



Jason & Michele Maynard

Preparing to Serve in

Ecuador

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I Dare You!



I've heard a statement made on several occasions that goes something like this: "A missionary can't expect to go to a foreign field and do what he or she isn't willing to do right here at home." My wife and I realized soon after we began thinking about going to the mission field full-time that we needed to live out that statement if we ever expected to see the Lord use us greatly. In the last year or so we've seen the Lord use us to reach out to our neighbors, and Michele had the privilege of praying with a teenage neighbor girl who accepted Christ last fall at our youth group. But we realize that we need to do more.

I came across an excellent, non-threatening way to witness more, and have used it and found it to be very effective. It started with a book I read called Praying for You by Howard Tryon. I'll try to summarize the basics of what I learned.

The author was searching for a way to share the Gospel that seemed natural to him. He eventually settled on the idea of using prayer as a bridge to sharing his faith. Whenever he met someone in his daily activities, in the course of conversation he would simply say to them "I have a ministry of praying for people, is there anything that I can pray for you about?" Often times the prayer requests would come up naturally in conversation—a co-worker sharing about his family struggles, or a person at a cash register at the coffee shop mentioning their school exams, or a server at a restaurant, etc. He was surprised to realize that very few people felt offended by having someone ask to pray for them, especially if he was talking with them one-on-one, and almost everyone shared something.

Whatever the person shared, however trivial it might have seemed, he made a point to write the request down in a notebook along with their name, and would pray for that need over the course of a week or so. The following week he would try to re-visit that person and specifically inquire about the need and how it was going. Often they would share with him how the prayer had been answered, and he would also ask if there was anything else he could pray for them about during the next week. The people began looking forward to seeing him, and he was able to lead many of them to the Lord.

Like I said, it's one thing to know an effective way to share the gospel, but it's another thing to use it on a regular basis.

I'd like to propose a challenge: I'm looking for some volunteers to take part in a "faith experiment" of sorts with me for the next two months.

(Continued on p.2)

Check out new videos on our website at www.maynard.abwe.org !

Hear a song written for Joey by "Daddy", along with a song from Psalm 63 called "Satisfied in You"

Flyin' Through Fall



Michele pretending to use the jackhammer.....

As I thought about trying to describe for you how October has been, I realized that there's no way to adequately describe it to you in a prayer letter. The best way that I can describe October is to say that God used every church we visited and the people we met to encourage us for the journey we are on to Ecuador. We have driven over 3,500 miles since the end of September, and it's been great! I don't want to overwhelm you with details—I'd have to publish a small book to describe everything to you. I'm just going to bullet-point a few of the highlights so you can get a picture of how the last month or so went:

- Michele and I celebrated 10 years of marriage on September 26th by going to dinner and to see the movie Fireproof. We thank God for all that He has done in our lives, and for allowing us to serve Him.
- We had a break in the middle of September, which allowed my brother, my dad, and I to try our hand at busting up our driveway and digging up the foundation of the home we rent from Mom and Dad. We did some much needed waterproofing, and got to rent some cool excavating equipment in the process!
- Sept 28th we visited two churches in Manton, MI—Colfax Community Church and Rollins Christian Fellowship Church
- Sept 29th we drove down to Muskegon to visit our good friends Rick and Debbie Maine. We also met some friends from their church, and visited with a pastor at Bridge Bible Church in Muskegon.
- Sept 30th we were still in Muskegon because our van broke down at.... you guessed it.... Wal-Mart. God provided in an amazing way, and the breakdown enabled us to spend more time with the Maines.
- October 1st—5th we enjoyed getting to know the church family at Joy Baptist Church in Westland, MI during their missions conference. What an incredible bunch of people—and the international dinner was amazing. God is really at work at Joy.
- October 15th—I traveled back to the Detroit area and spoke at Scott Lake Baptist Church in Waterford, MI. After spending a couple of days there visiting various churches, Michele and Joey joined me and we prepared for the next conference.
- October 18th—24th we were privileged to experience the missions conference at Berean Baptist Church in Livonia. I say "experience" because I have learned that you don't just attend a conference like this one. Hard to explain on paper, but the Lord really did some amazing things during that week.
- We left Livonia on Saturday, stopped at home in Cleveland for a couple hours, and then continued on to Pittsburgh, PA and Grace Baptist Church in Monroeville. I survived a trip to Wal-Mart wearing my Cleveland Browns shirt. We enjoyed our time—hey, God can even save Steelers fans!
- We drove back to Cleveland late Sunday night, and I left at 5:30 Monday morning to go back to Detroit and the MARBC Annual Conference. This was a chance to actually meet some of the pastors I've only talked to on the phone. I made it back home Wed. evening.
- November 2nd we visited Bethel Baptist Church in Erie, PA, one of our newest supporting churches, to enjoy fellowship and give an update.
- November 5th—9th we again "experienced" a missions conference at Grace Baptist Church in Brunswick, OH. This was the first time we've ever had a church vote to financially support us and the other 6 missionaries right there, on the spot. The whole conference was an overwhelming encouragement.



We stayed at the home of some Steelers fans at Berean Baptist in Livonia, MI.

Praise the Lord we are now at 46% support!!!

“I Dare You”, continued from p. 1)

I propose that we do the following things:

1. Each person will pick three people that they'd like to specifically pray for each week.
2. We will document each date we contact them and the prayer requests, and will pray daily for those things.
3. We will hold each other accountable by phone or e-mail for our weekly prayer contacts.
4. We will share the results, and I will document the results in a sensitive way on our blog at www.consumed.blogspot.com so that we can rejoice in the results that God brings.

I don't know about you, but I get excited to think about what God could do with a challenge like this! One of the most exciting things I know of is the joy of being used to help lead someone to a relationship with the Lord, and seeing the joy that fills their life. I want that experience this year, how about you? There's no excuse now—every one of us can do this, and it's even politically correct for most workplace situations. Who's going to join me? **I dare you.**

Visit our website if you'd like to take the challenge with us, and fill out the page titled **“Praying for You Challenge”**.

If you'd like to see some free video training that explains the Praying for You idea more, go to: www.prayingforyou.org and click the “play this training” link under the section **“The Revolutionary Idea of Praying For You”**

Praises:

- The addition of two new supporters in the last two months
- Our co-workers, the Davolls, arrived safely in Costa Rica for language school
- Provision of repairs for the alternator on our van, as well as new tires
- Safety in traveling
- 10 wonderful years of marriage!

Prayer Requests:

- That we could be at 50% support by the end of the year
- Please pray for us as we set up meetings for 2009, that God would direct us to the right churches to present our ministry
- Our relationship with the Lord and each other
- Wisdom as we seek to set up a new ministry in Painesville teaching English
- Safety while traveling this Fall, and mechanical health for our van
- Our laptop is on its way out—please pray for the provision of a reliable one for ministry use

Upcoming Ministry Schedule

Keep up with our travels by checking out our schedule on our website at: www.maynard.abwe.org

11/16/08 – Green Corners Baptist Church - Belding, MI

11/19/08 – Nashville Baptist Church – Nashville, MI

11/23/08 – First Baptist Church – Corry, PA

11/30/08 – First Baptist Church – Saint Louis, MI

12/7/08 – Painesville Baptist Church – Painesville, OH

12/14/08 – Chester Gospel Church – Charlotte, MI