Monthly News
And Updates for
Partners of
The Drum Family

June / July
2018

Encourage



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Encouraging Progress with Leadership Team!

The Leadership Team with Centro Cristiano-Antequera had a follow-up retreat day to work on mission and vision and planning for the future. Laurie led the team in a time of reflection and sharing their expectations and dreams and fears around this important work (an activity in trust and vulnerability and transparency), and Delilah followed with a time of worship and focused prayer. The team spent



the first half of the day on the very hard work of defining the values that we hold as a church community. This was very important as it drives our strategy and decision-making! After lunch, we set about assessing what we are currently doing as a church and what we would like to see in the future. Finally, we began to choose a select few items to focus on and make action steps toward our goals. This time of strategic planning and goal setting and teamwork is something that we have not seen in the church since arriving in Spain 5 years ago! So excited to see where this leads us!!!

Who Encourages You?

The word “encourage” comes from the French, and it actually means “to insert courage” or “to give to the heart”. We do a lot of encouraging in our work. For example, just in this week, we have been helping students during exam times and giving lots of encouragement… courage to keep studying, to stay focused until the last exam, and to believe in themselves. We have spent time with other mission workers, encouraging them in their training and preparation and partnership development efforts. We have had various phone calls and texts and emails to workers, encouraging them in their current situations. And we frequently have coffee meetings that are times of encouragement for weary pastors, friends, and neighbors in town. We actually love these times of “giving to the heart” of others and “inserting courage” in to those who are currently fearful or tired and feeling overwhelmed.

But who encourages the encouragers? We are asked that periodically by our mentors or other counselors and caregivers. “Who gives you encouragement? Who pours in to your heart when you are tired and overwhelmed or fearful?”

In polls and surveys and research regarding ways they feel encouraged, cross-cultural workers consistently respond with the same handful of answers.

- When people read our newsletters and updates and they reply to us about them
- When people let us know that they prayed for us
- When we receive real mail and real phone calls
- When we are remembered on birthdays and holidays
- When people come to visit us for the purpose of encouraging us and blessing us and our team

We have a handful of really great encouragers who encourage us! We have a couple of ladies who faithfully send us emails of encouragement. They are also the folks who never forget our birthdays and always send a letter and a card. We have

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one special partner who sends a package to us every month! The days when these small acts of encouragement come are special days that pick up our spirits and remind us that we are not forgotten.



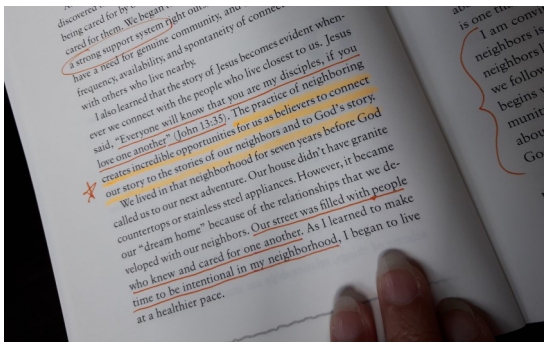
In May, we had a super special visit. Two long-time friends in mission came to visit us FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENCOURAGING US! What?! That's right… they came only to encourage us. They weren't here to do sightseeing or anything special. In fact, they asked us to please NOT worry about entertaining them or taking them to all the sights. They just wanted to sit with us, to hang out on the patio, to eat long meals and have long coffee chats and (most importantly) to listen. They wanted to listen. To us! They didn't really want to see us do anything special. They didn't want to go see all of our ministry work. They just wanted to be with us and to listen. And they specifically asked us to not change our schedule for them or do anything out of the ordinary. They just wanted to come alongside and be available to us for encouragement and support and listening. What a blessing!!!!



This week, our teammates Axel and Delilah, had a similar situation. (I think God knew that as a team, we have been really needing some encouragement! It's been a tough couple of months.) One of their long-time friends in mission came to visit them FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENCOURAGEMENT! Unbelievable! And he has lived in Peru for many years, so he wanted to meet us and encourage us, too! WHAT?! We had a wonderful time sharing stories about Peru and the places / foods / experiences we have in common. He was a huge blessing to us, giving us words of encouragement and lifting us up, letting us know that we are seen and understood and not forgotten, that we are in the prayers of the people and that even though the work is difficult, our hearts and our spirit of peace in the community will prevail. Wow!

We are so grateful for the Encouragers—those who have a spirit for blessing others with their acts of prayer, letter writing, mailing small gifts, phone calls, emails, and above all, TIME to talk and listen and remind us that someone cares. You may never know how much your acts of kindness have meant to cross-cultural workers who need a little pick-me-up on those overwhelming days!

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. ~1 Thessalonians 5:11





"Why don't you meet us tomorrow afternoon for something to eat and some music?" It's the first time our neighbors have invited us to do anything with them, so we were pretty excited! Little did we know that they had invited us to a members-only private flamenco club! This is HUGE! Even other locals couldn't believe that we had been invited in to such a closed, intimate group. We had a great time, met some other awesome people - we even sat with a famous flamenco singer who is now retired and judges flamenco competitions. Such a great day with the neighbors!



Go to www.tms-global.org/give and put a little of your summer funds to work.

We need you this summer!

One of our busiest times of the year for care and counseling, as well as for work with youth and young adults, is during the summer months—June and July.

June and July are also our lowest financial giving months.

Summer vacation in the States means less money toward ministry work overseas, and that's just when we need it the most!

Please don't forget us during summer vacation.

La Posada... Rest, Restore, Recalibrate



La Posada literally means "a place to stop" in Spanish. It comes from the Latin word *pausare* (to pause). We all need a place to stop, a time to pause, to slow down, to rest. That's exactly why the *La Posada* ministry apartment exists. We are a place for front line workers (cross-cultural workers, pastors, humanitarian aid workers, etc.) to rest, to restore, and to recalibrate.



Laurie and Billy Drum provide coaching, counseling, and encouragement to weary workers when they find themselves in tough places. Sometimes workers are dealing with hard transitions in their lives, or they are exhausted from living life in hard places. Sometimes, they just need a few days to rest deeply, to cry with a friend, to laugh till their sides hurt, and to talk to someone who really listens. *La Posada* is a safe place to work through the rough patches and find a healthy way to move forward and stay in the field as productive, thriving workers.





We are not a business, so we do not charge fees. Instead, we ask for offerings and raise funds to cover the care costs for workers whenever we can. We never want to turn anyone away for financial reasons. The daily cost of hosting people in *La Posada* is $40. Most workers come for a week of rest and recovery ($280). While with us, they receive full lodging and meals, as well as any coaching and counseling services they need or would like to receive. We treat the whole person – emotionally, spiritually, physically, and relationally.

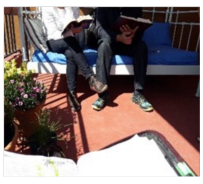


To learn more about La Posada, go to www.drumsforchrist.org/la-posada.html









Prayers: -Prayers for a special Refugee Sunday event that we will be hosting at Centro Cristiano on June 24.

- Please pray with us for the youth and young adults of our area. This is an intense time of exams for them.

- prayers for the local church that we help serve, and for Kingdom transformation in our community. Help us pray for Centro Cristiano and for our town of Antequera. Help us to pray for our leadership team as we work through mission and vision and planning for the future.

- PRAISES! We have hosted 4 people in La Posada in May! And we have more coming in June and July and August! This is a blessing to the people who come to receive rest and restoration. And it is nothing short of a miracle of provision! God has put this ministry on the hearts of several wonderful people who have stepped up and partnered in the work of getting the care apartment ready for guests. And just this week, we were given the incredible news that funds have been raised for the bathroom addition and kitchenette. Work begins immediately to make those adjustments and additions! Thank you to all who have given funds and shared prayers for this ministry!!!

Ladies save the day with a Tea Party!

Heroes in the garden - Seven faithful ladies stepped in and put on their Wonder Woman attire (flowered dresses and garden party hats) and raised over $4000 for the La Posada ministry (see left)! Who knew that tea cakes and cucumber sandwiches and scones and cookies would bring us a miracle, but that's what happened! Dozens of women showed up in their party dresses and came together to bless the La Posada care apartment and all of the front-line ministry workers who will be receiving care and counseling, rest and restoration here in Spain. Special thanks to all who went above and beyond with donations and gifts.

Thanks, Heroes!!!!







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- 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!

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Delilah, Merry & Laurie at a women's ministry event hosted by Merry & Vicente.

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

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

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