

June 1, 2014

Dearest Ministry Prayer Partner!

Just a few more days, and it will be time for ... GRADUATION!

I am thrilled to greet you from the field—in Madrid, Spain—where I am seeing young leaders' hot pursuit of ministry ... and already making a powerful impact.

**The Best You've Ever Helped ...
But He Didn't Know It!**

I wish you could meet Mike personally. He is probably the best theological mind ever to come through our seminary. Several of our teachers feel that he should be already studying at a Ph.D. level. I agree. I believe he can become a powerful tool for changing the topography of Christianity in Spain and beyond!

Mike loves to write; he's been writing a daily blog. No big deal, right? "Everyone does that." Yes, but he had *300,000 readers last year!* (I'm thinking he could sell ads!)

Yet beyond his studying, thinking, and writing abilities, Mike is *a practitioner*. He's already pastoring. His teachers see his love for God, his full engagement in every course, and his tremendous talent, and they ask him to back them up in their churches.

Which is how Mike and his newlywed bride, Susan, came to serve in one church plant in Barajas, near the airport, and another in a city outside Madrid. He has also served as our English-to-Spanish translator when professors come from the U.S.

Even with all of these intellectual abilities and gifts, Mike has a wonderful servant heart. He is not proud. You won't find him going around "sharing" his achievements. In fact—and here's the shocker ...

... Mike actually has somewhat of an inferiority complex!

Maybe it's because Mike's older brother, Jose, also a graduate from our seminary, is very outgoing, very well liked. Jose is the more dominant brother. He's a good evangelist. Mike has grown up with most of the attention, most of the focus, on his big brother—whom he truly loves. It has taken a lot of convincing to get Mike to believe what we truly believe about him ... that he is outstanding!

God has tremendous things in store for Mike and Susan. After graduation, they'll spend a final year in their pastoral roles in the two churches they're serving, then they'll head to Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, on scholarships, to complete a master's and a

doctoral degree! Susan also plans to study counseling and Christian education.

I wonder how many Christians feel like Mike. Maybe you do yourself. You may feel that your contribution to the Kingdom is small. But I want you to understand what Mike is finally coming to understand:

God is pleased to use you—and wants to use you still. We have this on good authority! You are created in Christ Jesus unto good works which He prepared beforehand that you may walk in them (Ephesians 2:10).

A Nationwide Ministry ... He's Nervous About It!

Meet Dave and his wife Stephanie. Dave is a dynamic youth leader. He leads one of the top youth programs in Madrid.

But as Dave was entering his fourth year at our seminary, he had a sense of loss and a sense of dread. By learning, he had come to see that *there is much more to learn!* He suddenly realized that “the more we know, the more we know *how little we know.*”

How did he come to such a point in life? Dave's story actually begins more than half a century ago....

A missionary family from Minnesota came to Spain in the early 1960s as representatives of the Billy Graham Association. After some time, they had a beautiful daughter. She grew up ... and at a central church in Madrid, the missionaries' daughter fell in love with the pastor's son. They married.

As the original missionary from Minnesota retired he passed the mantle of the Billy Graham Association to his son-in-law, whom he had groomed to take over.

That same son-in-law and his wife raised a family and their daughter fell in love and married our student, Dave. Dave is now being groomed to take over the Billy Graham Association in Spain sometime in the future!

Dave didn't set out to be a “big-ministry” person. He is what you might call a “homebody.” He likes to stay close to the nest. He's been happy in his role as a church youth pastor. With the impending change, he feels inadequate.

He wants to be totally prepared for his next, highly demanding role.

But God is sufficient ... beyond our vocabulary! Dave's wife, Stephanie, has already been granted a scholarship to Dallas Theological Seminary to study for a master's degree ... and Southwestern Seminary is happy to welcome Dave—to get as much training as he can stand!

This powerhouse couple will make a huge impact on the worldwide harvest! Their ministry will be a product of your love and prayers! You gave Dave the gift of his initial four years of seminary training.

God Starts in Spain ... and Reaches *Africa!*

Mark and Priscilla were students in our seminary—but today they're launching a missionary organization in Spain. Their goal: Connect small churches to a place on the globe where their relatively slight resources can make a visible impact—in the African nation of Equatorial Guinea!

They're connecting to another of our graduates, Juan, a native of that country. Today Juan is president of that nation's Pastors' Association. Mark and Priscilla have invited Juan and his wife, Monica, to become field directors in Equatorial Guinea. Monica came to us 20 years ago from Galicia, Spain. She and Juan met and married and have been serving the Lord in Guinea since. *When you invest in this ministry, God keeps multiplying your generosity—for decades!*

Soon, two of our students who hail from Equatorial Guinea will return to their country as missionaries from Spain ... supported through Mark and Priscilla's new ministry!

A single Sunday school class in Lynnwood, Washington, has faithfully partnered with us for many years—to make our connection with Equatorial Guinea a reality. No matter who steps up to serve, no matter where on the planet their heart longs to make a difference, God honors the servant's sacrifice—and a drama of eternal proportions unfolds!

There's a Problem in Spain ... that You Can Help Solve!

I could fill pages—but here's the bottom line: You are doing something huge. The students who will graduate from our Madrid seminary in a few days will touch the world—because of you.

You reached out to them—you engaged in a *missionary act*—you support them in their training ... and *now we will see God work through your generosity and love!*



But at the same time, here is the practical reality—and I trust because of our friendship I can share frankly with you:

Of all the places God has called us to minister around the world, **Spain is the field where we have the least support.**

So today, as you prayerfully consider how God could use you again in prayer and giving, I hope you will be led to open your heart in a special way to Spain.

We have seen, and we continue to see, how our Spain-based ministry rocks the world for God—in Europe, in Africa, and beyond. But these students, and the teachers equipping them, need your help.

Pray about giving a special gift today to help us meet the immediate financial need of our work in Spain.

Pray about making a commitment of monthly support, if you haven't already.

Pray about being as generous as possible, because we seriously need to establish a permanent home for our school—God has led us to a building, but it will take \$1 million beyond our regular budget. (First priority: Install bathrooms!)

Your great generosity today will change the spiritual topography of Spain ... of Europe ... of Africa ... and more.

Do you feel inadequate, like Mike? *In God, you are great.* Whatever role you can play, God will bless and multiply—and I know God will bless you as well, according to the promises of His Word. Let God work through you! He wants to!

I hope to hear from you quickly. Thank you so much for understanding and for responding from a heart of love and compassion for a world in need of Jesus!

Happy to be working with you
as we join Him at His work,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. Whatever the Lord leads you to give or commit to today, I pray you'll respond right away. The clock is ticking—graduation is only days away—and the future of evangelism will be impacted by the decision you make today. Thank you again! God bless you!