



The Drum Family

August 2014



Happy Anniversary!

This week (August 12th) marks our One Year Anniversary for living and serving in Spain. It is strange that this seems like a big leap for us this time around. We never really thought about it or celebrated such milestones when we have lived and served in other places. But for some reason, the transition to this place and this term of service was very difficult for us. We dearly loved Peru—the work we had there, the friends and family that we built there, and our life in general. It was tough to leave that, and even tougher to find ourselves serving on another continent, even farther from home, in a completely different type of ministry and service. I won't lie... this year has been really tough for us.

Maybe that is exactly why it seems like a big deal, this anniversary. We made it! We survived a difficult transition. We survived a really hard grief period. We somehow made it through and we are well into the upswing now. There were months when we were so low that we questioned why we were here and wondered if this had been a mistake. Months when we had identity issues because we were having such a difficult time changing gears and roles and lifestyle from Peru. We hit bottom, we cried, we mourned, we struggled... and then we reached out for help, and a few great friends and mentors grabbed the rope and helped us find a way through.

Today I can say HOORAY for an anniversary and I can thank God for getting us over the tough times and showing us ways to not only survive this transition, but to thrive here in Spain and in ministry.

I haven't ever been big on celebrating successes or achievements. Not because I don't think they are worthy of celebration, but because I am usually already mentally looking at the next goal or challenge. I admit to not taking time to celebrate the wins, to not taking time to thank God for the present success, because I'm already on to tomorrow's issue. I'm the world's worst at not taking my own advice. When I coach and counsel others, I tell people about the importance of celebrating small wins, of the importance of reflection and looking at what God did during this season, at what was learned and gained, but I also know that I am awful and stopping to smell the roses myself.

So... today I stop to celebrate! Happy One Year Anniversary to us! Please join us in thanking God for a year of change, of lessons and learning, of rebuilding and retooling, and a year of new friendships and new ministry and new life in a new place. We also thank God for YOU! For your continued love and support and prayers, and for your faithfulness to sharing Christ's love with others, be they in Peru, or in Spain, or in places right there in the USA.

Blessings!!!

~Laurie

...Happy Anniversary!



It is impossible to tell you how many things we have learned during our first year here in Spain... just soooo much! It has been a year of transition and new relationships for us, and those relationships have made all the difference!



Our new church family, new bible study friends, new school friends, and new friends who are also cross-cultural witnesses here... many new friendships and new beginnings. We have also coached and counseled and cared for others in mission fields all over the globe (not pictured for security reasons). Our involvement in Spain has been new and varied, as well... from immigrant ministry to language study groups, to bible study and discipleship and cell groups, to equipping others for mission service, to our roles in care and counseling and coaching... so many new opportunities and ways to serve here!



Looking forward to more ministry, deeper relationships, and lots more learning in the years to come!



Thanks for making it all possible!

~Laurie & Billy

“A soul without a center has difficulty making a decision. One of the pictures James uses of this condition is that the double-souled person is like a wave on the sea, driven forward one moment and backward the next. People whose souls are rooted in a center find it brings clarity to their decisions.”

— John Ortberg, *Soul Keeping: Caring For the Most Important Part of You* “

Pray for those who we minister to and among. Pray for immigrants, for missionaries, and for our neighbors. Pray that we may be a light for them, that we may be support for them, and that we may be friends and family to all who need it.

Pray for Spain! Pray for more mission-minded people to come alongside us and help. 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.

Just 'being'...

Our culture (North America) puts a high value on busyness, on doing things and getting things done, on efficiency and goals and achievement. I'm wired for that, and I'm pretty good at it. I can make lists like nobody's business, and I can design a workflow plan and a five-year strategy for achieving goals before I ever finish my morning coffee. And I love it! That kind of stuff is better than ice cream for me! Give me a heaping pile of 'stuff to get done' and a seemingly insurmountable deadline and my endorphins start going crazy with excitement and challenge. "I got this!!!", is my battle cry.

But despite this awesome gift I have (my husband might argue that point, but who's asking?), God often uses the moments when I'm doing nothing to make the biggest impact.

On numerous occasions, we have worked our tails off and run around like crazy chickens, only to hear a testimony from someone in our midst that points to our 'being' and not our 'doing'.

Just this week, a photo was posted on Facebook of the two of us standing in a patio in Andalucia. One of the young teachers that we spent 5 years working with in Peru commented, "Every time I see you two, I want a marriage like yours. I love you, My Friends." This isn't the first time we have heard a similar comment from one of these young teachers that we worked with. On several occasions, comments were made to us about how our marriage 'is an example' and how others wanted to one day have a family like ours. And here in Spain, on a couple of occasions over the past year, I have been told how 'lucky I am to have such a beautiful marriage and such a wonderful husband'.

Thing is, we never once have taught a class on marriage in our ministry setting. Never once have we sat down and had an intentional conversation with any of those Peruvian teachers or with my friends here in Spain about living in a loving partnership and the sanctity of marriage. Never once have we held a marriage workshop or a bible study or a couple's retreat with people in our circle. We would happily do that, but it hasn't been a 'front burner focus or goal'. Yet, our quiet witness and example has been noticed. It has been speaking and teaching and making an impact without us ever saying a word. God uses our 'being' without my ever having to make a work plan or a goal or a strategy with regard to marriage. Sometimes our strongest daily witness is in the 'just being' and not in all the running around and doing.

That's beautiful!



DEAR BILLY AND LAURIE,

I will pray for you.

As God provides, I plan to partner with you by giving
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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.

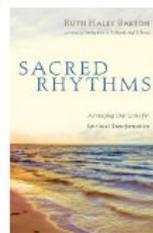
Nurturing and developing people to be healthy spiritually, physically, emotionally, and relationally - because "care" is not just an emotional feeling word, "care" is a verb - an action. That's who we are... the care-givers!

Read what The Drums are reading:

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Sacred Rhythms: Spiritual Practices that Nourish your Soul and Transform your Life by Ruth Haley Barton



Soul Keeping: Caring for the Most Important Part of You by John Ortberg