounds.

“This training gave me a perfect chance to reflect on why I am doing what I am doing with my family (moving overseas and aiming to serve in a new culture). I benefited greatly from conversations with others from places in the world (Russia, Brazil, e.g.) where I am largely ignorant of the culture. It was a joy to ask questions and to see the world through their particular lenses.”

The impact has already begun: we know of two different trainees in two different countries who have already started new bible study groups with new believers as a result of the training they received. Another team of ministry workers has started planning to train others in some of the same concepts. And still others have taken the materials and already used them in their churches and mission fields. And one of the translators accepted Jesus as a result of his translation work with us during those two weeks!

Thank you for standing alongside us in prayer for this event. We know that we cannot do this alone. It not only takes a team of facilitators and staff to put this on, but it also takes people dedicated to prayer. It also takes people who have a vision and a passion for equipping others and who support this work. We have special donors who send scholarship funds so that people who don’t have the funds can still access the training they need. More than 40 of the participants came on some form of scholarship to help offset costs, so thank you!!!!

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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,

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