

The Drum Family

September 2014



End of summer = New beginnings

I spent LOTS of years as a teacher in the USA public school system. Summer was a welcome respite at the end of many months of teaching. A time to rest, to recoup, to reconnect with family on vacation. For me, summer was always just a little too long, though. After about a month, I was ready to get back in the classroom, to get back to my students and back to what I loved doing.

Our first full summer in Spain has just come to a close this week. For us, school ends in late June. Our summer school break is July and August, with school starting on Sept. 10th. Spain has a little bit different idea of vacation time than we do in The States. Most people get an entire month of vacation time. Some take it in August, while others take it in September. People with school kids take it in August, obviously. Many things close down for the month. August is HOT in Andalucia (Southern Spain). Many head to the beaches or hang out at pools to escape the heat and while away the summer vacation days. Most activities stop, including many church activities, sports activities, etc. Again, I find that my inner clock is still set to my teaching days... summer is just a little too long for me and I was so very ready to get back in to the swing of our work routine and activities and school.

Last Sunday was the first Sunday for the new school year. Sunday school resumed after a month off. Billy and I were asked by the pastor to take a role in a teaching rotation for the adolescent group, so we have begun a new role as Sunday School teachers for a bit. Our class is almost exclusively immigrant youth, with only a couple of exceptions. It was really neat to hear their stories last week and find out more about where each one is from and how they arrived in Spain. They have so much in common with our Sarah in that they are TCKs (Third Culture Kids... not exclusively of their parent's home culture, but also not fully of the Spanish culture, yet a mix of all which creates a third distinctly different culture within them).



After church, we had an end-of-summer get-together at our home. Each month on the first Sunday, our church hosts Communion Sunday with two other church plants that spun off of our congregation. We come together on the first Sunday for communion and worship, and then we always stay after church for lunch and a time of fellowship as One Body. It is always fun! This month, we invited the congregations from all three churches to have a cookout at our home and enjoy the day together. Truly, I have to say that I was excited to invite everyone, and also scared that no one would come. So imagine my surprise when a TON of people showed up at our house after church! Even more so, imagine how surprised we were when they were all still there at 7:45pm!!! We had a BLAST and I am so glad we did it! It

...End of Summer = New Beginnings

was a great day of fellowship and laughing and barbequing and enjoying everyone's company. So fun!

Wednesday, September 10 brought the first day of the new school year for Sarah. Sixth grade. When did she grow up?!? I can't believe that we left the States when she was a little three-year-old. She has been to preschool in Costa Rica and in Peru. She started Kindergarten in Peru and did a mixture of traditional school and homeschool until 3rd grade. She attended a portion of 1st grade and a portion of 3rd grade in Texas during different home furlough periods. When we moved to Spain, she skipped 4th grade and started last year in the 5th grade. She had a really awesome year and made fantastic grades. We thanked God every day for the incredible teacher that He placed her with for such a big year (new country, new school, and a skipped grade). So we were SO, SO, SO EXCITED when we arrived at school on Wednesday to find that Miss Rosi (the teacher from 5th grade) had moved up to 6th grade and was going to have the same class again for a second year!!!! Seriously, I almost embarrassed my daughter to death when I thought I was going to cry at this news! God is so good to us and soooooooo good to Sarah!



This coming Sunday, the 14th of September, we are taking on another new role within the church. We are starting an adult bible study class on Sunday mornings before the worship time. Now I know to the rest of you, that just sounds like normal ol' Sunday School and doesn't seem at all odd. But you see, our

church doesn't do adult Sunday School. We don't have adult classes. Occasionally there is a special group that meets regarding a particular book study or a theme (i.e. Marriage group, etc), but now a Sunday school class. So this is a major step and a big experiment. The class is called "Café con Jesús" and we will be having coffee, a light breakfast (i.e. pastry or the like), and a time of studying the life and stories of Jesus and his disciples. We really want to focus in on the Great Commandment and the Great Commission and study the correlations between those and all the stories of Jesus... then ask ourselves how to apply those in our lives TODAY. Even as I write that, my heart is racing and I am having a little anxiety at the enormity of what we are undertaking. Please pray for this class and this effort to bring adult study to our church.

Photos from the church cookout...



Be a Fountain, Not a Drain.

*Be positive, not negative. Be a giver, not a taker. Be a creator, not a destroyer.
Be hopeful, not hopeless. Be selfless, not selfish. Be a light, not a shadow.
Be a beginning, not an ending. Give energy, don't suck it dry.*

Pray specifically this month for the new beginnings that September has brought to our lives (see article on page 1-2) **Pray** for our new role as Sunday School teachers for the adolescents in our church. **Pray** for the adult bible study class that starts this Sunday. **Pray** for Sarah's new school year. Thank you for your prayers for our family and the ministry in Spain!

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.

Are you a Helicopter Leader?

Recently, my Facebook feed was bombarded by the posts of friends who had dropped their children off at college for the first time. A few of them commented on the Parent Orientation meetings for Freshmen parents. And several posted articles about Helicopter Parents. "Helicopter Parents" actually became an official term in the dictionary in 2011, although it was first recorded being used in 1969. Helicopter parenting is defined in the dictionary as "a parent who takes an overprotective or excessive interest in the life of their child or children." Dr. Dunnwold explains, "It means being involved in a child's life in a way that is over-controlling, over-protecting, and over-perfecting, in a way that is in *excess* of responsible parenting." For parents of high school and college-age students, helicopter parenting can lead to unhealthy attachment issues, inability to launch well, and dependency.

Hmmm... so what does this have to do with The Drums and ministry in Spain? Well, I've been thinking about how this applies to leadership. I'm thinking that we see the same symptoms in systems where there exists Helicopter Leadership. Let me explain.

Helicopter parents tend to 'hover' over their children for some very particular reasons.

- Fear of consequences... failure to make a grade, not making the team, unhappiness, struggle, failure to excel. Helicopter parents worry about these things and the effect that they have on their child. They also worry about their role in those 'failures' and the reflection it would be on them (the parent) if their child doesn't succeed. Have you also seen this in leadership? Have you seen leaders who hover over their teams or their ministries because of fear that it won't be done well or that someone might fail and make them look bad?
- Anxiety... worry and overprotection, the need to protect your child from any mistakes or harm. This worry causes parents to take control and actually overcontrol situations in the name of protection. Have you seen leaders who overcontrol situations?
- Overcompensation... excessive attention and monitoring by parents in an effort to secure that no deficiency will ever occur in the life of their child. In what ways have you seen leaders overcompensate in a group, give excessive attention to a situation, or excessively monitor a group or ministry for fear of deficiency in their people or their team?
- Peer pressure... pressure from other parents, competition between parents over their children. Do you know leaders who succumb to peer pressure and competition between departments or ministries? Have you experienced leadership that is hovering and demanding and controlling due to competition?

In the end, Helicopter Parenting and Helicopter Leadership results in decreased confidence and self-esteem, increased anxiety, undeveloped skills, and unhealthy dependency issues. I don't know about you, but these results are the LAST results I would want for my team or ministry or department! I want people around me who are thriving, who are competent, who are confident, who feel empowered and excited about what is going on, and who are so skilled and good at what they do that the ministry multiplies and grows and is NOT dependent upon me to succeed. *Let's pray for the Helicopter Parents and Helicopter Leaders in our lives... pray that their fears are squelched, that their anxieties melt away, and that their focus is on the right things and not on peer pressure or competition.*



DEAR BILLY AND LAURIE,

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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

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Dates are set for the
2015 Camino de Santiago ministry trek!

Join us as we walk the 775km pilgrimage from
Saint Jean Pied du Port, France to Santiago
de Compostela, Spain!

May 24- June 27, 2015

If you cannot walk the entire 5+ weeks, there
are options for walking week-long portions or
more.

For more info, email Billy or check out
<http://www.drumsforchrist.org/france-to-compostela>