Monthly News
And Updates for
Partners of
The Drum Family

November
2018

Thankful





this issue

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Just can't recommend these enough! We have been spending our morning study time with a podcast from BEMA Discipleship. We HIGHLY recommend this! Start at the beginning - yes, all the way back in Genesis 1. This podcast really helps you study and understand the scriptures and their original culture and context. We listen and follow along in our bibles, take notes, highlight, etc. And, if you're anything like me, you will want to study even more between podcasts! Do it on your own, or better yet, as a couple or in a small group or a class. Y'all… don't miss this!

Another highly recommended study tool… The Bible Project puts out some really great video overviews for each book of the Bible. You can view them on your You Version bible app on your phone, or on the computer. Our team is studying Colossians right now and we watched the video overview last week. So good!

Thankful for Cracked Pots

Let me tell you a little story.

An elderly woman had two large pots. Each pot hung on the ends of a pole, which she carried across her shoulders. Every day, she used this device to carry water to her home.

One of the pots was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water. The other had a deep crack in it and leaked. At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this situation occurred daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, the cracked pot spoke to the woman one day by the stream, saying, "I am ashamed of myself because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The old woman smiled and replied, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walked back home you watered them and made them grow. For two years, I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table and give to my friends and neighbors. Without you being just the way you are, there would not have been this special beauty to grace our homes and lives."

Sometimes, it's the "cracks," or what we perceive as imperfections, in this reality that create something unexpected and beautiful.

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To be honest, I have a lot of cracked days… days when I feel like I'm not able to accomplish what seems effortless for others. Days when I feel like I'm not pulling my weight on the team and that I'm more of a burden than a help. There are days when I feel like I've worked myself to exhaustion and I have little to nothing tangible to show for it. Days when my language skills get in the way, or the fact that I just can't physically do something that others can do, or (the worst) when my north American cultural norms butt up against Spanish culture and my expectations end up having a throw-down with reality (I always lose that fight!). Not kidding, I have a LOT of cracked days!



The Spanish Water Carrier (oil on canvas)

by John William Haynes

Maybe that's why the story of the water bearer and the pots made me cry when I first heard it. Sometimes you just can't see through your own imperfections and realize that they are the parts of you that make you valuable and special.

Looking back, I can see how God has transformed and used the cracked parts of my life for good. Hard times in my youth, family struggles, professional set-backs, parenting tough spots, and even things that seemed like utter failures and disappointments… God has eventually turned those in to "flowers beside the path" and allowed me to use them to share with others. My hard days eventually became teaching points. My brokenness and darkness has given me great depths of empathy and compassion for others as they go through those times. Even the days that don't seem all that bad or hard, but they just seem ho-hum or unproductive or slow - God has found the tiny grain of goodness in those days and used it. I know because on the seemingly average, nothing-special kinds of days, someone always ends up telling me, "I love seeing you, your hugs are the best" or "I've been seeing you play with the dogs every day. It always makes me happy." God uses the normal (and the broken) to do the extraordinary and shine light for others.

Our cracks and brokenness and our normal averageness allow something to change and ultimately make life much richer and more interesting. Every day and every crack has it's own special purpose and potential.

So, are you feeling a little cracked today? I say, "hallelujah for the cracks!" Who's with me?!

The Cracked Pot story is now the feature story that we use in the La Posada care ministry. Lots of ministry workers, pastors, CCWs and humanitarian aid folks come to us feeling broken and cracked and wondering if there is any way to repair and restore and be useful again. The Cracked Pot story is a beautiful example of how God can use our perfectly imperfect selves for good.

2 Corinthians 4: 7-18 Treasure in Jars of Clay

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. 11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. 12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.

13 Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, 14 knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. 15 For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.



Prayers: These last two months, we have been having an abnormal amount of stress and tough days. After a long conversation with some friends, we decided to make a list of the things that we are hoping for, dreaming for, aching for… the things that we would like to see really improve and change. (see list at right) We invite you to please join us as we pray for these big-picture situations. Cut out this list and put it somewhere that you will see it each day… stick it on the fridge or in your daily planner or on the dinner table, copy it and share it with your Sunday School group… We would love to know that we have people out there praying these big things for us and with us. Let us know if you are joining us!

Big-Picture Prayers

- That we would be vital members of our community
- For improved communication in our marriage
- That we would grow and become better care providers
- For team dynamics and loving, supportive community
- For improved communications with our family in the USA
- For healthy lifestyle amidst the challenges of living overseas
- That we would each develop deep and lasting friendships in Spain
- That our home would be open and welcoming and give peace to all who enter
- That we would have more open doors to the refugee and immigrant community
- That we would hear from God about our involvement in the local church
- That our Home Team and community in the US would be anchors of authentic connection and support
- For Kingdom thinking to break forth in Antequera
- For people to live out the beauty of Kingdom and "love your neighbor" in our community
- For La Posada care apartment and ministry to be used to it's potential and purpose
- For improved financial provision
- For our family to be growing in The Word and in prayer
- For Antequera to have a beautiful model of church and Christian community
- For a movement of small groups, house churches, and dinner church groups to take hold and grow and live out the beauty of faith communities
- For us to each feel valued and feel that we are using our unique gifts and talents in ways that make a difference to others and to the Kingdom

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Laurie & Billy Drum

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

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

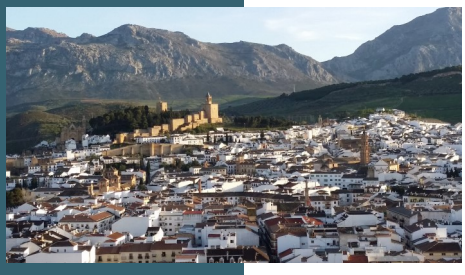
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- Sharing the Love of Christ with the least, the lost, and the left out… immigrants, displaced peoples, the lonely, the abandoned, those who need a friend.
- Nurturing and developing people to be healthy spiritually, physically, emotionally, and relationally - 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!

Mail to The Drums:
Laurie y Billy Drum
Apdo #46 Correos
29200 Antequera, Malaga
España



Contact The Drums:
Skype billy.drum
USA ph# 979-985-5238 (rings through to Spain)

Whatsapp: #34 652 144 783

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) _____
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