



An Interview with The Drums

This month, I want to share a little bit of an interview that we did with a young lady (LZ) in Round Top, Texas. She was doing a special project and had several questions for us. I thought the answers might be something of interest to all of you, too. Enjoy!

*LZ: If it's okay, I have a few questions, if you could answer just a couple of them that would be fabulous! :)
How did God call y'all? And, How did you respond?*

Laurie: Well, that's a long story. Let's see if I can condense it a little. I was raised in the church, but that's different than really knowing Jesus personally. Truth be told, I met Jesus in a swimming pool on the Texas /Mexico border during my first summer as a volunteer, thanks to a missionary woman and her children. Cindy met me every day one summer at the community pool. Our kids would swim together and she would regale me with story after story about how Jesus was a part of her life, how He had been a great provider for their family, about funny things that happened and how Jesus was always a part of them. She was such a good friend and such a great storyteller that I couldn't help but to show up again the next day to hear more. And with that, I was hooked! Relationship with this cute little Barbie doll of a missionary mom and a lot of hot evenings spent watching kids at the pool made for a fantastic incubator in my heart and Jesus just settled right in.

After 8 years of work on the Mexico/Texas border, Hurricane Katrina blew in and destroyed the Gulf Coast of the USA. And with that, our work in Mexico was over... the mission agency decided to pool all of their efforts and send everything and everyone to hurricane areas in New Orleans and east. But by that point in time, our hearts were tied up in Mexico and the Mexican people. And we wanted to continue serving in that way. It was a dark time for us, as we watched the agency leave Mexico and the door to the work we had been doing closed. And the 'being angry at God' phase began.

Eventually, we cycled through that grief and started to see that this could be an answer to a prayer we had for a long time. We had wanted to do more. We had been feeling a call to go deeper. We wanted to grow deeper in relationship with the people we served. And we had been feeling like the way to do that was to move and serve them full-time. But how???

A couple of years earlier, Billy had gone to a mission conference at another church. There, he met several missionaries, heard their stories, and heard great teaching. It was there that he came to know about a mission organization called The Mission Society. And it was there that he realized that full-time career missionaries seemed to be 'normal people'... they weren't old, stuffy pastors, nor did they wear pith helmets and Birkenstocks and carry machetes and Bibles, looking like a cross between Tarzan and my grandfather's minister. They were real people with real lives and real families. They even took their kids on the mission field with them. Hmmmm... So, with the devastation of Hurricane Katrina came the birth of a new chapter in our lives as we began to follow the call in a different way – we applied to become full-time career missionaries with The Mission Society and we began the journey that is our life today.

...Interview with The Drums

We didn't end up in Mexico, partially because there was not an opening on a team at the time, and partially (we saw in hindsight) because maybe God knew that the seriousness of the situation in Mexico would soon become so difficult that most of our missionaries would be forced to leave for their safety. It was tough to accept that we were saying goodbye to Mexico and that season of our lives, but God had a new season waiting for us.

In July of 2006, we were approved to serve with TMS. After a year of training and raising the needed funding, we headed to Costa Rica for language school in August of 2007. The year in language school is a whole other story that we won't go in to here, mostly because I was so overwhelmed and so deep in culture shock that I wrote only three journal entries and a few blog postings during the entire year. Learning another language when you are 41 is pretty tough. Becoming a student again when you have been a master teacher for 16 years is even tougher. And doing it all in another culture with three children in tow... well, let's just say that we are happy that we all survived it. Quite literally.

We landed in Peru in July 2008 and spent our first missionary term in the Andes mountains working with Quechua Wanca people. It was an incredible time! We are blessed to have been a part of God's work there. And now, He has called us to Spain to work in a different way. So, that brings us up to today.

LZ: What doubts did you have?

Drums: Of course, we had doubts! What on earth is God thinking?! How is he going to use two normal, everyday, run-of-the-mill people from a tiny country town in Texas to make an impact in another country?! Is he nuts!? That was pretty much how our questions went. We were just normal people with

normal jobs and lots of normal problems like everyone else in the world. Hard to believe that he would call a couple of school teachers to go to another country and be his hands and feet. But, you know, he called Moses to do the same thing - and Moses had LOTS of doubts and questions, too. Just goes to show you-- He can use whomever (and whatever) He wants to do complete his will!

LZ: What help or assistance did God provide for this calling?

Drums: He provided a great mission organization that gave us lots of great training. He gave us some great friends and supporters who helped encourage us and helped us with fundraising so we could go (and continue to help us with funds even now, 8 years in to this!). He provided lots of learning opportunities along the way. He puts the right people in our path to help us when we need help. Really, he gives us all the help and guidance that we need... we just need to be focused on Him and on seeing what it is that he is doing. But He always provides and we always seem to have exactly what we need at just the right time, be it finances or help or friends or training or whatever. He always provides.

LZ: How do you continue to know God's will?

Drums: Well, it goes back to staying focused on Him and believing that He is ever-present and ever-faithful. I admit, sometimes we struggle with knowing if we are squarely in his will with a particular decision or situation, but we stay firm in our belief and faith and try to focus in and find the answer. But we also believe that he redeems all things and that he uses all things for good, so if sometimes we are struggling with seeing his will or knowing exactly how to respond, we trust that he will make it right

*"Talking to men for God is a great thing,
but talking to God for men is greater still."*

~E.M. Bounds

Pray specifically this month for a trip we are making to Turkey for a conference of missionary care givers. **Pray** that it is a fruitful time of learning for us. **Pray** for Sarah as we leave her with trusted friends in Spain while we are away. Thank you for your prayers for our family and the ministry!

Pray for Spain! **Pray** for more mission workers. **Pray** for relationships to open up. **Pray** for our new Sunday School classes (adults and youth) that they will continue to grow in faith and go deep in the Word. **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.

...Interview with The Drums

or use it even if we don't know how to proceed. That's where the faith comes in. Sometimes you have to move forward and believe / trust that he will guide you and that he has a plan. I absolutely know that the mission and our location is in his will... it is the situational struggles that sometimes get you down and make you doubt and question. But, guess what... struggle and doubt and frustration are all tension points for growth. It's biblical... even the greatest biblical characters all had struggles and doubt and frustrations. They even doubted God sometimes. But God carried them through and fulfilled his plan, anyway.

LZ: What special challenges do you face?

Drums: Well, right now, a particular special challenge is that we work in a very multicultural situation and that makes for a very interesting mix of cultural ideas and ways of doing things, and sometimes those things clash. Most of the time, each person in the mix doesn't even realize that they are looking at the situation through their own cultural lens. So, a special part of our job right now is to help all of the people in this particular group to see and understand the cultural viewpoint of the others. To help people understand why they misunderstand each other. So, we are a bridge between cultures, per se. We are trained for this, so it is something we know and love. But, at the same time, it is hard to be in the 'middle' and try to help people learn and grow without creating cultural biases or prejudices or misunderstandings. It's hard. And we always have to be on our toes and paying attention and trying to see through each culture and into the true heart of the matter.

Another challenge is helping people in the USA see that Spain is NOT what they think it is. Most USA folks see Spain as a nice European country, civilized and lovely and Catholic. The truth is that Spain is mostly agnostic, although they call themselves Catholic because of historical tradition. Many / most don't go to mass or even own a bible. Nothing. My part of Spain is very much Islamic in culture and traditions, but not in religion. They have a long history of being Muslim (700+ years!), and much of that culture remains. It is everywhere - architecture, customs, etc. In fact, most people in my area of Spain correct me when I refer to people as "Spaniards" or to our country as "Spain"... they call themselves by the original Arabic name of Andalucía (the region) and Al-Andaluz (the people of the region). But the Muslim religion is not dominant. However, there are more Muslims in Spain than there are evangelical Christians! Most people don't know that, and they don't believe it when we tell them. They want to continue to see Spain as a great tourism destination, flamenco dancers, Don Quixote, and the running of the bulls. But those things are NOT the Spain I live in. The day-to-day Spain is very different.

LZ: Last question—What do you find most rewarding about your work?

Drums: Relationships!!! Getting to be part of something bigger than we are. Knowing that we are able to help other people in other places. We are a piece of a great puzzle. The relationships we are building here (and have built in other places, too) are the real gift. Walking side-by-side with someone as they walk through life, as they discover more and more about who they are in God's world, as they go deeper in understanding love and service... that's incredible! The honor of being allowed in to the lives of others - of being trusted with their stories and their tears and their struggles and their celebrations... wow! That's a life worth living!!!



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.

Name (PLEASE PRINT) _____
Address _____
City _____ St _____ 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"



The Mission Society
Laurie & Billy Drum
3907 Old Oaks
Bryan, Texas 77802 USA
E-mail: billy@drumsforchrist.org
laurie@drumsforchrist.org

NON-PROFIT
ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
BRYAN TX
PERMIT #102



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)

Mailing address:

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



Join us in celebrating the beginnings of the first-ever inductive bible study and adult Sunday School in our church!!! We meet each week for coffee, breakfast, and study. We are now one month old and going strong! Thank you for all of your prayers and support!!!