Monthly News And Updates for Partners of The Drum Family

June
July
2025

Kingdom Mosaics from Spain



this issue

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Prayers & Praises

Praises:

- **Camino Spiritual Retreat:** Praises for the Camino retreat that Billy led in May - see the article on page 3 for details. It was a really great Camino retreat filled with deep conversations and spiritual renewal.

Prayers:

- **Maclin Panama 2025:** Please pray for the upcoming Maclin Training, June 30-July 12. See the article on page1-2 for details and more prayer points. Pray especially for all of the participants, for their hearts and minds to be receptive to this training, and for God to deepen their callings for mission and the world.
- **Ministry trip to Peru:** we are very excited to have the opportunity to go back to Peru for a ministry visit!!! We will fly to Peru on July 14th and spend 10 days visiting places and people who we love. Very excited to see old friends and see the ministries that have remained and grown since we left 13 years ago.
- **Please pray with us for healing and the road to recovery for Ann**, one of the pilgrims from Billy's May Camino group. (see article on page 3) Ann fell and broke her shoulder in several places and unfortunately, had to leave the Camino to return to the USA for possible surgery. The great news is that by the time she got back to the USA and had her xrays repeated, the bone fragments has settled into place and the orthopedic specialist decided that surgery was not necessary right now. Pray for continued healing and the road to recovery for Ann.
- **Saying Goodbye to The Marcum Family:** Our friends and former teammates, Kat and Ryan, are leaving Spain to return to the USA after 8 years. Goodbyes are hard, especially when you love people so much! We will miss them as neighbors (they live a block away) and as friends. And we will miss Luke and Eloise, who we have watched grow up from infancy.

Big Things Are Happening in Panama—And You're a Part of It!



Something extraordinary is about to take place in Panama, and YOU are a big part of it. I'm writing this as Billy and I and our teaching team pack and put the finishing touches on the HT and Alice Maclin Mission Training Institute (what we call *Maclin Training*), and my heart is so full of excited anticipation. This isn't just another training event. It's a powerful, Spirit-filled gathering of people from 13 different countries, all joined together for one reason: to be equipped to bring the Good News of Jesus across cultures, with humility, with wisdom, and with love.

This year's Maclin Training is one of the most diverse and impactful events we've ever done. We've got participants from Kenya, the U.S., Spain, Nicaragua, Honduras, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, Costa Rica, Argentina, the Republic of Congo, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic. And let me tell you—God is doing something truly global through this training. We have had a missional goal to help mobilize people "***from*** everywhere ***to*** everywhere", and this training is doing exactly that!

We're partnering with our amazing friend Luciano Pereira da Silva, the Global Methodist Church in Panama, and the ASA Movement to help mobilize and equip mission workers from across Latin America and beyond. It's a joy to watch these relationships grow and see how deeply God is at work in this region and this season.

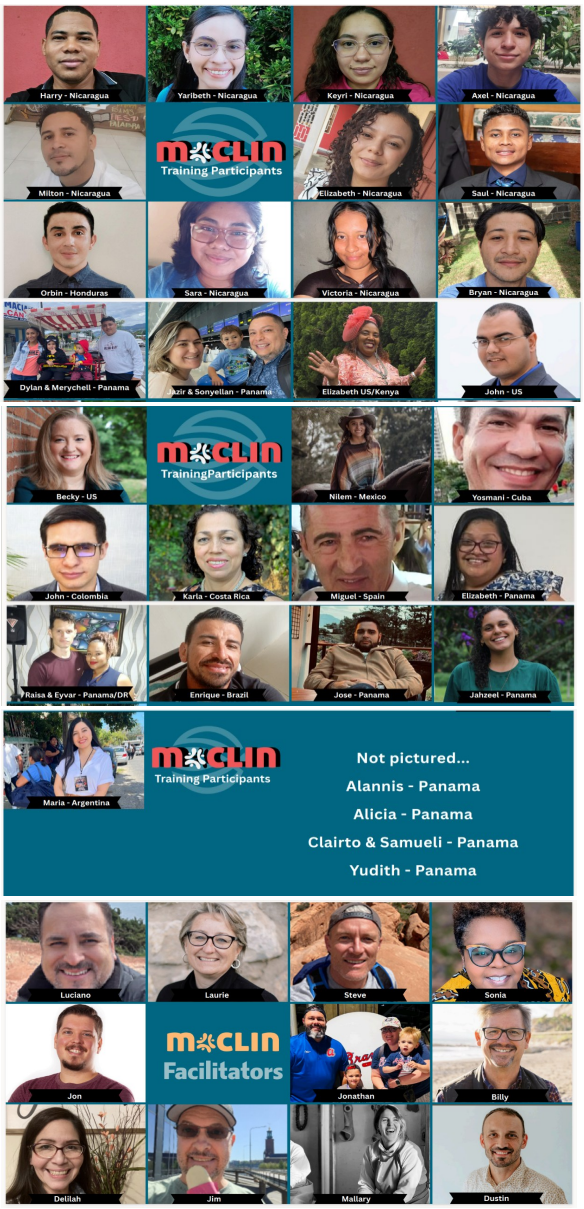
Here's what will be happening on the ground in Panama:

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We'll be leading **56 hours of curriculum**—yes, *fifty-six*—with content so rich and practical that some immigration departments in other countries have actually accepted our training transcripts as equivalent to a seminary degree. No kidding! It's that solid. Our participants are diving into theology, cultural awareness, ministry tools, and spiritual formation, all designed to prepare them to serve in dynamic, cross-cultural contexts.

Our training facilitators are WOW!!! These are people who have walked the walk. As Director of Training and Formation, Laurie leads a team of highly skilled and qualified leaders and cross-cultural trainers. Collectively, they've served in cross-cultural mission for an average of **16 years each**—places like India, Kazakhstan, Peru, Spain, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Panama, Colombia, and Kenya. They have led ministries in community development, refugee work, educational ministries, leadership development, church planting, business as mission, hospitality, women's ministry, and more. They bring not only lived experience but also incredible academic backgrounds—seminary degrees, doctorates, intercultural studies, spiritual formation credentials, ordination—you name it.



Let me take a moment to say thank you—*truly, deeply, thank you*. Many of our participants wouldn't be here without the scholarships and support made possible by your generosity. A huge shoutout to *J and S*, who consistently champion international mission workers and make sure financial barriers don't stand in the way of them receiving the training they need for effective ministry. And to *JB*—thank you for helping make this training event possible. Your support is changing lives and sending out equipped leaders into the world. Also—I'd like to ask you to be in prayer with us for a grant application that Laurie wrote and worked on with some of her TMS colleagues. We should hear about grant awards within the next two or three weeks and this award would go specifically to helping fund the Maclin Training in Panama.

Speaking of impact, I want to highlight two amazing men who will be in training in Panama—Miguel and John, pastors from our church in Spain. They're coming with us to Panama, and they are very excited. Their church they pastor is made up of 80% immigrants, and they have a deep need to better understand how to minister cross-culturally in their own church and community. Miguel also serves in sports ministry, refugee outreach, and prison ministry, where he encounters immigrants from all over Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East regularly. Because of your donations to our refugee and immigrant ministry special project, we were able to help Miguel and John travel to Panama for this cross-cultural training. Miguel is SUPER excited! I'm pretty sure he has told every person in our town that he gets to go to Panama for special training, and he's already dreaming of what he'll learn and how it might impact the church and community. (I'm not even kidding… we see people on the street and they say, "I hear Miguel is going to Panama with you." He has literally told almost everyone.)

So here's the bottom line: **you are making this possible**. Your prayers, your giving, your heart for the nations—it's fueling something beautiful. The gospel is going forth, people are being equipped, and lives are being changed for eternity. If you've ever wondered if your support is making a difference, let me assure you: it is. The ripple effects of this two-week training will be felt far beyond Panama, in communities and churches across the world. Thank you for standing with us and helping to share the love of Christ "***from*** everywhere ***to*** everywhere".

Walking in Step with the Spirit on the Camino de Santiago







In May, Billy led a group of five pilgrims along the Portuguese route of the Camino de Santiago, a journey rich in history, purpose, and spiritual renewal. Walking 151 kilometers over several days on the Variante Espiritual—the traditional route believed to follow the journey of the Apostle James's remains to Santiago—the group experienced a profound time of reflection, growth, and connection.

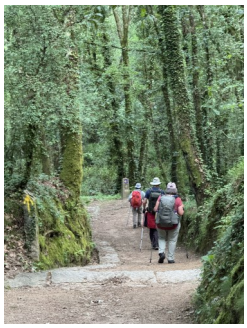
The pilgrims included a retired couple, a former mission worker navigating a new season in the U.S., a cross-cultural worker in a season of transition of role and location, and a lifelong friend from Texas. Each person came with their own story, but all were drawn to the Camino as a place to slow down, seek God, and be renewed in purpose and faith.

Each day offered hours of walking—some in silence, others in deep one-on-one conversations. As *Dan, one of the pilgrims, shared: *"The Camino experience provides safe spaces to contemplate and process. It's these type conversations, which happen naturally along the way, that help us grow, both personally and spiritually."*

One unforgettable moment was Ron's baptism in the Armenteira River. Though baptized as an infant, Ron chose this moment—on this sacred path—to publicly reaffirm his faith through full immersion. Billy was deeply honored to officiate this meaningful occasion.

The Camino continues to be a sacred space where faith is renewed, calling is clarified, and lives are transformed—step by step. Thank you for making this ministry possible.





<u>Upcoming Camino spiritual retreats in 2025:</u>

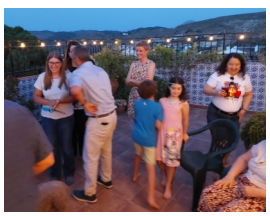
- **Men's Camino de Santiago - Ruta Frances in September**. This is the culmination of a 4-year long trek (two weeks each Fall) by this group of men.
- **A&M Methodist (College Station, Texas) church in October**. They will walk the Camino Portuguese - Variante Espiritual.

Stay tuned for 2026 dates! Billy and Karen are finalizing the calendar now and will be posting news and dates soon.

A Patio Full of Purpose







Recently, we had the joy of celebrating Laurie's birthday with a patio gathering filled with friends and neighbors from near and far. Some guests had known each other for years, while others met for the first time that evening. As we introduced people and shared stories, unexpected connections began to emerge—especially when one Spanish neighbor discovered he had mutual friends and shared childhood memories with two others from the group!

The evening buzzed with conversation, laughter, and new friendships. Our diverse group included people in their 20s up to people in their 80s. It included people from Spain, the USA, Mexico, Hungary, Wales, and England, with a mix of professions—pastors, artists, a musician, a store manager, retirees, a professional rider, a photographer, and cross-cultural workers. One friend kept pulling us aside asking, "Now, who is that? And how do you know them?" It was beautiful chaos—in the best way.

The next day, a friend who's been helping Laurie translate Maclin Training presentations said something that stopped us in our tracks: *"The group on the patio last night was so interesting. I liked everyone a lot. They were all so nice and so interesting to talk to. It reminded me of all of the presentations that we have been translating. It was very cross-cultural. Your patio looked just like all of the things you are teaching in your training. It makes sense!"*

It was the greatest compliment we could receive: a glimpse of the Kingdom of God on our patio—where hospitality meets mission.

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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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I will pray for you.
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