TMS Global Laurie & Billy Drum

4717 Shoal Creek Dr College Station, TX 77845-4410

E-mail: billy@drumsforchrist.org

laurie@drumsforchrist.org

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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!

Contact The Drums: Skype billy.drum USA ph# 979-985-5238 (rings through to Spain)

Whatsapp: #34 652 144 783



Mail to The Drums:
Laurie y Billy Drum
Apdo #46 Correos
29200 Antequera, Malaga
España

Or mail to the house at Laurie v Billy Drum Calle Juan Casco 100 29200 Antequera, Malaga España

Dear Billy and Laurie,			
I will pray for you. As God provides, I plan t \$Per month / y Special note:		ou by giving	ECFA MEMBER
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TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS MAY BE SENT TO: TMS Global PO Box 936559 Atlanta, GA 31193-6559 USA DESIGNATE GIFTS: "DRUM-0321SUP"



Kingdom Mosaics from Spain

March April 2023

Some things to try as you learn to slow down:

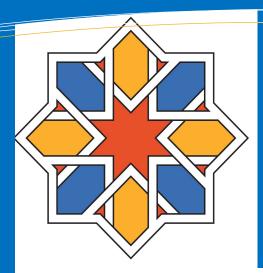
- Try to use all of your senses. Sit outside and slowly go through each of the sense. What do you see? What do you hear? What do you smell?
 Feel? Taste? Now connect those to God His creation and his provision and his people.
- What are you grateful for? List as many things as you can. When you think you're done, list 5 more.
- Read John 4 (Woman at the well), Luke 10 (the Good Samaritan and the story of Mary & Martha) and consider the idea of having time to stop, time to deviate from the plan or the to-do list, time to notice others. What would happen if you stopped being busy?
- ◆ Take some time to read. I encourage you to not only read, but to read slowly, take notes, and journal your thoughts and responses as you read. Use this as a special time of rest and reflection. Try these... Working from a Place of Rest by Tony Horsfall or The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry by John Mark Comer.



John
Mark
Comer

The
Ruthless
Elimination
of
Hurry

Foreword
by
John
Ortberg



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Making time to stop

I took this photo in the Abbey Cathedral in Bath. It is a marble frieze depicting the story of The Good Samaritan. I love how cathedrals let you read the Bible via artwork. The idea in that time period was to depict the Bible in visual forms so that the people (mostly illiterate) could see the



stories and have a way to add the visual (seeing the story in artwork) to the oral (hearing the Scripture). Therefore, most stained glass of the time were panels showing Bible stories. Friezes of wood carvings or marble sculpture showed scenes from scripture. Tapestries of elaborate weavings of the stories and timelines of the Bible hang in chapels and cathedrals throughout Europe.

As I was looking at this scene, I was thinking about the idea of being busy, of being in a hurry, of always having somewhere to go and something else to do.

We spent a week in the UK with a group of 23 lovely people as they also pondered this same thought. We were all there attending a study and retreat entitled **Working from a Place of Rest** based on Tony Horsfall's book by the same name. We spent the entire week looking at the story in John 4 of Jesus and the woman at the well. Jesus took time to go and sit at the well. It was mid-day. He had been walking all day with the disciples, going from one place to the next. They had a destination. Some-

place to go, something else to do. They were on their way. But Jesus decides that it's time to rest. He's tired. He's ready for a break and a little sit down time. It's a bold move by today's standards and by our cultural viewpoint. We don't often take time to rest, especially in the middle of the day. We're busy. We have things to get done, places to be. No time to stop and rest. "Gotta keep moving so we can get things done!"

But not Jesus. He made time to go to the well and sit. And because he took that time, he also encountered a woman. He had time to talk to her. He could have said, "I just need some water and then I'll be on my way." He could have ignored her, or not engaged in a chat because he didn't want to get sucked into a conversation. After all - he was on his way to somewhere else. He had a destination in mind. He had plans and things on his to-do list. But he stopped. He stopped to rest, to drink some water. He made time to stop.

This led to a contagion effect of other amazing things that happened. All because Jesus decided to divert his plan, take a little detour, rest for a bit, and be still. Go read it. It's a good story.

So, back to the Good Samaritan story and the frieze that I was studying. As I was looking at it, I began to see that story in the same light. Two men had already passed by and not stopped to help. They were on their way to other places, they had things to do, places to go, etc. The man who finally stopped was also on his way. He could have just as easily continue on his journey and not stopped. It would have been easy to keep going and stay focused on the task at hand. He could have justified himself by saying "I'm really busy" or "I just don't have time for this". But he stopped. He stopped his busyness. He stopped what he was doing. He took charge of his time and didn't let the task or the schedule rule him. He stopped. He created margin and space for this moment.

I'm struck by the idea of being on the way. We are always on our way to something. Meetings, meals, appointments, preparations. I hear these words come out of my head a lot. "I don't have time because I'm on my way to ____." Or "I need to do _____ before I can do anything else."

What opportunities have I missed because I didn't stop? How many opportunities for rest and relationship do I push to the side because I'm too busy or I'm on my way to something else? Jesus did MOST of his work on the way. He was always between places. On the way to the next place or the next event. He walked from one place to the next and spent the majority of his time on the path or road. He had things to do, sure! But he also had margin for rest and relationships.

As I sat on the patio and reflected on all of this, I noticed the birds. The starlings are back! Spring is officially here. I hadn't noticed before now. I began to hear the kids playing in the street. I could hear the goats on the hill just outside of our neighborhood, and see the bees flitting around all of the flowers on our patio. I could smell the bread as it bakes in

the over at the bakery across the street. These things are here every day, but I've been pretty busy and haven't made time to sit on the patio and reflect and notice.

How much do we not notice because we are too busy? Because we are so focused on where we are going or the next task or how many things are on our to-do list? Are we noticing the present? Are we too busy to see God's creation, God's provision, God's people?

Maybe it's time to rest, to take a detour, to look up for a bit, or get a drink of water. Maybe it's time to sit by the well and put aside busyness for a little bit and notice what's going on around you.

~Laurie

Billy is MUCH better at resting and reflection than I am!

I recently caught this shot of him while on the train.



Updates on Life and Ministry

We are finally finding some semblance of normal again after Sarah's accident in January and all that ensued afterward. Just a few update points this time to catch you up on what has been going on with ministry and life for us:

- We finished 2022 with an <u>event in Turkey where we gathered with almost 200 cross-cultural mission workers and their families</u> for a time of training and restoration. Billy and I both led training sessions for this event.
- January— see prior newsletter regarding <u>Sarah's accident (our daughter)</u>. This is definitely a prayer and praise point. You can access that online at www.drumsforchrist.org. Sarah is doing well and is back in Germany—back to riding and working with horses. It is truly miracle upon miracle. Thank you for your prayers!
- In February, we attended the Refugee Highway Partnership Europe conference in Italy. Billy is on the leadership



team for the RHP. This annual conference works to train and equip ministry leaders and aid workers who specialize in working with refugees and forcibly displaced people arriving in Europe. We have been taking a local Spanish pastor to this conference for the past 4 years as a way of building up his skills and knowledge in working with refugees and immigrants at his church and in the prison ministry he works with in Spain. His church is currently 80% immigrant and 20% Spaniard. We were also very happy that his wife joined us this year. This is the first time in their 36 year marriage that they have ever taken a vacation together! Life for a pastor in Spain is not easy! We stayed after the conference for a couple of extra days to do some sightseeing with them and help them travel around (they do not know any other language than Spanish and have significant fears about traveling alone).



• <u>Ukraine refugee aid</u> - We continue to work with our partners at All4Aid in supporting Ukrainian refugees. We are helping with a housing center that is currently housing 75 Ukrainians in Romania, as well as helping with weekly food deliveries. A group of mission workers loads a cargo van and crosses the Romania/Ukraine border to take food into the southern part of Ukraine to local pastors who are using their churches as food banks for their communities. You may remember Billy being on one of those first food drops into Ukraine when the war began. We continue to help support that work and make sure that the flow of supplies and food gets to those in most need.



- Local pastor support, care, and leadership development We continue to meet with two local pastors and their wives to give them care, support, and help with leadership development. In our cultural context, church leaders cannot share their needs or struggles openly with their congregants or church. Both pastors suffer from loneliness and burnout and a lack of people with whom they can be vulnerable and authentic. We meet with them (separately) and serve as their sounding board, coaches, counselors, and friends. We are their "safe place".
- Working from a Place of Rest in March, we attended the Working from a Place of Rest study/retreat in the UK. This was a time to learn alongside 23 other ministry workers (priests, pastors, lay people, mission workers, vicars, etc).
- onboarding new team members we are onboarding a new family who is joining our team in April.
 Will and Laura Sallee and their two children are joining us in Antequera, Spain and will be a great
 addition to the work here! They have lived in Spain and Costa Rica previously, so their Spanish is
 already fantastic. We are very excited to have new teammates to help with the work. They will arrive just before Easter.



• We are very excited to be traveling to Texas for a few days. Billy's mother is having her 80th birthday! He also still has one living grandmother who is 97 who we will get to see for Easter dinner. We will be in North Texas visiting with his mom, seeing Ryan and Miles and granddaughter Lily, and hopefully seeing other family in the area. This is not a long trip this time—just a few days. Pray that this is a time of sweet memories being made, a time to see family and hug necks and play with our granddaughter.

Please join us in prayers and praises for all of these things, and for the many more to come.