

The Drum Family

January 2015



Happy New Year!



Remember back when we rolled over from 1999 into 2000? Y2K? The panic of what the year 2000 might bring? Computer disaster, the end of the world, food shortages, calamity and all that jazz? None of us were thinking about the fact that one day we would be celebrating the year 2015! Amazing, isn't it?! 2015!!! I promise you that I wasn't thinking that I would be celebrating it as a missionary living overseas... furthest thing from my mind, I'm sure!

Yet, here we are! 2015...

The new year always brings about a sense of reflection for me. A time to look back and see where I've been, where I've grown, where I've stumbled, where I might improve. And a time to look ahead to the 'new' What new thing is God doing in me? In Spain? In the world? And how does He want me to participate in all of that? Obviously, I don't have all of those answers. But I'm looking for answers, and I'm willing to play my part and serve.

Some verses I've been reflecting on for the passing of the old year and the beginning of the new:

Lamentations 3:22-23 Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is



...Happy New Year!

your faithfulness.

Isaiah 43:19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.

Revelation 21:5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Isaiah 40:31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Happy New Year to all of you!!! Grace and Gratitude for the year that is gone, and Blessings on the new. ~Laurie



We have so much to be thankful for in 2014! These photos on these pages show just a few of the people we have been blessed by: **Page 1** = The Drums on Christmas Eve; our youth Sunday School class at New Year's Eve dinner; Billy and Paco (language and cultural helper); Laurie and Dulce (Brazilian friend / bible study); Billy and Didier (Frenchman on The Camino de Santiago). **Page 2** = Laurie and Billy with Clive and Mary on Boxing Day (British friends living in Spain); Texas A&M students with Billy on the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage; Merry & Vicente Cazarin and family w/ The Drums (Mexican missionaries in Spain); Laurie with her discipleship women's bible study group in Campillos (Spaniards, Nicaraguans, and Brazilians); Gustavo Faleiro w/ Drums (Brazilian missionary to France); Mike & Valerie Smith w/ The Drums (TMS missionaries to France from College Station, TX!); HB w/ Sarah (security). **Page 3** = Laurie & ladies from church; Billy & Laurie & Pastor Miguel; Café con Jesus adult bible study; D&S w/ Drums (security); M&D w/ Drums (security). We live a multicultural life, rich and full of love - both given and received!

Prayers and Praises:

A special thank you to those who remembered us during the holidays with Christmas cards, special gifts, emails and phone calls and prayers. Holidays away from family are especially difficult. Please **pray** for Billy and his family... His grandmother (Mary Lena Maxwell) died on New Year's Day. She was a very spry 91 years old! It is so difficult to be away from home and family when sadness hits.

Please continue to Pray for Spain! ... for our relationships with both Spaniards and immigrants to Spain... for new believers... for the adult bible study group "Café con Jesus" ...for the youth Sunday School class we teach... for cities and towns and villages that do not have a witness or a church... one of these towns is Campillos, the town where Laurie co-leads a small cell group on Thursdays... for tensions between religious groups and between immigrants and nationals.

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.

Pray for the ministry of counseling, coaching, and mentoring as we work to strengthen and lift up other mission workers around the globe. Pray for us as we listen, care for, and bear the burdens of many mission workers who work in hard places, who work with hard situations, and who daily live in tough situations.



Introducing HANNAH!!!



in Peru, and now in Spain. Hannah Thomas is our newest intern. Hannah comes to us from College Station, Texas. She is no stranger to us, as we have known Hannah since she was a little girl. In fact, her father is probably one of the people most accredited with pushing us 'out of the boat' and helping us to follow our calling as missionaries. Now, Hannah comes to us to spend a semester as a mission intern. She will be helping us in all that we do here, as well as doing some intense coaching and training in missions and life purpose. Says Hannah, *"When I was first given the opportunity to serve in Spain my mindset was 'yes, anything to escape here.' Now through training and preparation the Lord has truly broken my heart for the lost and renewed my heart for the gospel. I'm looking forward to observing Christianity through the lens of Spanish culture and seeing where God has gone before me into this community. I'm definitely nervous, but reassured that even if I was to be removed from the equation completely Gods will and plan would still come to pass in Antequera."* Please be praying for Hannah and her time here in Spain. Pray for her to find a new depth and love for God and for His people, and for her to discover a lot about herself in the process.

One of our greatest honors and blessings over the years has been hosting young folks who are interested in learning more about what it means to spend your life in mission service. We have mentored several interns over the course of our mission service... in Mexico,



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.

ECFA MEMBER

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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!

Drum's Contact Info

You can continue to contact them:
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Spain)

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Welcome to long-distance family photos! This is what we managed to take for a photo this year. Hopefully next Christmas will bring another opportunity!
Left to right: Dani, Ryan, Miles, Sarah, Billy, & Laurie