



The Camino de Santiago

As of this writing, Billy has crossed from St. Jean Pied de Port, France to Castrojeriz, Spain , a whopping 326.2 km. walked over the past two weeks! He is following the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route. Walking the Camino has been a dream for Billy for a long time, not only personally but also as a service and outreach. ‘I walk the Camino in a ministry of listening and loving and reaching out to those who walk in search of something. There are a lot of “hurting hearts” out here on The Way and a lot of folks who need to talk it out, to have someone hear them, to have someone who is safe and who they can cry with, and who cares. So I walk... and I listen... and we cry together... and eventually, we laugh and find a way to walk together in peace and joy instead of in pain and sorrow.’

I (Laurie) cannot walk the Camino right now... Sarah is still in school and there was just no way to leave her behind for 5 weeks, nor could she take the time off to come with us (and it is highly doubtful that she could physically do the hike). So I have stayed behind this time. It is tough, to say the least, to be the one ‘left behind’. But this is not the last time that the Camino will be walked as a ministry, and I will be on the next one. We have at least one trek planned for each year.

I had the opportunity to travel up for the weekend and meet up with Billy and the group he is walking with right now. He learned that a group of 14 Texas A&M students and faculty from the Mays Business School were walking, and he was able to join up with them. It was so great to meet up with fellow Aggies and know that Billy is with ‘family’ as he walks this tough road. They are a great bunch of students, for sure! Everywhere we went, other pilgrims had something to tell me about the Aggie kids! It was an awesome experience.

Although Billy is traveling with the Aggie group, he walks with others along the way, too. As each day progresses, walkers spread out along the trail and find themselves walking alongside people from all over the world. Many pilgrims on the Camino are walking in a search of something... some for religious reasons, some in an act of recovery from grief, some in an effort to ‘find themselves’ again or to find meaning in their lives. Some are trying to unplug and slow down and reflect on what their purpose is, what they are doing with life, and where they are going. Billy spends a lot of time walking and listening and sharing life’s stories with people. It is a ministry of sharing life and listening, really. He is using his coaching and counseling skills, and his huge heart for others, as he comes alongside people on The Camino. He gets to share Christ’s love, and help people see what God has for them, and what His purpose is for them.



...The Camino de Santiago

He is sharing each day on a blog journal on our website. Please check in and read his daily reflections from the Camino! <http://www.drumsforchrist.org/france-to-compostela> There is just absolutely no way I can tell you all of the amazing things that are occurring on the trail in this one newsletter article! Check the blog to learn about the man who is doing the entire route in a wheelchair, or about people who are walking because of the death of a loved one. Read about amazing real life present day Good Samaritan stories. Read about the hardships of walking hundreds of kilometers, about blisters and injuries and illness. Read about the challenges and the incredible victories. Read it all on <http://www.drumsforchrist.org/france-to-compostela>

Most of all, lift up Billy as he walks the remaining 470.7km to Santiago de Compostelo. Pray for his health - physical health, emotional health, and spiritual strength. As of this past weekend, he says that he is physically down with a bad cold and cough and sore throat. Blisters are healing and his knee is holding out, but he is exhausted. He says he is mentally and emotionally drained. So pray for strength and stamina on all fronts, for good rest, and for blessed relationships as he continues to walk alongside others in their personal journeys.



Top center: The Texas A&M group w/ Billy.
Top right: A mile marker for the Camino.
Above: One of the albergues (rest stops) = 300 beds.
Far left: Every evening is a time of drying out boots and doctoring foot injuries.

True love does not just sit around and sympathize. True love gets in where the action is, rolls up its sleeve and does something at the cost of labor, at the cost of weariness and sleeplessness. LOVE LABORS, it's not just a passive emotion, it's an active driving force that drives people to sacrificial labor on behalf of others.

~Derek Prince

Specifically this month, please **pray** for Billy as he walks the 769 km Camino de Santiago pilgrimage from France to Santiago de Compostelo, Spain (about 33 days). He is walking with a group of students and staff from Texas A&M. He walks the Camino as an outreach to other walkers—coaching, counseling, listening as he ministers to others along the trail. **Pray** for all those whom he is hiking alongside. Also **pray** for Sarah and me (Laurie) as they we are home alone and missing Billy so much!

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. **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.

You Might be Living in Spain if...

Okay, okay! I hear you! For all of you who have been missing the "You Might be a Missionary" feature in our newsletter, this one's for you!

You might be a missionary living in Spain if:

- You find yourself in a restaurant, café, ice cream shop, corner drink stop... just about ANYWHERE... and the ceiling is covered with hanging dried hams. Seriously... EVERYWHERE!
- The streets are completely deserted from 2:30pm to around 5pm—I mean very literally deserted. It's siesta time in Spain! Shops are closed, businesses are closed, school is closed... nothing to do but go home, eat lunch (lunch is usually around 2 or 3) and take a long rest. Back to work at 5pm!
- It is commonplace to have lunch at 2:30 or 3pm and to have dinner at 10:30 or 11pm. I was recently at an event at 10pm and it was virtually empty... I learned that the main attraction wasn't to BEGIN until midnight! I was told to expect for the event to still be going at 4am! Sarah and I opted to miss that one and go home.
- You might be living in the Andalucia region if Spanish doesn't seem to be Spanish and words don't seem to have endings and everyone seems to be talking with their mouths full of marshmallows... even the locals admit that their manner of speaking is hard!
- If every conversation or business deal is sealed with a *café* (cup of coffee) or a *copa* (glass of wine) or a *cerveza* (beer), you are in Spain! Even bible study is not truly 'finished' until we have officially sealed it with a *café*! If you leave an event before the *café* is had (or the wine or the beer), shame on you... poor manners!
- If street signs or highway signs are written in both Spanish and Arabic, you live somewhere near us in Andalucia.
- If it is commonplace for you to stop in the street and kiss both cheeks of someone you know, even if that means stopping traffic to do so, you are definitely in Spain! We have even seen the public bus stop in the middle of the road, the driver got off and went to the sidewalk, kissed a friend and chatted for a minute, then got back on and resumed his route! It is a relational culture, Folks!!!



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

Name (PLEASE PRINT) _____
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Billy and the Aggie Men on The Camino!



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:
billy@drumsforchrist.org
Ph # 979-985-5238 (Texas phone
that will route to our computer in
Spain)

NEW Mailing address:

Billy y Laurie Drum
Apdo. #46 Correos
29200 Antequera, Malaga, España



Please remember Billy in your prayers from May 19-June 22+ as he walks the Camino de Santiago from France to Santiago de Compostela, Spain = 769km. Pray for his safety, for his health, and for him to have fruitful conversations with the many other walkers whom he will come into contact with along the way. He walks as an outreach to the many pilgrims who are seeking a spiritual connection with God. Most pilgrims walk in an attempt to "find God" or to fill a spiritual void or emptiness. Some walk as an attempt to find themselves. Billy will use his coaching and counseling and ministry skills to help folks who want to talk it out.