October/
November
2019

At the table

Monthly News
And Updates for
Partners of
The Drum Family



Kitchen Superheroes!

Spoons and aprons and baking pans in hand, these kitchen superheroes are swooping in and doing their part to save the day and change the world!
St. Luke's UMC (Bryan, Texas) held a bake sale to benefit La Mesa Turquesa community center on September 29th. Led by Kristin and Jeff Dungan, this group of baking wonders filled tables with goodies and shared the stories that happen around our turquoise table in Spain. In the end, they raised enough to cover expenses for one month of La Mesa Turquesa's ministry! A giant thank you to all who mixed and rolled



and stirred and baked (and ATE!)!!!

Coming soon… In Novemeber, the Kitchen Superheroes from the Faith and Deeds Sunday School class at Christ UMC will be holding a Benefit Potluck for La Mesa Turquesa! We look forward to seeing photos and hearing all about how these Super Chefs rise to the occasion and save the day, one spoon at a time!



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Friday Night at La Mesa Turquesa

It's a normal Friday evening and the doors of *La Mesa Turquesa* community center (The Turquoise Table) are open. The room is full of people and of laughter. Tea is poured, coffee is brewing, and various cookies and sweet treats are on platters on the giant turquoise table that is the centerpiece of the room. The table is crowded tonight and every chair in the center is full.

There is a group of teens playing Uno at one end of the table. All are immigrants to Spain. One is from Poland, one from England, one from Brazil, and one from the USA (Sarah). Two of them are recent transplants within the last two months. Just a few weeks ago, they started a new school year in a new country - no friends and no Spanish, no one to sit with at recess, no one to make plans with on the weekend. Sarah invited them to hang out at La Mesa Turquesa and play games, meet other immigrants and community members, and just relax and have fun. Their language skills are slowly improving, and they are bonding to each other and to the center. Watching them laugh together as they play games is heartwarming. Building community and friendships… this is why we are here.

There are two women who join the teen's Uno game. They sport full head-coverings (*hijab*), as is customary in their cultures. *Nahla (Morocco) only recently came to Spain and still speaks very little Spanish. Timid and embarrassed by her language skills, she would never respond to invitations to come to the center. That was until our friend *Amira went to her. Amira is from the same country as Nahla and speaks her native Arabic. Amira began bringing Nahla to La Mesa in September. Little by little, Nahla has begun to open up and relax and enjoy the community in the center.

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She regularly thanks us for having the center and for inviting her. Just yesterday, she threw her arms around me and gave me a huge hug and said, "*Te Quiero*" (I love you). This morning, she saw me on the street in town and ran to hug me. Making people feel welcome and loved… this is why we are here.



At the other end of the table, a rousing game of cards is happening. I'm not sure what the name of the card game is. *Oumar is teaching everyone how to play a popular game from his native Burkina Faso – a war-torn country in western Africa. Also playing are *Shayla (Venezuela),*Ami (Ghana), and Billy. Lots of laughter happening at that end of the table as they try to understand Oumar and the rules of the game. Laughter… this is why we are here.

Sitting on a sofa off to the side is *Hassan (Syria). He comes in each day to practice Spanish and use the free internet the La Mesa provides. He makes himself at home when he arrives each day, going straight to the coffee and tea bar and making himself a warm drink and picking up a couple of soft cookies. He speaks some English, so we have conversations in both English and his new Spanish. Hassan is a survivor. His body bears witness to the unspeakable things that have happened to him over the past couple of years. Most of his family did not make it out alive. Today, he is glued to the news as he watches the unfolding events of more war and a Turkish invasion in his native homeland. He isn't interested in games today. He just needs a place to be connected and a place that feels safe when his homeland is not. He needs comfort… This is why we are here.



There is a deeply intense game of chess happening at a small side table between Ryan and *Jack (England). Another side table is rolling dice and moving Parchisi pieces around the board and playfully arguing about which country's game rules they are following, because each country seems to have different rules for the same game. Puerto Rico and Slovenia and Spain and Georgia are all battling it out for game board domination. Kat and I are playing with children and holding babies so their parents can enjoy a couple of hours of adult conversation and fun. The youngest in the room tonight are 6-month old twins, born here in Spain after their mother fled political unrest in her country to protect her unborn babies a year ago. Suddenly, a cake arrives, and everyone erupts in a surprise singing of Happy Birthday for a young man from Brazil who is turning 19 today. A small birthday party spontaneously ensues, and everyone shares in cake and festivities. Several versions of birthday songs are sung in various languages.



As I look around the room and scan the faces, I reflect on their stories. Each one comes to the table with their own tales, their own difficulties and heartbreak and struggles. But tonight, for these few hours, they are safe and warm and with "family". They are known and cared for and loved. They are 'at home' at La Mesa Turquesa. Home… that is why we are here!

5 Ways to Get Involved with La Mesa Turquesa and the Ministry in Spain



Even thought you live 5000+ miles away, you can be involved in ministry outreach and serving in Spain! Yes, you heard me right! You can be a member of our team and make a difference in the lives of people from Syria and Venezuela, from Algeria and Georgia and Spain, from Poland and Pakistan and Nigeria and Morocco and more. And you can do it all right there from your own community!

1. **Share the News!** Every time you get a newsletter or an email update from us, share it! You can share it on social media or share a story from the newsletter with a friend. You can take this paper copy and share it with your office, or read a portion of it aloud in your bible study or Sunday school class. You can use our blog posts and share with friends and family. There are great things happening in Spain, and *everyone* wants to hear good news! So share it!
2. **Become a Fundraising Superhero**… Fundraising doesn't have to be a dark and scary word that brings images of expensive trinkets you don't want, being sold by precious peanut butter covered neighbor children. It can be as simple as a Sunday school bake sale or a "Give it Up" campaign (challenge friends to "give up" their Starbucks for a week or eating out for a month, etc. and donate the cost to La Mesa or The Drum's ministry in Spain). Google "easy fundraisers" for a million other simple ideas.
3. **Turquoise is the New Black**… This is actually a fundraising idea AND an informational outreach rolled in to one. How about setting up a table at your next church Wednesday night meal or on Sunday morning before church / Sunday school. Decorate everything in turquoise - tablecloth, napkins, etc. and wear turquoise clothes. Have turquoise iced cupcakes, cookies with turquoise chocolate chips or frosting, coffee or punch in turquoise cups… so many options! Don't forget to have information about La Mesa Turquesa ministry available and be ready to share stories! Set up a donations jar and voila! You are now a Turquoise Superhero!
4. **Prayer is Powerful**… We believe in prayer! Please pray for La Mesa Turquesa and the ministry in Spain. Please pray for specific stories and specific events by name (you can read about them here in the newsletter or on our Facebook page). Please share La Mesa and our family during prayer requests in your bible study or small group or Sunday School. Print out a photo from La Mesa Turquesa (get one from our Facebook posts) and put it somewhere you will see it everyday… in the kitchen or in your car or on the bathroom mirror. Every time you see the photo, pray for the people who are touched by this ministry every day.
5. **Hero of the Month**… Join our Monthly Hero Club! Every month, normal every day people partner with us by giving financially to keep this ministry going. Some give $10, $25, $50 per month, and some give more. These folks are our heroes! You can give online at https://www.tms-global.org/give . Just follow the instructions. When you click the "recurring giving" option, you will join the Monthly Heroes! (Mail-in options are also available)

You can do it! We have faith in you! You can become a Superhero for Ministry in Spain!!!

Please join us in prayer and praises:

"Prayer is the greater work." Oswald Chambers

"When life is rough pray, when life is great pray." Anonymous

"Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?" Corrie ten Boom

- **Prayers and Praises for ministry finances:** It has been a rough few months economically for our ministry account. Many of you have responded in wonderful ways and have helped us to bring the account up in the past month (THANK YOU!!!). We continue to pray for monthly partners who can commit to helping continue this ministry and work.
- **Pray for us** as we have some changes in roles and responsibilities that are currently taking place. Laurie is moving in to more training and leadership roles and Billy is taking on Team Leader for Spain while keeping his current care roles. While these are exciting and we take on these roles with great passion, they bring about changes to our family rhythms and our "normal". Pray for us to find ways to have healthy rhythms of family and work, as well as physical and spiritual renewal and well-being.
- **Pray for Sarah** as she struggles with a very demanding school course load. Specifically, chemistry and math. She has tried to reach out for chemistry help from family and friends in the States, only to find that the chemistry she is currently taking in the 11th grade in Spain is advanced college-level chemistry back home! Math, too. Overwhelmed is an understatement! Pray for her to find help, for peace as she tries to find her rhythm in school, and for us to be supportive and loving parents in a very different school system than we are accustomed to!

TMS Global

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

Whatsapp: #34 652 144 783

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



Laurie with *Nahla and *Amira doing crafts at La Mesa Turquesa

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:_____

ECFA MEMBER

Name (PLEASE PRINT) _____
Address:_____
City:_____ St ._____Zip_____
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