



WORLD
GOSPEL
MISSION

TELLING THE BETTER STORY

Betsy Tejada | Missionary on the
Texas/Mexico Border

⁵ *In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:*

⁶ *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

⁸ *And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!*

⁹ *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Philippians 2:5–11 (NIV)

“Muchas gracias, Coach!” the mom joyfully thanked my husband as he dropped her son off at their house after soccer practice.

Her cheerful attitude always astonished me, especially paired with her terrifying story. Once upon a time, this mother had a high-level job at a bank in Mexico. She lived in a mansion and drove luxury cars.

But this lifestyle came at a cost: she knew too much about the financial dealings of dangerous drug cartels. When the cartels threatened her life because of this knowledge, she was forced to flee to a foreign country where she knew no one and barely had enough money to feed herself and her son.

So why did she have such a sunny countenance? She told us that although it was hard to come to a strange land, it was here that she met Jesus. He pursued her, and she responded to His wooing. And that made all her hardships worth it.

As we hear stories of immigrants here on the Texas/Mexico border, I am continually amazed at what they have endured. Yet every testimony has a beautiful component of how God revealed Himself to each individual in the midst of some of their darkest days.

I know the feeling. He pursued my heart, too. It wasn't as dramatic as some of the stories I've been honored to hear, but He made Himself known to me. I still remember the day I bowed my knee to His Lordship in my life at an altar in Marion, Indiana.

I was already a Christian, but my desires were fighting against God's desires for me. I wanted to be a missionary, but God hadn't called me to that yet. That night I was convicted that I needed to give up my desire to be a missionary and follow His leading—whatever it was. That was hard to do, but I knew it was necessary to feel peace. So, I surrendered to His lordship in my life, and years later He did indeed call me very clearly to be a missionary!

Philippians 2:10–11 reads, “at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”.

What an incredible God we serve that He is pursuing individuals now, giving us the opportunity to live the life He's called us to!

In a world that is divided and polarized by politics, immigration, borders, nationalities, and citizenship, my heart longs for the day when all nations will be represented and all languages will be spoken as we unanimously bow before God and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Not only is God gracious enough to give mankind more time to know Him on this Earth, He also is a merciful God who allows us to participate in His redemptive plan!

If you have a relationship with Jesus, you have the amazing opportunity to share your testimony with others! God can either use it to encourage someone or to draw them closer to that point of surrender.

I've found that the closer we walk with Him, the more clearly others can see Him in us.

The joy of Jesus bubbled out of the mother of that soccer player, even as her life had been turned upside down.

Has He been asking you to share your faith journey with someone within your sphere of influence?

The first time Jesus left Heaven, He gave up the lifestyle of a king and faced hardships in an earthly culture that sentenced Him to death. The next time He comes it will be to establish His lordship. How is He calling you to prepare for that day?

TELL YOUR OWN STORY

Sometimes the best way to draw people to Christ is to simply show them how He has impacted your own life. What has God done in your life recently that displays His power?

Pray and ask God to present an opportunity for you to tell that story to someone in the next few days.

CHRISTMAS ON THE TEXAS/MEXICO BORDER

One of our ministries on the Texas/Mexico border is called The Sparrow's Nest. It's a secondhand store where we distribute gently used clothing and nonperishable foods at very low costs. On Thursday nights, we host a Bible Club for kids while their parents shop.

At Christmastime each year, we take the Bible Club kids into a room full of toys and tell them they can pick one out to keep. It's so fun to watch the surprise on their little faces! "This is for me?!" they often ask. Something so simple brings so much joy!

ACTIVITY: HOMEMADE SNOW

Whether you're in Argentina or Alaska, you can have snow on Christmas! Follow this simple recipe to make some homemade snow, no snow boots required.

1. Put a box of baking soda in the freezer and a cup of water in the refrigerator. Leave them overnight.
2. Pour the baking soda into a large bowl.
3. Add five tablespoons of the chilled water one tablespoon at a time. Mix it with a spoon between each addition. Feel free to add more water to change the consistency.
4. Optional: Want to make your snow extra sparkly? Add a teaspoon of glitter!