

The Drum Family

April / May 2014



To be an immigrant...

Have you ever been the outsider? The new guy? The one who is coming in to an already established situation? You know - when you started a new job and everything was new and different and you didn't know what you were doing. Or when you moved to a new town or new neighborhood and you didn't know anyone. When you went to a new church and you were the 'visitor'. Or when you changed schools and you didn't know where to sit or who the other kids were or where to go or what the rules were. Guess what... if you said yes to any of those scenarios, you have been an immigrant. An outsider. The least, the lost, the left out.

I know you've been there. I've been there, too. In fact, I spend my life there. I'm an immigrant.

Immigrants, displaced people, aliens in a foreign land. Outside their home culture, outside their native language, separated from family and friends and all of their emotional support systems. Nothing is familiar. Away from home. Away from community. Away from any sense of belonging. Lost.

Living in a new world, a new situation, a world where the church is non-existent or dying. A world void of believers, a world without a church family, without a Body to call "Family".

All of this brings on heightened stress, transition shock, culture shock, financial struggles, family stressors, marriage and relational stress, frequent misunderstandings and conflicts. Loneliness. Exhaustion. Depression.

We minister to the least, the lost, and the left out. We love them, because we are one of them. We are immigrants. That's us.

In our work, the least, the lost, and the left out have many faces.

Part of our work is to minister to immigrants in Spain – immigrants from all over the world find themselves here for a variety of reasons – fleeing abusive situations in their home countries, political unrest, economic hardships, running away from something, running to something. Everyone has a story. And every one of these people is away from family and home, in transition, in stress, lonely and struggling and looking for friends and belonging and community.

Another part of our work is to minister to cross-cultural workers, missionaries and people who work in humanitarian aid. The list of characteristics for the least, the lost, and the left out applies to them, as well. They are immigrants and aliens in a foreign land. They are away from home, away from their culture, away from family and friends. They have left their communities and friendship support circles and churches to go and serve in places that are unfamiliar and difficult. They are often in risky situations and under security guidelines. They live in places where the church is not, or cannot be, their support system. They are lonely and exhausted and stressed. Sometimes they are experiencing depression. The only difference between them and other immigrants is that they pour out their hearts and their souls for others all day long, working long hours to minister to others and help others know the joy and love of Christ. But who takes care of them? Who

...to be an immigrant

pours in to them? Who feeds them and nourishes their souls after they pour it all out for others and are empty and exhausted?

That's what we do. We come alongside the least, the lost, and the left out. The immigrants. The displaced. The lonely. The exhausted. We help them find a way to be healthy spiritually, physically, emotionally, and relationally. We are their safe place - the place where they can be vulnerable, where they can be open with their struggles and fears and stress, where they can cry and be held and heard. We are "home" for those who no longer have one.

It has been said that *To be heard is to be healed*. That is a big part of what we do. Listening, coaching, counseling, mentoring, praying, loving, caring, and speaking into the lives of those who need us. A place to debrief, to decompress, to relax and refuel. A place to find a friend, to find laughter again, to find hope and joy and love. Creating home and family and community and Kingdom for all who are suddenly without. That is what we are about.

So... what does all of that look like???

- Laurie works with immigrant women in two different fellowship and discipleship groups in Spain. Did you know that empowering and discipling these women helps prepare them to go forth and serve in their new context and new country? Several of them take their training and knowledge into the workplace and serve in missions in new and different ways. Immigrants to Spain are highly likely to be the answer to the revival of Christianity in Spain!

- During Easter week, we traveled to France to visit two mission families in their work, encouraging them, building them up, praying with them, and helping to coach them in ministry plans. One works in an urban setting—they have planted a church that they pastor in the inner city, they do discipleship and bible study with cell groups of artists, and they help run a Christian art studio and gallery. The other family works in a vastly opposite situation, working in a rural village with a population of 400. However, there are 17 different nationalities represented in that tiny town!
- We meet with a Spanish pastor each week for a time of coaching and counseling and relationship. We are his "safe place" for voicing struggles and frustrations and needs... pastors and ministry leaders are often a part of the least, the lost and the left out!
- We continue to hold coaching and counseling sessions with workers from around the globe via Skype, helping them to navigate life in different cultures and deal with culture shock and transitions and stresses. We have several standing sessions with folks each week, as well as holding many one-time sessions every month. Peru, India, USA, France, Jordan, Lebanon and others... ALL over the globe!

Thank you for being a part of this ministry! Thank you for praying and for supporting all of the immigrants of this world, and for sharing Christ's love with the least, the lost, and the left out. Speaking as an immigrant myself, on behalf of all of the rest of us out there, THANK YOU!

~Laurie & Billy

I believe that care is much more than just a feeling or emotion word. I believe that care is a verb... an action word. It's not enough to just say "I care about you". Show it! Show it by your actions. Put it in motion. What can you do today to care for someone?

Specifically this month, please **pray** for Billy as he walks the 769 km Camino de Santiago pilgrimage from France to Santiago de Compostelo, Spain (about 33 days). He will be walking with a group of students and staff from Texas A&M for at least half of the way. He walks the Camino as an outreach to other walkers—coaching, counseling, listening as he ministers to others along the trail. **Pray** for all those whom he will hike alongside. Also **pray** for Sarah and Laurie as they will be home alone for over a month.

Pray for Spain! **Pray** for more mission workers. **Pray** for relationships to open up. **Pray** for new believers. **Pray** for the many Latin American immigrants who are on fire for Christ and are now living in Spain... **pray** that God would ignite their passion and their confidence and help them to carry the word to their host country of Spain. **Pray** for cities and towns and villages that do not have a witness, do not have a church... **pray** that God rises up workers and believers who are willing to GO and LIVE and SERVE and LOVE in places where the gospel is not present or heard.

Please **pray** for us as we live among our neighbors in Antequera. Please **pray** for us to shine and share the light of Christ with others. **Pray** for others to see something different in us. **Pray** for our work as we build up believers and disciples and help them gain the confidence to share with others. **Pray** for us to be healthy—spiritually, physically, emotionally, and relationally. **Pray** for us to experience rest, in order to have the strength to serve.

Sarah's transition to Spain

Many of you have asked about Sarah and her transition from Texas to Peru to Texas to Spain. Missionary kids (MKs) have an interesting life! And it is often tough in many ways. MKs are also known as TCKs (Third Culture Kids). TCKs are not fully the culture of their parents, nor of their adopted culture - instead, they are a mix that actually creates within them a "third culture".

In Sarah's case, she left Texas when she was three years old. She hadn't had a lot of time to become truly Texan (nor truly English-speaking!). She quickly picked up Spanish, and has used it as her main language for 7 years... she actually thinks in Spanish! But she is fully bilingual in that she can switch back and forth between the languages without even thinking. She tests as 'highly advanced fluency' in both! As to culture, she actually knows more Peruvian culture than Texas or Spain. In her heart, she is Peruvian, and she lets us know it often! Peru is more home to her than anywhere, as far as culture is concerned. She has pieces and parts of Texas in her cultural knowledge base, but she hasn't been there enough to call it her "homeland". As to Spain - she's adapting slowly. The language is mostly the same... it is Spanish with some special changes and nuances specific to Spain that we didn't use in Peru. It is fun to listen to her switch her accent! When talking to our South American friends, she is still fully Peruvian. When talking to our new Spanish friends and at school, she uses the Spanish / Andalucia accent. Culture is VERY different here, so there is a learning curve that none of us have mastered quite yet, but we're working on it. We fit in with the South Americans just fine! We're 'acceptable' to the Spaniards. The Brits think we are a little odd, but we make decent friends so we'll do. As to school, that is so vastly different in Peru and Spain and Texas that there is no way to compare them. But Sarah has transitioned well and is in the top of her peer group in grades. She had to skip a grade due to age, which gave us a little stress, but she has been a trooper and has done excellently.



She still has 'moments'... she still misses Peru and has small breakdowns and gets teary for her goats and chickens and the mountains and friends there. She received a Skype call from her "Peruvian Mom" Liz the other day which resulted in lots of laughs and smiles and conversation and ended in buckets of tears on both sides. She misses her involvement in the ministry - in Peru she was able to work alongside us in Kid's Clubs and with students. Our ministry is very different here and she hasn't found her place yet... pray for us as a family to be able to find that with her. Our recent move out of the city and in to a house in the country has helped, since she is now back in the fields and around animals and farmers... she is able to find a little bit of familiar when we are in the country. She is 'normal' (whatever that means!). She has extracurricular sports during the week (Taekwondo and Equestrian). She has a best Spanish friend (Raquel) and a best English friend (Natalie). All in all, Sarah is doing very well and is a resilient, well-rounded, happy 10-year old who just happens to live an incredible life that is international and multicultural and strange and wonderful all at the same time!



DEAR BILLY AND LAURIE,

- I will pray for you.
- As God provides, I plan to partner with you by giving \$ _____ Per month / quarter / year for _____ years.



Name (PLEASE PRINT) _____
Address _____
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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!

Drum's Contact Info

You can continue to contact them:
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Ph # 979-985-5238 (Texas phone
that will route to our computer in
Spain)

NEW Mailing address:

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Please remember Billy in your prayers from May 19-June 22 as he walks the Camino de Santiago from France to Santiago de Compostela, Spain = 769km. Pray for his safety, for his health, and for him to have fruitful conversations with the many other walkers whom he will come into contact with along the way. He walks as an outreach to the many pilgrims who are seeking a spiritual connection with God. Most pilgrims walk in an attempt to "find God" or to fill a spiritual void or emptiness. Some walk as an attempt to find themselves. Billy will use his coaching and counseling and ministry skills to help folks who want to talk it out.