Monthly News
And Updates
for Partners of
The Drum
Family

January
February
2025

Kingdom Mosaics from Spain



this issue

Connections P.1-2

Prayers and Praises P.1

Current Events P.3

Become a Hero! Partner with Us! P.4

Prayers & Praises

Praises:

- **Refugee Highway Partnership Conference:** We are so grateful for the incredible conversations, new partnerships, and Kingdom connections that came out of this time. God moved in powerful ways, and we saw firsthand how small moments can lead to big impact.

- **Ryan's First Visit to Spain:** We were overjoyed to have our son, Ryan, visit us in Spain for the first time! It was such a gift to share our life and ministry with him, and we are so thankful for the time together.

Prayers:

- **For the Refugee Ministry Leader Staying in Our Guest Apartment:** Pray for healing, rest, and renewal during this extended care and recovery time. We ask for God's deep restoration over this season.

- **For Billy's Upcoming Travel:** Billy will be traveling soon to help care for his mom. Pray for safe travels, strength, and wisdom as he supports her.

- **For Laurie as She Holds Down the Fort:** With Billy away for three weeks, Laurie will be managing everything solo. Pray for energy, peace, and all the extra grace she'll need during this time.

- **For Billy's Camino Spiritual Retreat Group in May:** Pray for spiritual renewal, meaningful connections, and clarity for each participant as they walk this sacred journey.

- **For Our TMS Global Team:** We are navigating a season of mediation and restructuring after a difficult period. Pray for wisdom, unity, and God's guidance as we seek the best path forward.

Connections

I have a confession: every time I sit down to write this newsletter, I panic. I freeze, I procrastinate, and then I beg Billy for help. He rattles off a dozen things I could write about, and I systematically eliminate most of them. "That's not interesting," I think. "That won't make sense to anyone." And then, inevitably, I end up here again, staring at the blank page, trying to piece together what this season has looked like.

The truth is, there hasn't been one big, dramatic moment. No headline-worthy event. Instead, this season has been full of small, seemingly ordinary connections—introducing people, sharing ideas, walking alongside someone in a hard season. And at first, I thought, "Is that really worth writing about?" But then I realized: these small connections are everything. They are the Kingdom in action.

Conference Connections

A couple of weeks ago, we attended the Refugee Highway Partnership conference. Billy was on the Planning, Prayer, and Care teams, offering support to mission workers and humanitarian aid staff who serve refugees. After one of those conversations, a ministry leader approached him and said, "We have a worker who really needs deeper care. Can you help?" Now, that person is staying in our guest ministry apartment for an extended care and recovery plan with Billy's support. Keeping ministry workers healthy keeps them in the field. And when they stay in the field, the whole Kingdom benefits.

I taught a session on Multicultural Gospel Perspective, helping people see how different cultures interpret Scripture through their own worldviews. To my surprise, it was standing-room only. Afterward, people came up to tell me that the session completely changed the way they understood sharing the Gospel. One person realized why their Bible studies weren't connecting. Another saw why their approach wasn't working. Those moments of clarity? They change lives. They change ministries. That's Kingdom impact.

Continued on page 2...

Continued from page 1…



At that same conference, we met with leaders, built relationships, and introduced people to new opportunities. One leader is now partnering with TMS Global. A refugee ministry worker I connected with is attending our two-week cross-cultural training in Panama. Our local Spanish pastor, Miguel, who we always bring to this conference, had yet another transformational experience.

The Power of One Conversation

Every year, Miguel learns more about cross-cultural ministry. This time, he met leaders from Muslim backgrounds who now lead thriving refugee ministries. He served communion alongside a pastor from North Africa who was once a Muslim and now shepherds a church for Arabic-speaking refugees in Spain. Those moments deeply impacted Miguel.

When he returned home, he stood in front of his church—a congregation made up of about 75-80% immigrants—and did something bold. He asked the Spanish members to pray over and bless the immigrant members, acknowledging how much courage it takes to start over in a new country. And then, something unexpected happened.



A woman from Central America stood up to share her story. She spoke of the grief, the struggle, the five years it took before Spain finally felt like home. And then she started naming names—Spaniards in the congregation who had helped her. The man who picked her up for church. The woman who provided clothes for her family. The man who always made sure she received a box from the food pantry. The person who helped with legal documents. The one who brought her a set of purple towels, a simple yet beautiful gift that made her feel seen and loved. By the end, Miguel and many others were in tears. The sermon never happened that day. The testimony WAS the message.

The Ripple Effect



Miguel has changed over the years, and that change is reshaping his church, his prison ministry, his sports outreach, and our city. And it all started with small, seemingly ordinary connections—a handshake, a conversation, an invitation to a conference.

When I look back at these last few weeks, I realize that what felt like a season of small moments was actually a season of Kingdom-building. Just the few connections I mentioned here have rippled out to Greece, Germany, Cyprus, Morocco, Somalia, Sudan, the Netherlands, Spain, Nicaragua, Brazil, Panama, Romania, Ukraine, and beyond. That's an incredible return on four days at a conference.

So, the next time I sit down to write and think, "Is this really worth sharing?" I'll remind myself: yes. Because the Kingdom of God is built one small connection at a time.



Right: 200+ cross-cultural workers, pastors, and Christian aid workers met for the Refugee Highway Partnership Europe meetings in March. These workers are serving in refugee camps, churches, and communities to welcome displaced people and share the love of Christ will all who find themselves in need of hope. Please respect the safety and security of those in this photo by not reposting or sharing outside of our group.

Current Events

The current state of politics and news coming out of the United States affects us deeply here in Spain. To remain silent or ignore its impact would be, in a sense, complicit. While we do not wish to engage in partisan debate or take sides, it is important for us to share how these events influence our lives and ministry abroad.

To be fully honest, we often do not know what to believe. Having lived outside the U.S. for 17 years, we have seen firsthand how different news outlets around the world present events through their own lenses. The news in the U.S. is not the same as what we see here in Spain or across Europe. Online articles often contradict each other, and what we hear from people on the ground or see on television can be entirely different from what is reported elsewhere. Social media algorithms, driven by location, reading habits, and networks, shape the content we consume, making it nearly impossible to trust platforms like Facebook or Instagram as accurate sources of information. We hear wildly different opinions from both sides of the political spectrum, leaving us wondering if people are even living in the same reality.

As Americans living in Europe, we are frequently confronted with questions, assumptions, and even accusations about the state of our home country. Some people are angry about what they see happening in the U.S., and that anger gets directed at us simply because we are the face of America standing in front of them. Others are deeply confused and look to us for answers we do not have. Some laugh and dismiss America as a nation in chaos, comparing it to a child throwing a tantrum. Others express genuine fear, asking why the American public cannot recognize warning signs they themselves have lived through—dictatorships in Spain, the trauma of Hitler's regime, or Soviet control in Eastern Europe. Their concerns are not hypothetical; they are rooted in painful, lived experiences.

In these moments, all we can do is listen. We do not have the answers. We cannot explain the complexities of a nation divided. But we can empathize, show compassion, and seek to understand their past and their fears for the future. Still, we don't know how to fix it.

Beyond conversations, the ripple effects of U.S. politics are tangible in our work. We have missionary friends facing visa loss and deportation in retaliation for American policies. European colleagues are canceling work and travel plans to the U.S. out of fear. American friends ask us what it takes to leave the country and live abroad for a season. Donors are losing money and cutting back on support, directly impacting missions and workers worldwide. Ministries reliant on aid now face funding cuts that threaten their very survival. In some cases, these cuts mean the difference between life and death, and when aid disappears, American workers are often blamed, creating dangerous situations.

We do not have the answers, but we do want you to understand how global politics affect ministry workers and the people we serve. Please pray for all cross-cultural workers navigating these challenges. Pray for wisdom, courage, and open hearts as we listen to and walk alongside our international friends. The interconnectedness of our world means that political decisions made in one place have profound consequences everywhere. May we all seek to be voices of hope and love in the midst of uncertainty.

What's Ahead for the Rest of 2025!

The next several months are packed with exciting opportunities to serve, train, and care for ministry workers around the world!

- **April:** Billy will be in Texas helping his sister care for their mother while continuing his ministry remotely—leading care appointments, teaching burnout workshops, and developing the Pathways spiritual formation retreats. Meanwhile, both of our ministry care apartments will be at full capacity through June, hosting people in need of rest, counseling, and coaching and offering a welcome place to land for a season.
- **May:** Billy will guide a group along the **Camino de Santiago (Portuguese Route)** for two weeks of spiritual formation and retreat—a time of deep reflection and renewal.
- **June—July:** We're heading to **Panama** to lead a cross-cultural training for 70 pastors and mission workers from around the world! This bilingual training (Spanish & English) will equip leaders from the USA, Panama, Brazil, Nicaragua, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Zimbabwe, Spain, and more.
- **July: Peru, here we come!** We are thrilled to return, reconnect with old friends, and see how God continues to work through the ministries and leaders we left behind. It will be a joy to visit our village and witness firsthand the Gospel's impact.
- **September—October:** Billy will lead **two back-to-back Camino de Santiago treks**, guiding groups through a two-week journey of spiritual formation, discipleship, and retreat.
- **End of October:** We're off to **Kenya** to lead a **train-the-trainer event** for 15-20 cross-cultural workers, pastors, and ministry leaders. This initiative builds on our 2024 training, equipping local leaders to extend this training to even more communities in culturally relevant ways.

We're grateful for your prayers and support as we continue walking alongside those in ministry, offering care, training, and encouragement worldwide!

TMS Global

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- Our greatest desire is to see people become who God created them to be and to live into their purpose. We believe that everyone has value. Everyone has talents, skills, and unique abilities. We want to see that come alive!
- 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 what we're about - developing and caring for people so they can live into their unique design and God-given purpose.

Become a Partner! We would love to have you on our team!



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