TMS Global

Laurie & Billy Drum

4717 Shoal Creek Dr
College Station, TX 77845-4410
USA

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

NON-PROFIT
ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
BRYAN TX
PERMIT #102

- 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!

Mail to The Drums:

Laurie y Billy Drum
Calle Juan Casco 100
29200 Antequera, Malaga
España

Contact The Drums:
Skype billy.drum

WhatsApp: #34 652 144 783

USA ph# 979-985-5238
(rings through to Spain)

billy@drumsforchrist.org

laurie@tms-global.org

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: _____

TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS MAY BE SENT TO:
TMS Global
PO Box 936559
Atlanta, GA 31193-6559 USA
DESIGNATE GIFTS: "**DRUM-0321SUP**"

Monthly News
And Updates
for Partners of
The Drum
Family

March
April
2024

Kingdom Mosaics from Spain



this issue

Holy Week and Jesus P.1-2

Prayers and Praises / Book Suggestion P.1

European Member Care Consultation P.3

Become a Hero! Partner with Us! P.4

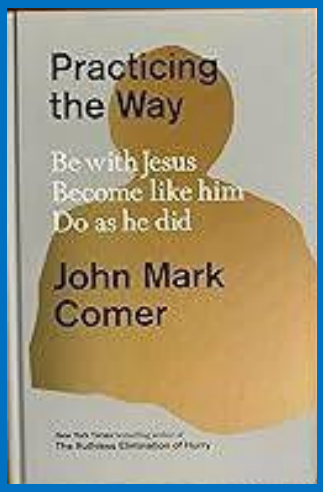
Prayers, and Praises:

Prayers and Praises:

- Praises for a wonderful trip to Texas to see friends, family, and reconnect with partner churches and supporters. We are grateful and blessed by all of our visits. Wonderful conversations, lots of shared stories and laughter.
- Praise for Billy's article that was recently published in the international mission journal Lausanne Global Analysis. (see article pg 3)
- Praise for a successful trip to Budapest to connect with 200+ mission member care providers in Europe. (see article on pg 3)
- Prayers for us as we get back into work and life in Spain.
- Prayers for our team as we work to build community and relationships within our town and have Jesus conversations in many different contexts.

Book Suggestion:

We are currently reading Practicing the Way by John Mark Comer. I highly recommend this book!



Holy Week and Jesus

Friday before Holy Week. The final preparations are being made. The city streets are getting a big cleaning so they will be ready to receive the tens of thousands of people who will crowd them every evening this week. The grandstand has been built in front of city hall for all the local dignitaries and those who paid the special price to have the best seats. Fingers are crossed that the rain that we so desperately need holds off for a few more days.

I've spent the past several minutes reconnecting with a local friend. I've been out of the country for a few weeks for work, and she's asking me questions about my time in my country, my work, and the state of USA politics - locals are intrigued, confused, and also fearful about USA politics and how it effects the world. When we finally exhaust the USA questions, I turn the conversation to local news. What's been happening while I've been gone? What's the latest news on the drought and water rationing? Etc. Then, Anita asks the open-door question…

"Do you like Semana Santa (Holy Week)?"

I call these 'open door questions' because this is sacred ground. This is the place where culture and Jesus meet. This is the door being thrown wide open for a really good conversation about faith and belief. I have a choice in this moment: I can respond with a short yes or no, or I can stay curious and vulnerable and prepare myself to listen well and follow the path that will come from this simple question.

I gladly accept the opportunity and respond, "Well, I like some things about it. I definitely have my favorite parts of the processions during the week. But I'm also curious about the crowds. There will be tens of thousands on the streets every night. But there are not tens of thousands in the churches on a normal week. I would guess there aren't even a total of a few hundred in church on any given weekend."

Anita laughs and smiles and says, "Oh, you know how Spaniards are - We love

Continued on page 2...

Continued from page 1…

our social gatherings! We love to be in the streets, seeing each other, going to the restaurants, being with friends and family. Most of the crowd isn't even really watching the procession. We're just there to be together, having fun, and staying out late into the night. Sure, there are some devoted believers. But that's not normal."

"I didn't think so," I reply. "We have 33 Catholic churches in this town, but only 5 or 6 have active congregations. From what I have seen, there are only a handful of people in the typical church services each week, and most of them are older. Is that true?"

Anita shrugs her shoulders and says, "I'm not an atheist, but I'm also not a believer." *Hmm… I wonder what that means?* I quickly respond with, "I am a believer, but I'm a believer in Jesus. I'm a little confused by the processions because there is very little Jesus depicted in Holy Week. There is a whole lot of Mary, and the churches seem to be trying to out-do each other by putting on a show that is bigger and better than the others."

Anita responds with a hearty, "Yes! Exactly! I guess what I'm trying to say is that I'm not an atheist because I do believe, but I do not believe in the churches. There are some devoted believers in town, but they aren't good people, in my opinion. They are judgmental and always trying to compete and out-do each other. If you don't do things their way, then you're out. If you don't go to their church, then you don't matter. I definitely do not believe in the church. The church has done so many terrible things. All throughout Spanish history, the church is somehow at the center of the mess. Actually, religion is at the center of a lot of problems all over the world. I don't want to have anything to do with that. I think the current pope has been good and he has done amazing things for people. He has brought a lot of people to faith and back to church. But he can't do it alone. The rest of the church needs to have that same heart for it to turn around."

I want to affirm Anita and be sure to share some truth. "I hear you. You're not the first person to tell me that they believe, but they don't like the ways of the church. You're definitely not the first in Spain to tell me that your history has been marred by religion and war, and you're right. I see it. It has done so much damage and so many people have been wounded by people who have called themselves Christians or who have claimed to be doing things in the name of the church and God. That's why I say I follow Jesus. I believe in Jesus and the things he did and taught. All that other stuff muddies the water sometimes."

"Exactly," Anita says again. "Semana Santa will be a big time and a big traditional holiday, but most of those people aren't there for Jesus or the church. They're there for social reasons. They're there because of tradition. It's fun, but it's not really belief. It's just a holiday."

I add, "well, I usually catch a few of the processions. I like to find the parts in them that ARE Jesus. It reminds me of the Easter story. My favorite one is the Palm Sunday procession with Jesus on the donkey and the live palm trees. That one is so beautiful! I love that he is riding a donkey into the city and everyone is cheering for him. Hard to believe that just a few days later, he is crucified. A huge turn of events in one week! My other favorite is the one on Thursday when Jesus is praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. I love that they have full grown olive trees and a life-size Jesus on that one. I'll go to some of the processions, and I'll seek out the Jesus parts."



I'm keenly aware of this sacred ground. Anita is sharing deep things from her heart. She is sharing her life and her beliefs with me. She is letting me have a glimpse into her culture and how she sees the church. I'm so grateful to have this opportunity to listen and learn, and speak a little truth into the situation.

I'm probably not going to change Anita's beliefs or her worldview in this one conversation. That takes lots of trust and relationship and time. But I can show her a different side of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. I can be different. I can show her what it means to remain a believer and a follower of Jesus, but also accept and affirm that she feels hurt and betrayed by the church. Instead of taking a defensive stance, I can take a loving one.

Loving my neighbor today meant listening and entering into an open-door question that led us to a truly sacred conversation.

~Laurie

European Member Care Consultation

We traveled to Budapest, Hungary to participate in the European Member Care Consultation in March. More than 200 leaders in the field of caring for ministry workers were in attendance, representing Spain, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, Portugal, United Kingdom, France, Ukraine, Russia, Greece, Italy, Kosovo, Romania, Hungary, Finland, and many others. The European Member Care group is a sub-group of the larger collaboration of Global Member Care workers. This consultation is a time to meet together, discuss strategy and care for workers, learn new skills, and share resources.

Billy had an article on Burnout published in the Lausanne Global Analysis journal just days before the conference, and it obviously made a big splash. As the conference began, many came up to Billy to congratulate him on the article and ask questions. This led to a large turnout for the interest group discussion that we led on Burnout on Day Two. Burnout among ministry workers is such an important topic and one that many care workers are dealing with when caring, counseling, and coaching mission workers in the field. As a result, Billy's calendar quickly filled up with requests to write more articles for other journals and publications, lead discussion groups in different forums, and workshop requests. While this topic is heartbreaking and difficult, we are excited by the interest and desire by member care workers to learn more about how to care for mission and ministry workers around the globe.



One of Billy's professors from his Masters program in the UK—Rosie Button

To learn more about Burnout, read Billy's most current article in the Lausanne Global Analysis journal here Systemic issues in missionaries' sending organizations cause burnout. (lausanne.org) https://lausanne.org/lga-02/burnout-among-missionaries



200+ gathered for worship and learning together

Grateful for wonderful visits in Texas!

We had some really great visits with friends, family, and partners while on our short visit to Texas. We were able to visit two of our supporting churches (Christ Church College Station and Pittsburg UMC), take a quick trip to the Dallas area to see our son, Miles and granddaughter Lily, and see Billy's sister, mom and grandmother. We had LOTS of dinners with friends and supporters. Billy even got to work with bees—a lifelong dream. We didn't get photos of everyone, sadly. It was a great trip!

