

# The Drum Family

April—May 2015



Each communion candle represents one Latina missionary woman serving in Spain or North Africa.

## Caring in Retreat

If you have been following us or reading our articles for long, you know how difficult it is for me to describe what we do. There isn't just one tidy little answer. Well, I guess there actually is... Love. Love is what we do. But that seldom hits the spot and satisfies the person asking the question. They want to hear exactly what we do. And that is an answer that is almost as complex as the human mind can be! Because, truly, I wear many hats and do many things - just as I have many feelings and emotions and thoughts and dreams, there are also many, many ways that I act out the "love one another" mandate on my life.

Lately, I have been doing a lot of caring. Specifically, caring for others as they retreat. Last month, we hosted a retreat for cross-cultural workers from The Mission Society who came down to Spain to spend a week reflecting together, dreaming together, laughing, and even crying together. It was a time for people to rest and to refresh and to talk face-to-face with others who love them and care for them.

Sometimes, retreat looks like a couple or a family coming to our home to spend time in debrief, in deep counseling and coaching, and in a period of recouping and refreshing and gathering new strength to go back in to service again.

Last week, I had the awesome privilege of being a counselor and coach with a small team of missionary women who hosted a retreat for our peers... specifically, our Latina peers. Women from Central and South America who are missionaries serving in Spain and in North Africa. We hosted 36 women from Mexico, Guatemala, Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Puerto Rico. Women who have been sent out as missionaries to work in tough situations. Eighteen of them are working in North Africa in Muslim contexts. The other 18 are working in Spain - some in Muslim contexts and some in other difficult situations.

I cannot give you specifics due to the sensitive nature and security issues that these women face on a daily basis. They will remain nameless and without identifying details in this writing. But they will NEVER be nameless or faceless in my heart! I will forever be honored to be in the company of my Latina peers.

I will forever be humbled by my friend who has been working in a North African Muslim context country for 14 years on a funding budget of \$350 per month. After fourteen years of service and love for the people of XXX country, she is being called off the field and in to retirement by her agency. She is heartbroken. She does not want to go home. She does not want to leave the people she loves in XXX. Her extreme sadness at leaving the relationships she has built speaks volumes about the depth of her heart - about the depth of Jesus' heart. We shed many tears together.

## ...Caring in Retreat

I will forever be touched by the testimonies of women who struggle daily with finding means to do their work for lack of funding and lack of attention or care from their home countries or churches or agencies. One woman said,

*"They send us some money to do the job. Then they call us to get a report on what their money did or how we used their money. But no one ever asks, 'How are YOU doing? How do you feel? We are thinking of you.' This retreat is a blessing to me, because some other missionaries and a couple of women from the United States actually thought about ME! They thought about taking care of me and blessing me and really serving me. I can't believe it! No one from back home even does that."*

I had the privilege of listening to women who work with human trafficking, who nightly go out to listen to women who are working as sex slaves. Women who have a heart for women and youth and even children who have been sold or tricked in to a life of sex and drugs and smuggling. The lives of these mission worker friends is amazingly delicate as they always work to stay one step ahead of pimps and mafia and drug lords, all for the sake of loving people who are being trafficked and need someone who loves them enough to be there every night with a hot coffee and a smile and a listening ear and maybe a clean pair of clothes for today. This work takes its toll of missionaries and humanitarian workers. Part of their soul is always in turmoil as they are weighted down with the stories of others. What an honor it is to be given the privilege of sharing in that story and

carrying that burden with them for a while.

I am so honored to have been able to be available. To be able to serve and to offer my counseling and coaching skills in this way to these women. To be a friend and to be a shoulder to cry on. To be there when someone needs a good long hug. To be a listening ear when someone needs to say all of the things that they can't ever say in their country or area-of-service because it is dangerous or forbidden. To listen when someone doubts whether they have the strength to continue. To shoulder their sobs when the weight is too much. What a privilege.

This is a part of what I do.



*Please do not tag or identify anyone in this photo. All of the women represented gave permission to have this photo used, but without any names or identifiers. PLEASE, do pray for them and look at each of their smiling faces, but keep them safe and do not risk their work or their lives by identifying them.*

It's no coincidence that the word 'holiday' suggests a holy day, or that the longest book in the Torah concerns the Sabbath. If you wish to advance in any sphere, the best way is to take a retreat.

**We would like to give you some specific people and things to pray for. It is our hope that you would join us in praying more specifically and more personally. You are a vital part of this ministry and of our ministry team! Prayer is essential, and we would like for you to have some very concrete ways to pray.**

~Pico Iyer

- Prayers for the 36 Latina women that I ministered with last week (see article above). Also pray for the Ministry Team that works so hard to hold this special retreat for these women.
- Pray for strength for us as we head in to a very hectic month of ministry. We will be preparing our on-going ministries so that we can leave them fully functional as we minister on the Camino de Santiago at the end of May—June. Part of making disciples is also preparing them to continue on in your absence.
- Pray for the Puppet Ministry that will occur here in Antequera on May 15-16. Two puppeteers are traveling here and will spend several days preparing ahead of time, then we will hold a Christian puppetry workshop for interested budding puppeteers. Pray for translations to go well, for these new puppeteers to be encouraged and motivated, and for this to become a ministry outreach in many places in Andalusia. Right now, we have people enrolled from 4 completely different churches! That's 4 different puppet teams that will be trained and heading out to spread the Word via PUPPETS!
- Pray for travel mercies! Lots of travel must occur this month for all of the initiatives that are going on. Laurie's mom is coming in to take care of Sarah. Hannah returns back to the States. The puppeteers travel to Spain to hold the workshop. We will be traveling to St. Jean Pied du Port to begin the Camino counseling ministry for this year. Lots of comings and goings about to occur!!!
- Pray for the Crawfish Boil Fundraiser (see next page) - pray that it raises the necessary funds that we need to tackle the second half of this calendar year.
- Pray for the women's study group in Campillos that Laurie leads. For a variety of extenuating circumstances, the group is having lots of difficulty with meeting times and staying together. Conflicting job schedules, inaccessible meeting place, health difficulties with aging parents, and travel schedules are making it difficult. This is a great group of ladies without access to a local church! Pray for a solution to these tough situations.

# You are Part of the Ministry Team...

Did you know that YOU are a part of the Drum's Ministry Team? If you are reading this, if you pray for us, if you send funds for us... you are a partner in this mission! You are a very important part of the team.

We are the feet on the ground... yes, that's true. But just like soldiers on the front lines, someone is behind the scenes helping them. Someone is behind the scenes making sure that supplies are there when needed. Someone is watching the radars and technology and making sure that the necessary information is available on time. Someone is training in the wings and replacements are ready when exhaustion sets in or injuries occur. Yes, we are the feet on the ground... but YOU are behind the scenes. Without YOU, we couldn't be out here doing what we do. Without YOU, we couldn't care for and love and teach and train and do all of the things that we do to share the love of Christ with others.

We have a special group of Texas frontline folks who are working to help us raise some much needed funding. Our team in Texas is holding a Crawfish Boil to help support the ministry. On May 2, they will have an all-you-can-eat crawfish boil with all the trimmings. If you can come and support the ministry by eating till you're full up to the eyeballs with good Cajun cooking, please buy a ticket (see the flyer at right).

Can't come? Too far away? Other obligations that day? No problem! You can do three things to help the team...  
1) Share the news and invite others!  
2) Buy a ticket anyway and give it to a friend so they can enjoy the fun and become a part of the ministry!  
3) Donate the cost of your ticket (see the donation info on the card at the bottom of this page)

Thanks for being an important part of our ministry team!



The flyer features a central graphic of a red crab on a drum set with a Spanish flag on the bass drum. Below the graphic is a red banner with the text "DRUMMIN' UP CRAWFISH". The event details are listed as "MAY 2, 2015 CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH". A starburst graphic on the right indicates the time "11:00 am - 2:00 pm". The main title "CRAWFISH BOIL" is in large white letters on a blue background. Below it, the text reads "TO BENEFIT MISSIONARIES TO SPAIN: BILLY, LAURIE & SARAH DRUM". Ticket information is provided: "\$35 per ticket, kids 10 and under eat free" and "Tickets available online". The website "www.drumsforchrist.org/crawfish" is listed. At the bottom, contact information for sponsorship inquiries is given: "TO INQUIRE ABOUT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, EMAIL: drummincrawfish@yahoo.com".



**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 \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS MAY BE SENT TO:**  
**The Mission Society**  
PO Box 922637  
Norcross, GA 30010-2637 USA  
**DESIGNATE GIFTS: "DRUM-0321SUP"**

The Mission Society  
Laurie & Billy Drum  
3907 Old Oaks  
Bryan, Texas 77802 USA  
E-mail: [billy@drumsforchrist.org](mailto:billy@drumsforchrist.org)  
[laurie@drumsforchrist.org](mailto:laurie@drumsforchrist.org)

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



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!

**Contact The Drums!**  
**We love to Skype,**  
**chat, email, or receive**  
**mail at the post office!**

You can contact them:  
[billy@drumsforchrist.org](mailto:billy@drumsforchrist.org)  
Ph # 979-985-5238 (Texas phone  
that will route to our computer in  
Spain)  
Skype: billy.drum  
Or find us on Facebook!

**Mailing address:**  
Billy y Laurie Drum  
Apdo. Correos #46  
29200 Antequera, Malaga, España

