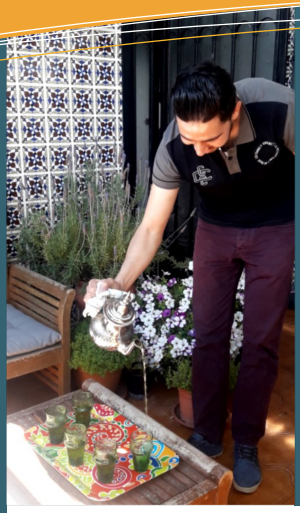
June / July
2019

#loveyourneighbor

Monthly News
And Updates for
Partners of
The Drum Family



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World Refugee Day is June 20th

World Refugee Day commemorates the obstacles refugees face each year, while also celebrating their courage and strength. Since 2001, the United Nations and more than 100 countries have observed World Refugee Day annually on June 20th.

Here are a few facts to help you better understand the current refugee crisis:

- There are currently 65.3 million forcibly displaced people around the world.
- More than 21 million of these people are refugees and 10 million are stateless.
- On average, 42,500 people per day flee their homes to seek protection .
- In the last year alone, there have been 13.9 million people newly displaced.
- More than 11 million Syrians are currently displaced. This amounts to 45% of the Syrian population.
- 86% of the world's refugees are hosted by developing countries.
- Refugees only account for a tiny percentage of overall immigration.
- Of the 20 million refugees worldwide, 51% are under the age of 18. This is the highest number of child refugees since World War II.

On June 20, and on every other day of the year, please join our team as we pray for and serve refugees.
#loveyourneighbor

Learning about Hospitality from people who are searching for a new place to call ‘home’

I am humbled every single day lately. Seriously - every day. I am convinced that I get to meet the best people in the world on a daily basis. And not one of them is wealthy or fancy or dressed to the nines. Every one of them is currently unemployed. Every one of them currently lives day-to-day, hoping to find community and friendship and “home”. I think what makes them the absolute best people I’ve ever known is that they are so amazingly hospitable and humble. They exude peace and friendship and love in a way that I am completely unaccustomed to. And honestly, I hope I never stop being amazed by them! I hope I never take it for granted. I hope that I never get to the day when I stop noticing that this amazing love that I am shown is just that—amazing!

Let me share just a little of what I’m talking about:

We were invited to dinner at T* and E*'s apartment last week. They are refugees from a former Soviet block country, here on religious asylum due to persecution. They come to our community center, La Mesa Turquesa, every day. They wanted to make us some traditional food. I was so honored and blessed that they invited us to share a meal with them. THEY ARE THE BEST EXAMPLES OF WHAT HOSPITALITY LOOKS LIKE! They have a small apartment - only 4 chairs at the table, but that didn't keep them from inviting us. They pulled up 2 armchairs from the living room and served the 6 of us. They never ate! Never. They just served us! All the dishes were mismatched sizes. They accidentally bought beer for the kids - it looked like juice in a can to them. Hahaha! Been there! Learning another culture is hard. Sometimes even grocery shopping is a major obstacle. They are still learning the language and it is a non-stop challenge. They have two littles. There were 4 toddlers in the apartment, plus Sarah, plus 5 adult guests, plus T* and E*.

My point to all of this is that they didn't let circumstances get in the way of hospitality and

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relationships. They invited us over knowing full well that language and chairs and dishes and space and babies were "not perfect", but they did it anyway. They didn't wait until the living room was perfect. They didn't wait till their language skills were better. They didn't decide that kids would make it too messy or loud or crazy or crowded. THEY DID IT ANYWAY!

This is what hospitality is. This is what builds relationships and community and makes me feel a special connection.



Want more? There are lots more stories! Here's a taste...

- *K comes in to the center every day. When I first met her, she was terrified and knew zero Spanish. Terrified! No smile and literally trembling. She has been coming for two weeks now. Every day, she comes in and gives me the biggest hug! Huge!!! That is her gift to me every day - that hug that has so much emotion behind it. She then asks about my family using her simple, three-word Spanish sentence that she has learned. Every time. "How is Billy? How is your daughter? How are you?" Then she tells me something about her night last night, or her morning today. Then it's down to business. "You. Study me. Spanish. Study me. Need more Spanish. Yes? Come." And she grabs the flashcards and we sit together. We do a million flashcards of pictures and vocabulary. Now she knows about 30 of them by heart, but she continues to flip through the entire deck and try to add more. I encourage her to just choose 5 or 6 new ones so we can focus on them, but she insists that we do them all. K* can't read or write. The written words on every card mean nothing to her. She just looks at pictures and learns the vocabulary. She listens and repeats. She is voracious! In two weeks, she has learned to communicate with us. Her sentences are simple. Sometimes we have to wade through her new Spanish plus French plus her tribal language and pantomime to figure out what she is really trying to say. Today, we sat together with another friend who speaks Amazigh, Arabic, a little French, and she's learning Spanish. Our three-way conversation was a crazy mix of languages and cultures. It's funny—we do a lot of laughing. A lot! K* is learning so fast and I couldn't be more proud of her. This teacher-heart is just so full!!! When she leaves, she hugs me and she kisses me and tells me when she will be back. And she will! She always says, "Say Billy, Hola", and she pats her heart. I just love K*!



- *S and *F invited us to their home for afternoon coffee time. It's a custom in Spain to have *merienda* at 5:30 - a time of coffee and pastry or light snack. In the home country of S* and F*, it's also their custom to have afternoon tea or coffee and a bite. When we turned the corner on their block, S* was waiting outside the building for us, to greet us at the door! Their apartment is tiny—almost like a hotel room with a kitchenette. But S* showed us "around the house" with such pride. All five of us sat around a small round "end table" and shared a traditional bread from their home culture that F* had made. It was amazing! We ate off of a mismatch of plates and bowls in different sizes. F* served coffee in various glasses (they don't have coffee cups). F* suddenly realized that they did not have napkins, so she went to the bedroom and grabbed a towel and began to tear it in to pieces and make napkins, an act that both pained me and honored me all at the same time. If I had so little, would I be willing to tear up one of my towels to make napkins for my guests? When it was time to go home, they pulled out a large bucket of black olives that they had personally harvested and brined and poured them in to a plastic container and sent them home with us as a gift. This morning, F* came over to my house to bring me homemade m'semmen (a type of flat bread). Next week, she's going to teach me how to make it! She says her mother is the real teacher, but F* taught me how to make couscous, lamb and vegetables last week and she's a pretty incredible teacher in her own right.

Thanks for supporting and encouraging the La Mesa Turquesa center! THIS is why it's so great! It's building relationships and opening doors and sharing life with our newest neighbors, learning about cultures and embracing a new community and family.

A busy June, July, and August… and YOU are part of it!

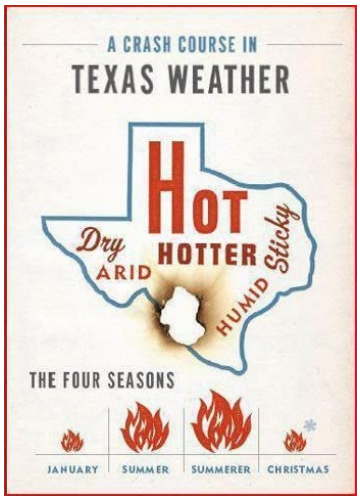
We have a pretty exciting summer, and YOU are part of it!!!

June:

- June 14...Sarah graduates from ESO (secondary school). I can't even. When did she grow up?
- June 23… Laurie flies to Central America to be a part of the TMS training team. Once a year, TMS holds a two-week international intensive to train new cross-cultural workers. This year, we will be training workers from several Latin American countries and the USA to go out and serve in countries all over the globe. Laurie will be teaching modules on culture, cross-cultural communications, and worldview.

July:

- July 6… Billy and Sarah fly to the UK with the *Coro San Sebastian de Antequera*, a performance choir from our community that Billy has been singing with this year. They will be performing in Wales. In return, a choir from Wales will be visiting our area in Spain in the Fall in a cultural exchange. Billy will also be attending coursework at Redcliffe College for a couple of weeks in July.
- Mid-July… Sarah will fly to the USA and meet up with Laurie (flying in from Central America). We'll be meeting up with Laurie's mom in Colorado and helping her drive down to Texas for a visit.
- July 23… TEXAS!!! Billy will fly in to Austin and we'll finally all be on Texas soil! We'll be staying in the Bryan / College Station / Brazos valley area till the end of August and we would LOVE TO SEE YOU!!! Both of the boys are now living in B/CS and we aren't going ANYWHERE! We're going to hang out in the same town with our kids and granddaughter Lily as much as possible, and get to see friends in B/CS a lot!!! ***Special thanks to our Home Team folks who have opened up their homes and agreed to host us while we are in Texas. And to The Johnsons who are loaning us a vehicle while we're Stateside.



<u>July 24-August 31</u>…

- We are available for visiting, meals, hanging out, Game Night, speaking at church or bible study or Sunday school, cookouts, lake time, the zoo, the museum, plenty of Mexican food, etc. ALL THE THINGS! We want to do all the things! Send ***us dates… let's make plans!***
- I want to go to Target and Hobby Lobby and Michaels and every office supply store known to man. I want to go sit in libraries and book stores because I miss that!
- I want tacos and enchiladas and anything Cajun or Mexican or Texan. BEEF! We want beef! And spicy… anything spicy! And Blue Bell. Oh Heavens, thank you for Blue Bell! And Shipley's!!! And real hamburgers. And barbeque!!! (We might need to visit a gym or two, or ten!!!***Anybody got connections at the gym?)***
- I really want to get family photos done while we're in Texas, so if ***anyone knows photographers in the area, let me know, please!!!***
- Horse people… Sarah will be away from riding for two months, which might kill her, so ***if you can connect a very experienced, competitive rider with a mount (or at least a ride or two)*** during August, we would be forever grateful!!!

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!

- **<u>Pray for our team</u>** as we continue to build community for refugees and immigrants in our community via La Mesa Turquesa community center.
- **<u>Pray for our team</u>** as we juggle and rearrange summer schedules and try to cover all of our duties, both within the community as well as in our families.
- **<u>Pray for us</u>** as we will have a really busy summer of travel for work (June and July) and then to Texas for a time of reconnecting with family and YOU! Lots of logistics and crazy itineraries in the coming weeks.
- **<u>Pray for Sarah</u>** as she winds down the school year. She is taking exams right now**.** She graduates on June 14th. In Spain, you graduate after the 4th year of secondary school - the equivalent of 10th grade in Texas. Then you go on to a 2-year pre-university program if you intend to sit for university entrance exams and study for a Bachelor's degree. *When did this baby grow up??? It seems like just yesterday that I held her little wiggly toddler body in my arms and watched my boys graduate from high school!*

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!

Contact The Drums:
Skype billy.drum
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Our Team at La Mesa Turquesa Opening Day!

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: _____

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