



# To the Nations: Serving in Spain and Reaching Beyond

## Prayers & Praises

### Praises:

- Laurie recently helped lead a local church workshop on teamwork
- We are almost finished with the new studio apt for care clients. We hope to have it open by March 1st.
- Rest - Thank you for your prayers for us to be able to find some time to rest! We were able to attend a TMS Global Europe worker's retreat in Croatia in January with several other cross-cultural worker families.
- We have also had some deep connection and quality time with some local friends, which has felt restorative.
- Praises for Sarah's new business venture - an equine training facility just 15 minutes outside of town.

### Prayers—please join us in prayer:

- A new church mission initiative to bring missional awareness and opportunities for involvement to the local church
- Partnership with Cortijo Carrillo, Asocacion CARE, and La Posada Training and Care - we'll be holding some retreats and care workshops for cross-cultural workers.
- Spanish Camino spiritual formation retreat - Billy will be leading a group of Spaniards on a week-long trek for spiritual formation.
- New care apartment - pray that it meets the needs of those who are seeking peace, care, and renewal.
- Pray for Billy's family and the loss of Billy's grandmother (99 years old)
- Pray for Neighboring initiatives - the weather is good and we are back to hosting patio gatherings and a new Cornhole group in the park!



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## Signs of hope

After coffee was poured and the house was finally awake, we settled into our usual morning routine—checking messages, skimming emails, and catching up on what happened in the U.S. while Spain slept. A few headlines in, Billy went quiet. Then he looked up and said, very matter-of-factly, “I’m getting off social media again. I can’t keep doing this.”

If that sounds familiar, it’s because we’ve been here before.

The last time Billy hit this point was in 2020, during COVID. Spain’s lockdowns were intense, and social media was our main connection to family, friends, and the outside world. Unfortunately, it was also a nonstop firehose of fear and bad news. Eventually, the only way to protect any semblance of mental health was to shut the noise off completely.

Lately, those same feelings—anxiety, overwhelm, stress, anger, concern—have been creeping back in. For very different reasons this time, but with the same effect. Add in current pressures in our work, our families, and our community, and suddenly it’s not just “a bit much.” It’s a *LOT* much.

As we talked it through, we realized something important: we need to intentionally look for hope right now.

Not because terrible things aren’t happening in the world—they absolutely are. Not because we want to stick our heads in the sand and pretend everything is fine. But because we believe, deeply, that God has not stepped away. He is still here. He is still at work. And He is still showing up—in our neighbors, our community, and our daily lives—if we’re willing to realign our focus and notice.

So today, instead of doom-scrolling, we started hope-spotting.

And here’s what we’re seeing.

There’s an older gentleman in our neighborhood named Juan. He’s a widower, a daily walker, and a professional conversationalist. Truly—he talks to *everyone*. For almost two months, Juan has been very sick with a respiratory illness, and his absence left a noticeable quiet in the neighborhood. We were genuinely worried he might not recover.

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This week, I opened the front door to head out and there he was—standing on the sidewalk, full of himself as ever, talking a mile a minute. He clearly had two months of words saved up and was determined to release them all in one morning. The neighborhood is noisy again, and we are so grateful Juan is back.

Then there's the rain. Spain has endured years of drought, so it feels wrong to complain—but this winter brought *weeks and weeks* of nonstop rain. Landslides. Flooding. Train tracks washed out. Hard things. But also... reservoirs completely full. One of them, for the first time in 100 years.

And now? The sun has been shining for four straight days. FOUR. The land is green. Wildflowers are everywhere. Fruit trees are heavy with blossoms. And honestly—it's amazing what sunshine does to people. The entire town feels lighter. People are smiling again. Stopping to talk. Lingering in conversations. You can feel the emotional shift in the air.

We've also experienced fresh hope in relationships. New friendships forming. Old ones renewed. Long-standing connections going deeper. We're looking forward to warmer evenings, patio dinners, and cookouts—setting the table (both literally and figuratively) for meaningful conversations and shared life.

In some situations where we felt alone, we've learned we're not. After a season of setbacks and quiet discouragement, honest conversations have reminded us that God often sends encouragement through people—right when we need it most.

Ministry-wise, this season is full of preparation. Administrative tasks. Planning. Logistics. The kind of work that can feel tedious and fruitless if you're only looking for immediate results. But we're seeing clear signs of what's coming.

One door unexpectedly closed for one of Billy's Camino retreats—only for another to open that is even more exciting. The large cross-cultural training event planned for this summer? It's already full... actually, overbooked. We have new retreat opportunities forming in partnership with a local boutique hotel and Sarah's riding stable, and we're *very* excited about where those could lead.

Our local church is stepping more deeply into missions as well—helping host the summer training and sending participants of their own. We're hopeful about what this could mean not only for the church, but for the wider community.

And the work in Kenya continues to bear fruit. We recently met with the leaders we trained in November, and they are already multiplying that training among others. One has partnered with another organization and a church to begin a new training center for pastors and mission leaders. Watching local leaders take ownership and move forward is deeply encouraging.

Finally, a big new chapter is beginning for Sarah. She's been given the opportunity to launch her own equine training program and riding center and has spent weeks preparing the property and navigating paperwork. Horses moved in this week, marking the start of a new season in her life and career.

This space—set among olive groves on the grounds of a Spanish villa hotel—will also become a place for mission care, retreats, and deep relationship. Sarah already has clients lined up for starting young horses and providing consistent training for horses whose owners need support. It feels like God has been quietly weaving multiple threads together for a long time.

So yes—the world feels loud right now. But hope is still here. Sometimes it looks like a talkative old man on a sidewalk. Sometimes it looks like sunshine after weeks of rain. Sometimes it looks like open doors, new growth, and quiet reassurance that we are not alone.

Thank you for walking this journey with us—through prayer, support, and encouragement. We're grateful for you, and *we're choosing hope.*



With Pastor Miguel and his wife Ana. We are all celebrating our 40th wedding anniversaries this year!



## How can I help make a difference this year?

One of the things we love most about this work is that we don't do it alone. You are part of our team!

Every retreat hosted, every leader trained, every meal shared on our patio, every cross-cultural worker who gets the rest they desperately need—none of it happens in isolation. It happens because people like you step in and say, “We want to be part of that.”

As we look toward 2026, there are some very tangible, practical ways you can help strengthen three core areas of our mission: **caring for cross-cultural workers and ministry leaders, training church leaders and global workers, and loving our neighbors well.**

Here are a few specific opportunities:

**Caring for Cross-Cultural Workers:** Burnout is real. We see it up close. And sometimes the only barrier between a weary ministry worker and the rest they need is finances.

- **\$525** Sponsor a ministry worker to attend a Burnout Recovery Weekend
- **\$500** Help sponsor a worker for our Self-Care for Ministry Leaders retreat

Your gift could quite literally create space for someone to breathe again.

**Training & Forming Leaders:** Healthy leaders lead healthy communities. In 2026, we have several opportunities to equip both international and local Spanish leaders.

- **\$1,350** Provide scholarship support for a cross-cultural worker to receive advanced training
- **\$530** Sponsor a Camino spiritual formation retreat for a local Spanish believer

When you invest in one leader, the ripple effect multiplies into churches, communities, and even nations.

**Strengthening Mission Care & Neighboring:** Sometimes the Kingdom work looks very spiritual. Sometimes it looks like windows, patio roofs... and cornhole boards.

- **\$200** Small table & chairs for our mission care apartment kitchen
- **\$1,500** Window Update: Soundproof, climate-efficient windows for the care apartment (helping make a more peaceful stay in winter and summer)
- **\$500** Patio roof repair so we can continue hosting meals and neighboring initiatives (the storms have not been kind)
- **\$200** Cornhole boards for our new Neighborhood Cornhole Gathering in the park (because sometimes loving your neighbor starts with friendly competition). Our local church is also in on the cornhole game!

These simple, practical needs create space for deep conversations, hospitality, rest, and relationship.

If you've ever wondered, “*Does my gift really matter?*” — the answer is yes!

It might mean a leader doesn't quit.

It might mean a local Spanish believer grows in spiritual depth.

It might mean a neighbor feels seen for the first time.

It might mean someone sleeping in our care apartment finally rests well.

If you feel led to partner with any of these needs, we would be incredibly grateful. And if you can't give financially right now, your prayers are just as valuable to us.

Thank you for being part of this story with us.

See the back of this newsletter for donation info, or go to [www.tms-global/give](http://www.tms-global/give) and donate online to our account: Laurie & Billy Drum #0321. So grateful for your partnership in sharing the love of Christ and caring for others around the world.



Graffiti found on a recent walk. Sometimes God even speaks through street art.

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- Our greatest desire is to see people become who God created them to be and to live into their purpose. We believe that everyone has value. Everyone has talents, skills, and unique abilities. We want to see that come alive!
- 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 what we're about - developing and caring for people so they can live into their unique design and God-given purpose.

## Become a Partner! We would love to have you on our team!



### Mail to The Drums:

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Dear Billy and Laurie,

I will pray for you.

As God provides, I plan to partner with you by giving  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Per month / year.

Special note: \_\_\_\_\_

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