



## The most encouraging thing happening in the world today.

Last week, while in Turkey, I was asked a very thought-provoking question by a church leader. *“What is the most encouraging thing you see happening in the world today?”*

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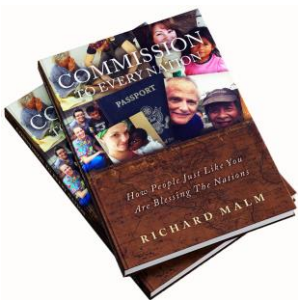
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Because I lead a worldwide mission ministry, I think he expected some 30,000 foot view of exciting things happening in the nations. Like, the fact that more Muslims are coming to the Lord today than at any time in history. Or that Latin American churches, in increasing number, are rising up and sending missionaries to the nations. As exciting and encouraging as those developments are, as I quickly thought about it, I realized something else encouraged me even more.

To watch a young adult, perhaps a young family, or a professional with a great career, or a recently retired couple or, anyone for that matter, follow the invitation of God to step out of their comfort cage and into an unknown and unpredictable future in missions. Then to watch as they timidly invite friends and family to partner with them in this new venture and see the excitement in their eyes as people volunteer to pray for them, encourage them, and even go so far as to invest financially in this new venture. To share their excitement as they discover a new donor has joined their team, or a new opportunity or provision has been gifted from the Lord.

To me, that is the most encouraging thing I see happening in the world today. To watch God, just as he did in the first century and throughout church history, use ordinary people like you and me to send others and to go ourselves to proclaim His name in the nations. To watch as hundreds of people courageously obey God to either leave all and go or, sacrificially give to help send others – that never ceases to be amazing and encouraging!

And you and I get to be part of it – part of the team that is making the name of Jesus a light in dark places, a word of hope to the hopeless. **Thanks for being part of the most encouraging thing happening in the world today.**

*Rick*

**1 - Mountain Spring Camp - Guatemala** - Please pray for them as they work to mobilize the Mayan Church for Missionary service in Africa and the Middle East!

**2 - Kevin & Becca Bradford - USA** - Kevin asks for wisdom as he puts the final touches on a course he will teach Brazilian pastors and Christian leaders during the Fall and Winter in partnership with Dallas Theological Seminary.

**3 - Brenton & Martha Trent - Mexico** - Pray for their physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being

**4 - Everett & Terrie Barker - USA** - Pray as they represent MissionNext at EDM '23 Collegiate Leadership Conference May 8-11 [in Ft Worth] and as they seek to establish a prison ministry network in the Rio Grande Valley.

**5 - Laurine Johnson - Costa Rica** - Join her in praising God for good health.

**6 - Lisa & Patrick Lubulwa-O'Brien - Uganda** - Pray that they get an adoption court date soon (before the twins turn 16 in October), that the judge will grant the adoption without any other hoops to jump through, and they can make appropriate plans for their family from there.

**7 - Tim & Sara Born - Cameroon** - Please pray for peace and divine protection for orphanage staff, children, and Tim (while he's there) and for the children's upcoming tests in school.

**8 - Ryan & Yolanda Burger - Nicaragua** - Please pray for wisdom, guidance, and peace as they traverse a year with major changes.

**9 - Matt & Kait Kaeb - Thailand** - Please pray for their daughter, Nessa (age 5), who has been dealing with anxiety issues.

**10 - Bob & Debby Bogart - USA** - Complete healing for Bob's sciatica so they can continue in ministry events without pain.

**11 - Cassidy & Frantzy Anderson - Haiti** - Please pray that they would trust God's plans completely for their new ministry, Klere, as well as their family and that they would be faithful to do what they can to advance in those plans, even when they are greater than they may comprehend.

**12 - Patrick & Valerie Finnerty - Rwanda** - The Finnertys would like prayer for their pending transition from 17 years in Rwanda to life in North America and wisdom to know where exactly that should be and what it might look like.

**13 - Josh & Ellia McCauley - Spain** - They are in the process of pioneering a new ministry, which can be very challenging, pray for continued breakthrough in ministry, finances, and family (They are having another baby in May).

**14 - Peter & Teresa Cawthon - USA** - Please pray for a harvest of souls in 2023 in Oaxaca, Mexico!

**15 - Andres & Stella Casanueva - Chile** - Because of the politically unstable situation in their country and their family's decision to move to another country with all that this means in terms of visas and resources.

**16 - Jason & Kelly Hart - Guatemala** - Pray that they will receive good news about a piece of land for their ministry along with the financial means to build their ministry center.

**17 - Vidal & Cathy Perez - Guatemala** - Vidal and Cathy Pérez need prayer for protection as Vidal, Cathy, and Emma travel back and forth from Guatemala City to Tectitán. This is a 9-hour drive, and there are often roadblocks, accidents, and potential dangers that could occur on the trip.

**18 - Carroll Bishop - Guatemala** - Please pray that she will have a strong positive spiritual influence upon the children and adults at Shadow of His Wings. They are declaring revival.

**19 - Godfrey & Gloria Catanus - Philippines** - Pray for God's lead shepherd for Hope Christian Center; a door was opened for a possible church plant in Dumangas, Iloilo; they are also looking forward to an adult Bible Study and children's ministry as soon as possible.

**20 - Virginia & Isaias Colop-Xec - Guatemala** - Please pray that their son, David, will be able to raise all the support he needs to continue the ministry, training rural pastors with the Word of God, when they retire at the end of this year.

**21 - Therapy Clinics International TCI - Guatemala** - Pray that God would bring healing to their team and the people they work with; may they have eyes to see and ears to hear what He is doing in and around them.

**22 - Jeffrey & Jodi Daniel - USA** - They are asking for prayer in direction for their family with regard to missions.

**23 - Mateo & Mai Lou Garcia - Mexico** - Pray for wisdom as they prepare for and host the annual assembly of CEVAR.

**24 - Edgar & Erika Gomez - Mexico** - Pray for a permanent location for their church.

**25 - Freddy & Joye Kiester-Garcia - Mexico** - Pray for Freddy, Joye, Enoch, and Elijah Garcia as they serve the Nhiuhu people of northern Veracruz. Pray for wisdom for Freddy as he begins attending patients at his dental clinic and for the Bible translation team to finish drafting 1 Corinthians in time for a SIL workshop at the end of July.

**26 - Amy & Adbeel DeYoung-Alvarez - Guatemala** - Praise God they finished five cabins at their retreat center! Pray for more people to come stay with them.

**27 - Larry & Laura Smith - USA** - Please pray for ongoing health issues and many opportunities to share The Lord while they traverse all the challenges they bring.

**28 - Chelsea & Cesar Zeman-Medina - Nicaragua** - Please pray for the people they work with to be able to see through the veil of cultural Christianity to encounter the reality of a relationship with Jesus.

**29 - George & Joyce Irungu - Kenya** - Pray that God will open doors for them to come and connect with their supporters and visit their Girls.

**30 - Tina Zielke - Rwanda** - Please pray for healing and answers for current health struggles and also for finances because her stay has to be extended until her health improves.