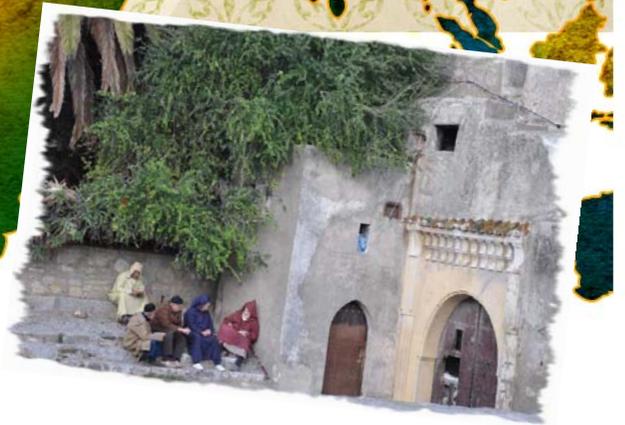




The Drum Family

February 2014



The new year started with a bang, or maybe it is better described as a blur...

We began the new year in Morocco as we crossed the Strait via ferry (35 minute ride) to go with friends and visit other workers there. We took another cross-cultural worker with us who was visiting from The Middle East. We enjoyed a couple of days of visiting with workers and learning a little about our neighboring country and culture and making new friends and Moroccan acquaintances.

The day that our colleague returned to The Middle East, our whole family began the lovely experience of what we fondly began calling "The Moroccan Bug"... a flu-like virus that slowly took each of us down for a few days. A Skype to our friend confirmed that she, too, had the Moroccan Bug and she missed several days of work. Boo - the Bug had managed to wipe us all out!

Still recovering from the Bug, we hopped on a train to Madrid to catch our flight for the USA for a training and conference. The Mission Society held it's first ever Global Gathering, in which all missionaries that serve with TMS came back stateside for a time of training, study, administrative business, reconnection, and spiritual renewal. Never before had we all been back at the same time. Usually, we convene together every two years according to the regions we serve. Therefore, people who serve in Africa haven't ever had the opportunity to cross paths with folks who serve in Latin America, etc. To celebrate the 30th anniversary of TMS, the Global Gathering was planned.

Billy and I arrived early in order to teach a 3-day pre-conference workshop on Peer Coaching Skills to 46 awesome missionary peers and colleagues. We also spent time using our coaching skills and our counseling certification to meet with individuals and couples as they wanted to work through many various nuances of life and ministry. I can't even begin to tell you what an honor and a privilege it is to be with such incredible folks, to be trusted by them enough for them to share their stories with us, and to have a love deep enough to hold each other in encouragement, vulnerability, and prayer.

The Regional Leadership Teams spent a full day of working on strategy and growth for our regions. Billy and I serve as Regional Care Coordinators for Europe (and currently overlapping work with The Middle East).

The main conference was fantastic and such a time of renewal for us! We heard great speakers and sat under incredible teachers. Topics of Inductive Bible Study, caring for your soul and the souls of others, regional meetings and planning

Changing Culture...

times, discipleship methods, prayer sessions, marriage and family groups, finances, working among other religions, life rhythms and health, Challenges of Engaging the Global Church... so many incredible sessions that are all relevant to our scope of work.

A special surprise guest speaker came as the Gathering began to wrap up. Steve Saint (son of Nick Saint) came to share with us regarding his experiences with mission work, dependency issues, and how globalization is changing the face of mission work. Steve Saint's life story (as seen in *The End of the Spear* movie and in his many books) was a life-changing story for me many years ago and I have always dreamed of one day meeting this man (see photo). I never really thought it possible... yet here he was, in the flesh, standing mere feet in front of me! Incredible!!! At the end, he prayed a special prayer over the missionary kids, which was especially powerful knowing his story.



We immediately returned to Spain the day that the conference ended, as Sarah had missed two weeks of school in order for us to attend and we needed to get right back so she doesn't fail the school year due to absences! Jet lag took a couple of days to get over, but we are now back in the saddle!

Meanwhile, 'back at the ranch' so to speak, life and ministry keeps on going. Billy continues to meet with a Spanish language helper and cultural helper each week, building relationship and learning more each

time. I (Laurie) am meeting with two separate groups of ladies (mostly immigrants from Latin America) twice a week, doing bible study and praying together and discipling. Two of these ladies are the natural leaders and I am working closely with them each week as they lead groups and bring in more participants. We both continue to meet with the young pastor of the church each week and have coffee, discuss theology and Spanish church culture, chew on the tough issues together, and laugh a lot! The three of us LOVE this time and it is a regular part of our week, sometimes lasting 3+ hours! We also continue to work in our roles as coaches/mentors/counselors (depending on the situation) for other missionaries in other areas of the globe. A typical week has us on phone consultations and care calls and contacts several times.

We are so happy to be home in Spain again, back to our daily work 'on the ground' with our people here, and staying put for a good long while! February already looks to have lots in store for us... God is doing some great things in the people we are in relationship with, and I can't wait to see what He has in store for us and for others in the days and weeks to come! A dear colleague prayed over us last week and she said that she kept seeing the image of a new garden and new growth come into her head during her prayer. Another friend spoke to us of our transition being a time much like a field that lays fallow for a season, preparing and refueling for a new planting and new season of fruit. I think it is not coincidence that both friends, very apart from one another, prayed and shared very similar ideas for what God is doing right now. Sounds good to me!!!

~Laurie

*Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders, Let me walk upon the waters
Wherever You would call me
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander, And my faith will be made stronger
In the presence of my Savior*

~ from *Oceans—Where Feet May Fail* (Hillsong)

Spain is a tough place. Post-Christian Europe. Catholicism is falling. The evangelical / protestant church is not growing fast enough. Muslims outnumber evangelicals by more than double and rising. Millions of people openly claim to not believe in any God or spirit. Unemployment is high. Eviction and bankruptcy is rampant. Hundreds of thousands of young adults left Spain last year in search of work. Suicide among young men is rising. Churches and cathedrals are being shut down and sold to businesses, turned into bars, or left empty. Relationships are hard to build here.

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.

Did you know???

I love statistics, but this makes our job loom in front of us as a HUGE task!

Did you know???

- Spain has 8095 municipalities (cities, towns, villages) and in 7540 of those there is NO evangelical / protestant church presence. None. Not. Even. One.
- Only 1% of the population in Spain is evangelical / protestant. Muslims account for 2.5% of the population. Muslim immigration grew 1000% over the past decade, mostly from Morocco and the Middle East.
- 70.5% of Spaniards self-identify as Catholic (down from 99% just a decade ago). However, of those who identify themselves as Catholic, 47% of those admit to never having attended mass—EVER. Only 25% say that they go to mass at least once per month, with most admitting to only attending once per year (during Holy Week—Easter).
- When given the choice of “I believe that there is a God” and “I do not believe in a god, spirit, or other higher life form”, only 59% of Spaniards polled believe that there is a God (yet 70.5% claim to be Catholic).
- Did you know that of those in Spain who are evangelicals, an estimated 50% of them are immigrants from Central/South America?
- Did you know that Nepal is 1.4% evangelical Christian, while Spain is only 1%?
- Unemployment in Spain is high at 26%. If you are a young adult, chances are that you are unemployed... unemployment for young adult age bracket (20s) was calculated at 55.2% in the 4th quarter of the year.



Spain needs your prayers!



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.

I would like to donate a one-time gift of \$ _____



Name (PLEASE PRINT) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ 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”

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laurie@drumsforchrist.org

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Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Drum's Contact Info

You can continue to contact them:
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that will route to our computer in
Spain)

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29200 Antequera, Malaga, España

Happy Valentine's Day from
Laurie & Billy & Sarah in Spain!
Blessings to you as you go out
and love deeply and well, sharing the
love of Christ with others
as He loved us.

!!!!Besos y abrazos fuertes!!!!
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