

La Luz de Cristo para Perú

Volume 6 Issue 3
March 2011

While you were out... Four months away

I remember the many times that I had to leave my classroom during my 15 years of teaching and make the dreaded "substitute plans". I always did the best I could to leave my students in good hands, with good lessons and good instructions for the sub. However, there was always that fear in the back of my mind… will the sub treat my students well? Will she make decisions with care? Will she love my children in the same way that I do? Well, multiply those preparations and fears by a hundred-fold and you may come somewhere near how these last 3 months have been for us! We planned, we trained people, and we prayed as we left the ministry and the people that we love behind in Peru while we went on furlough in the USA. We felt like they were ready to fly on their own, but there is always that fear in the back of your mind… will everything stay afloat?

(Enter trumpeters, fanfare, confetti, and a hallelujah chorus)

We proudly bring you the fantastic news that—YES! - everything was absolutely WONDERFUL in Peru while we were gone. Actually, so much better than words can describe! A rough synopsis…

- The teachers and staff pulled together and truly became a TEAM in every sense of the word. They are now one body working for the good of the ministry.
- They finally stepped up to the plate and began making decisions for themselves regarding the ministry… something we have been trying to foster in them since the beginning. And their decisions are excellent!
- They held team meetings and planning sessions and presented us with a long-term plan! This is incredible! They even planned ways to incorporate teams and visitors from the USA into the ministry when in Peru.
- The team began several new ministry projects… two youth groups, a weekly parent workshop and bible study, and a new Kid's Club! AMAZING!

We arrived to a group of very happy teachers who didn't appear to be tired or stressed at all. In fact, they say that it has been difficult, but they are oddly refreshed after working together these three months. They learned to work smarter and not harder. They learned to work together and build on each other's strengths. And most importantly, they learned to lean on Christ for strength and guidance.

There just aren't words to describe how we feel right now. The best description I can think of is "proud parents". We planted seeds, we empowered a team of incredible people, and we left them in God's hands… and HE did an amazing, transforming work in them!

Thank you for all of your prayers over these last few months on behalf of the Kuyay Talpuy program, our teachers, and our Peruvian national missionaries. God is so good!!!



Rocio leads two new Kid's Club students in a prayer.

Now what?

Where will the ministry go from here?





I have to admit, it is a little humbling to realize that the team that we put together is so capable that we weren't "needed" during these past few months! We are very proud of them, but now what do *we* do? With prayer and help from our team, we have decided to go into a period of growing the ministry deeper, not wider. We had a period of very rapid growth over the past couple of years… We began in one community and we are now working in three communities. We started with 17 children and grew to 130+ within a 12 month period. We started with one education project and now work with 3 education centers. We now have bible studies for parents, a newly planted church, two youth groups, and three weekly Kid's Clubs. WOW!!!

But we have decided to stop the expansion of territory for now and really GROW these programs deeper. We need to focus on really going deep in the bible studies and discipleship programs. We need to focus on really getting to know the people more and build relationships with the people in these communities. We need to spend time loving on these children and families. And we need to tend to the deeper needs of the communities that we serve. In our meeting with our staff the other day, the comment was made, "We have gathered the flock. Now it is time to feed them well."

Billy and I feel that our job now is to continue to build up our staff, continue to train them well, continue to support them spiritually and emotionally, and continue to help them with anything we can. And we need to play "middleman" by helping to spread the news of what God is doing here in Peru to those in the USA. Without the support of YOU in the USA, these incredible advances in the Kingdom would not have been possible. You are key partners in this work! Thank you for your prayers and support. We look forward to sharing more incredible stories from Kuyay Talpuy!

Super Giant THANK YOU!!!

Our time with you in the States

Our time in the States was really short and super busy! We thank so many of you for making our time in the USA so special. Some of our time was spent: visiting with churches, bible study groups, classes and individuals speaking and sharing about the ministries in Peru and the wonderful things that God is doing here. We met with pastors and discussed missions and their church's position for moving forward in mission works, both locally and globally. Other activities included:

- Billy participated in a prison bible study with a pastor friend. Billy was overwhelmed by the depth and the knowledge that these men seek from the Bible.
- We visited family all over the state of Texas.
- We were able to see our sons (Ryan and Miles) for family holidays (Thanksgiving and Christmas) and for some informal family fun. We even took our first family vacation in years (albeit short) to San Antonio during Christmas break.
- Sarah enrolled in traditional school for the first time ever. She attended John C. Webb Elementary School in Navasota, Texas. She was placed in a bilingual classroom with an awesome teacher who continued to speak Spanish to her and help her with the transition to USA culture… so nice to have a teacher who has personally experienced that same transition and who has the same heart language and culture as Sarah! We were very happy with Sarah's level of learning and the testing that occurred while we were there.

Thanks to all who helped make our time so special! Thanks to all of the new supporters who we met and who fell in love with the Peruvian people and God's mission here. Thanks to churches who agreed to partner with us in the mission. ¡Dios les bendiga muchisima! (May God bless you ALOT!)

SO, WHAT'S THE PLAN?

KUYAY TALPUY STAFF HELD A PLANNING MEETING TO DECIDE HOW TO GROW DEEPER AND REACH MORE...

The Kuyay Talpuy staff (teachers, Peruvian missionaries and USA missionaries) held a meeting to decide how to go deeper in the current Kuyay Talpuy communities. We took a backseat to the staff and Peruvian missionaries and let them brainstorm and make decisions on how the project should proceed. Here are just a few of their ideas:

- They want to incorporate a "school for parents"… parent workshops several times per year that focus on themes that the parents have requested. For example, the parents want to learn more about subjects like nutritional health, about the cycle of domestic violence, and about how to build composting toilets / healthy latrines. We will incorporate these themes via our CHE (Community Health Evangelism) training.
- The youth in the communities want to learn English and have bible study classes. Billy will teach English classes in each community in the afternoons for youth and anyone else who cares to attend. The Peruvian missionaries will teach bible studies for the youth. Each of the two youth groups will meet twice per week.
- The community has expressed an interest in microenterprise training. The staff is currently holding workshops each week to teach some marketable skills and get to know the people better. We will incorporate microenterprise teaching via the CHE model, teaching business principles and a biblical view.
- The teachers have asked for workshops to help them develop their teaching skills. We will help teach a few workshops, and we have agreed to put out a request for USA teachers to visit and model/teach in Peru in the Kuyay programs.
- The teachers felt very strongly about re-opening the Kid's Club program in Iscos - the community that opposed us so strongly and closed us down in our first year. They have opened the Club again on Saturdays at 3pm. Please pray for this endeavor!



Praises for the Kuyay Talpuy staff! They served 150+ students through tutoring and enrichment classes during our "summer school" months, plus started 2 youth groups, a Kid's Club, and a parent's workshop and bible study! **Pray** especially for supernatural strength for the staff and for peace and rest as they have set a rigorous ministry schedule for themselves.

Prayers for the Kuyay Talpuy projects in Iscos, Patarcocha and Tinyari. Pray for the families, students, and the communities as a whole.

Pray for our Mission Society Peru team (the Ivey family, the McEuen family, the Drum family, the Reeves family and mission intern Theresa) as we work to minister to the people of Peru.

Pray for the Goshorn family and Louise Reimer as they prepare to become a part of the Mission Society Peru team.

Pray for our boys (Ryan and Miles) as they continue to live in the USA and grow into very fine young men. Pray for them to grow in faith and for God to protect them and guide them through their 20s.

Pray for our mothers (Patricia Goins and Sherilyn Drum) and they let go of us once again and watch us serve God in Peru.

The Drums | HOW TO CONTACT US

MAILING ADDRESS: LAURIE & BILLY DRUM...JR. SAN JOSE 278...URB. SAN CARLOS...HUANCAYO, PERU
TELEPHONE: 979.985.5268 (TEXAS PHONE NUMBER—RINGS IN PERU)
EMAIL: BILLY@DRUMSFORCHRIST.ORG OR LAURIE@DRUMSFORCHRIST.ORG
NEWSLETTER: VISIT THE WEBSITE AT WWW.DRUMSFORCHRIST.ORG AND CLICK "NEWSLETTERS"
SUPPORT US: USE THE FORM BELOW, 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) _____

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TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS MAY BE SENT TO:

The Mission Society

PO Box 922637

Norcross, GA 30010-2637 USA

DESIGNATE GIFTS: "DRUM—0321SUP"



Coming soon in Peru...

March:

- The World Race team will work with us in Kuyay Talpuy (March 9-29)
- Covenant UMC (Alabama) - team to work with Leer es Crecer Library ministry and seek to learn more about the ministries in Peru
- Billy and Laurie speak in Florida at the President's Gathering (The Mission Society)

April:

- No USA teams slated for work
- Peruvian presidential elections… please pray for this to go smoothly!
- Billy attends training to become a Missionary Coach in Brussels, Belgium.

May:

- Kuyay Talpuy team retreat and training
- University of Georgia-Wesley Foundation team to work in Huancayo (May 14-27)

June:

- Medical team—Roswell UMC (Georgia) to serve in the jungle
- Work team—Lewis Memorial UMC (Georgia) to serve in HYO

July:

- The Mission Society to train missionaries in HYO (July 1-20)

August:

- Christ UMC youth team to build playgrounds in 3 Kuyay Talpuy program
- communities
- Halltown Baptist (Missouri) medical team to serve (location TBA)

SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH THE PEOPLE OF PERU.

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God can make the impossible POSSIBLE!

Laurie & Billy Drum

3907 Old Oaks Bryan, Texas 77802 USA

E-mail: billy@drumsforchrist.org
laurie@drumsforchrist.org

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