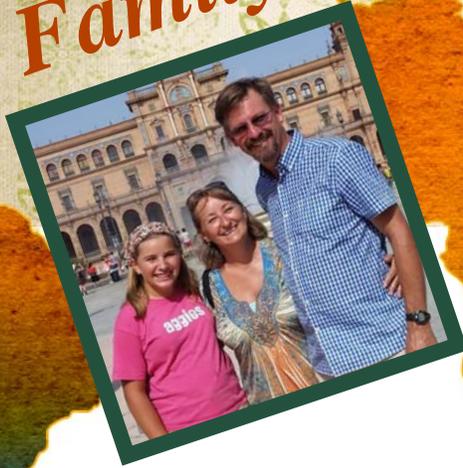


The Drum Family

August 2015



UPDATE...The Sunshine Story

For those of you who have been following us for awhile, you will remember our neighbor - "Mr. Sunshine". If you have no idea who Sunshine is, see the original story covered in the [February newsletter](#). Well, we have news on the Sunshine front...

HE SPEAKS! Yes, he speaks. We went on a walk with the dogs one evening and we passed his place. He happened to be outside working in the yard very close to the road. We waved and said hello, like always. Much to our surprise, Sunshine said, "Good afternoon. You going for a walk?"

I almost passed out! He spoke! You know that moment when something amazing happens and you are shocked, but you try to not let it register on your face because you are trying to maintain your composure? At that moment, my entire being was jumping up and down and having a party, while my exterior was just smiling and carrying on polite conversation in the street.

It was a short 'conversation'...like, it consisted of about three or four sentences of either side. It was obvious that he was struggling to just get that much out, so we didn't push it. We just chatted for a few moments, said our goodbyes, and continued on our walk. I wish I had a video of our faces as we walked away, because we were both completely astounded by what had just occurred and trying to remain calm until we got around the corner and out of sight. It took a full YEAR to hear this man finally speak to us. Sometimes fruit takes a long time...

But wait! That's not all!

Sarah and a friend were walking the other day and they passed by Sunshine's place. He and his wife ('Mrs. Sunshine', equally as quiet and standoffish as the Mr.) were in the garden harvesting summer vegetables. Sunshine calls out, "Hey, do you like watermelon?"

"Yes, sir!", answered the two kids.

...UPDATE—the Sunshine Story

"Go get some bags", he says to his wife. "We'll send vegetables home with the kids."



Sarah and her friend returned to the house with two huge bags of peppers and cucumbers, zucchini and eggplant and tomatoes, and one giant watermelon! Sarah was so excited she was almost in tears. "You will NEVER believe where this came from!", she squealed. "SUNSHINE! Sunshine just picked all of this and sent it home with us!" We stood on the front steps in amazement as we watched Sarah and Dylan carry the bags and the melon up the walk. We all said a little thank you prayer for the change we are seeing in Sunshine's heart.

A little later in the day, we drove by and Sunshine was out in the yard. We stopped to say thank you for the

veggies. He smiled real big and waved us off with, "it's nothing", then he turned his back and kept working in the yard, obviously uncomfortable with our show of gratitude and how to respond.

Sunshine's story is not over. It has taken a year to get to this point. It might take another year to build enough trust and confidence that he will share his real name with us.

I'm reminded that it took 2.5 years for people on the mountain in Peru to trust us enough to let us live in their village. It took Paulina many encounters before she admitted that she had given me a false name originally because she didn't know if she should trust me. So, it might take Sunshine a while. That's okay.

Poco a poco (little by little)... relationship is a stroll, not a sprint.



Our youth Sunday School group! When we started with them last year, there were only a handful of unenthusiastic kids. Now look at them! Crazy, fun kids!

Trusting in the Fruits - from Henri Nouwen's *Bread for the Journey*

We belong to a generation that wants to see the results of our work. We want to be productive and see with our own eyes what we have made. But that is not the way of God's Kingdom. Often our witness for God does not lead to tangible results. Jesus himself died as a failure on a cross. There was no success there to be proud of. Still, the fruitfulness of Jesus' life is beyond any human measure. As faithful witnesses of Jesus we have to trust that our lives too will be fruitful, even though we cannot see their fruit. The fruit of our lives may be visible only to those who live after us. What is important is how well we love. God will make our love fruitful, whether we see that fruitfulness or not.

Praises -

- *We have a great church family here in Spain!!! Our relationships within the church are truly a gift. This feels like home and like family for us.*
- *Our relationships in our town are great. We have built good relationships with both Spaniards and with the immigrant population, both inside and out of the church environment.*
- *We have been blessed to have 3 other CCW families working near us. Each of these families is from a different sending country - Puerto Rico, Peru, and Mexico. It is great to have this multicultural group of CCW friends who support and love each other in community.*

Pray for -

- *Please pray for discernment, both for us and for possible new teammates, as we have conversations about what serving in Spain looks like and what the needs are here. Pray for patience for our national partners here (Centro Cristiano church) as they are eager to receive new workers and their need and desire to have new help is great. They are currently holding their handful of visa invitations exclusively for TMS workers and are eager to see that become a reality.*
- *Pray for our care regions and our communications with peers within Europe and the Middle East.*
- *Pray for our preparation for a conference in October, as we plan the 3-day coach training and plan to be away from Spain.*
- *Pray for our upcoming time in the States as we plan with our Home Team and try to connect with people during our time there.*
- *As always, please pray for our boys (Ryan and Miles) in Texas and far away from us. And for Sarah as she prepares for a new school and new school year in September.*

Who Knew?! Amazing history...

Yesterday, while on a little day off excursion with two other missionary families, we sort of stumbled upon a treasure trove for me... Roman ruins! Okay, I guess I can't say we 'stumbled upon' it, as one of the girls in our group actually pointed out to us that we were very near an archeological site and that we should go see it. So, we did.

With five kids in tow, in the 100+ degree heat, we headed 9km outside of Sevilla (just a mere 1.5 hours from my front door) to the site of Italica, an ancient Roman city built in 206 BC. Yes - BC... as in Before Christ... as in OLD!!! Like, REALLY OLD!

We walked up to the entrance where two Spanish women were attending the gate. European Union residents get in free (most historical sites are considered property of the citizens and are super cheap / sometimes free to residents) and foreign visitors pay 1.50. We flashed our resident cards and they waved us through. Cool! I love FREE!

Shocked is not even adequate to describe my feelings as I saw this site. This is an all-out Roman city! I have been to Rome and Cypress and Turkey and many other sites of Roman history. This place was not to disappoint!!! Who knew?!?! This thing is right in the middle of nowhere, 9km outside of Sevilla, and only about 7 or 8 other people were there the whole time we visited.

Some Italica facts:

- ⇒ Founded in 206BC
- ⇒ Birthplace of two Roman Emperors Trajan and Hadrian
- ⇒ It was a full Roman city, with aqueducts, theatres, temples, ampitheatre, theatre, and palatial homes.
- ⇒ Italica's amphitheatre seated 25,000... half the size of Rome's Colosseum and was the third largest amphitheatre in the Roman Empire.
- ⇒ The city began it's decline in the beginning of the 3rd century AD when a flood changed the route of the river. Sevilla became the main city of the area (known as Hispalis in Rome).



Many centuries later, little Italica would also become the sight of a monastery... and would harbor the 'rebels' Casiodoro de Reina and Cipriano de Valera who defied Rome and translated the Bible in to the native language of Spanish (Rome wanted it to forever be only available in Latin). This Bible was known as the Biblia del Oso (Bible of the Bear) because of the cover drawing that showed a Bear reaching for honey - a clever way to disguise the translated Bible's appearance. This Bible translation is today known as the Reina Valera.

Yep... it happened right here in Italica! The modern-day town of Santiponce now stands on Italica's doorstep and is built over parts of the ancient city.



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.

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Meet Isabel! Isabel is the daughter of a missionary family from Peru serving here in Spain! Sarah and Isabel were best friends within minutes of meeting each other. They have a lot in common... both are fluent in Spanish and English, both have lived in the USA, Peru, and Spain, both are MKs (missionary kids), and both are TCKs (third culture kids). They have dubbed themselves the MAPPs—*Mejores Amigas Peruanas Para Siempre* (Best Friends, Peruvians Forever). We are so happy that Sarah has found someone who she can relate to so completely!!!