

January / February 2016

The Drum Family



The Ministry of Tychicus

Tychicus. Aren't you glad you didn't have his name growing up?! No one would ever pronounce it correctly, nor spell it right on any Starbucks cup. Tychicus (tik-i-kus) is one of those Bible characters who isn't well known, who most people have never paid any attention to, and who doesn't receive the accolades or the love. There aren't any Bible studies about him, no Beth Moore or Priscilla Shirer books or videos. Tychicus is only mentioned a handful of times in the New Testament, but the ministry he provided was enormously important.

Tychicus' ministry included:

- He carried letters from Paul to others (involved in carrying the news from the mission field back to the churches)

- He collected for the poor and for struggling churches in Judea, as well as for Paul himself (involved in fundraising and service, for both ministries and for missionaries)

- He was a companion of Paul on several journeys (he had first-hand knowledge of what was going on, he visited Paul and the places he worked, he worked alongside missionaries – coming in for a period of time, then going back or going out to serve in other places – a short-term 'team' of sorts.)

- Paul sent him to visit people/churches for the express purpose of building up and encouraging their hearts and their work.

- On two occasions, Paul asks Tychicus to go and be a stand in or a substitute for other workers (Timothy and Titus) so that they would be free to come visit Paul for important work in another place. So Tychicus went and took their places for a while.

- Paul refers to him as a friend, beloved brother, faithful minister, fellow servant. The works that Paul asks of him imply that Paul considers him to be trustworthy and loyal. Paul has made Tychicus an important part of his ministry team.

I must be honest... I didn't know all of this about Tychicus until recently. I actually happened upon him by chance (funny, since his name means 'by chance' or 'fortuitous'). It was an answer to a question that had been rolling around and around in our heads for several weeks. A dear friend had a lunch meeting with Billy and another mission worker while we were in Texas, and he asked an important question. "Who tells your story back home? Who shares your work with others?"

This question really stuck in Billy's head. The immediate answer is that we do – we tell our story back home. We tell it through newsletters and updates and emails. When we are physically back in Texas, we tell our story in person to whomever is interested and who will listen. But that wasn't the intent of our friend's question. His intent was, who shares in your work and shares it with others? In your physical absence, who takes your place and tells the story, face-to-face?

We had lots of discussion about this. Can someone else truly tell the story? Can they field the questions? Do they know the answers? Whose story is it to tell? Have we empowered people to do that work, to stand in our place and tell the story, to

...The Ministry of Tychicus

share news of how we are and what is going on in our lives and in the work?

After a few weeks of continued discussion and consideration, the answer tumbled off the page of my Bible. I was looking up a reference to something else, and, by chance, I happened upon (okay, I know God led me there) Paul's reference to Tychicus in Colossians 4: 7-9

⁷ Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. ⁸ I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, ⁹ and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.

That began my investigation into the person of Tychicus. Who is this guy? What did Paul trust him to do? Suddenly, the question we had been wrestling with was clear. We need Tychicus people in our lives!

But the answer was also already provided. It's YOU! YOU are Tychicus! We have a team of people around us, a ministry team that does not live in Spain, but who serve Spain and other places around the globe by being Tychicus.

Many of you have visited us over the years - in Peru and in Spain - and have seen, firsthand, what the work is. You know about our lives and you have gone back to share those stories with people back home. You are intricately linked to the ministry and to our lives in very special ways because of your physical presence in the field with us.

Many of you have been involved in support-raising and partnership development for us. You have helped run fundraisers, you have hosted dinners, and you have introduced us to your friends. You have shared our story with your circle of influence and widened the reach of those who hear the news from the field and who share in the story.

Many of you share our newsletters with others. You physically give our paper newsletters out to friends, you share news from us in your Sunday School classes, you post our news on social media sites. Like Tychicus, you carry our letters back to the churches, to the people of God.

Many of you have been a constant encouragement to us. You have sent us handwritten cards and notes, care packages, emails and prayers. Some of you have picked up the phone and given us a call, just to say you were thinking of us and praying for us.

Some of you stand in our place as substitutes. You have cared for our family back home while we are far away. You have rushed to the aid of a child or a mother in need when we could not be there. You have ministered to each other when we were not able to physically be there to hold a hand in distress. Some of you have done physical labor in our absence, fixing things at my mother's home when they needed repair.



A few of our Tychicus ministry partners—the Drum Home Team fills a Tychicus role on our ministry team!

We are blessed to have so many Tychicus' in our lives! Trusted friends, loyal servants, faithful ministers and unsung heroes. Thank you for being a special part of our ministry team! Like Tychicus, your ministry alongside us is enormously important.

Prayer Requests -

- **Pray for the global regions of Europe, the Middle East, and the Balkans...** we work as Care Coordinators for workers in these regions. Pray for the work that each of those cross-cultural workers is doing in their areas. Pray for political issues in each region. Pray for the refugee and immigrant situation that continues to move vast numbers of people across the continent. Pray for people who suddenly find themselves with no home, no job, no family connections, and no options. Pray that our workers can be a light in the darkness and love all people well as we continue to live out Jesus' love in our own lives. Pray for our missionary friends who find themselves making tough decisions, dealing with difficult visa issues, fighting health problems, and doing it all while ministering to the needs of others around them. Pray that they are filled up and that their cup is overflowing with grace and love... you cannot pour from an empty cup.
- **Pray for us** as we transition back in to the work and life in Spain. We came home to a few changes in roles we play here and we are working to find our feet again and continue building relationships and loving those around us well. Pray for us to find ways to balance work and family and rest, for us to have healthy rhythms in place so that we can love others with whole hearts.
- **Pray for our boys (Ryan and Miles).** We had great visits with them over the holidays! So nice to spend time with them face-to-face, to laugh together and make new memories. Pray for them as they continue to try to grow in to the wonderful men that we know they are. Pray for employment and good relationships for them. Pray that they are surrounded with great people who will support them and love them. Pray that they find special people who will love them well, who will be great friends, and who will help them grow and flourish.
- **Pray for Sarah** as she continues her school studies here in Spain. She is back in school and working on making up any exams or grades that she missed while visiting Texas. A couple of exams have been less-than her usual awesomeness, but she has taken it in stride and knows that she is not defined by number grades, but by her value in His eyes. She is tough on herself, a perfectionist and a high-achiever at heart, so self-condemnation is a struggle for her. But she is doing well and rising above it so far. Pray that we can continue to help her realize her value in things other than grades, and that she always knows that true Love is unconditional.

What do they do???

We serve in several roles in ministry, and each of those holds a variety of ways that we work and serve others. Our roles as **Care Coordinators for Europe and the Middle East /**

Balkans and as **local Cross-Cultural Workers to Spain** include coaching and counseling, teaching and mentoring, leading and equipping—and a LOT of loving others! This column will be dedicated to sharing parts of that work with you each month.

One of the ways we minister in Spain is via a ministry of hospitality. Hospitality comes from the root word 'hospital'. But does hospital mean what you think of it in modern terms? Not really. Hospital originally meant guest house. It also meant a place of shelter or a place of care. Hospitalize meant 'to receive, to care for, to entertain and lodge'. In many ways, that is what we try to be. We are a place of care. We receive and lodge many throughout the year... in fact, last year, we had 159 nights of overnight guests in our home (not counting my mom who stayed for 6+ weeks). That's 159 dinners and lunches and breakfasts. But so much more than that! It's 159 nights of caring for others, of listening and long talks, of laughing and crying with others, of hearing stories of pain and stories of success. These guests range from visitors from the USA who are here to learn about Spain and the ministry here, to leaders from our agency here to visit with us and have meetings, to people who come to serve with us for a short period, to other missionaries who come in need of a rest and a respite and to receive counseling or coaching or mentoring. All come at various stages and needs—some come just to visit and share time and encouragement, while others come in a state of brokenness or exhaustion and in need of some special love and care.

These overnight guests are over and above the local work we do... this doesn't count the every day / every week hospitality and care. I think I made at least 50 banana breads and coffee cakes, zucchini sweet breads and bread puddings last year. Actually, I know for a fact that it is more than that... all for our weekly Café Con Jesus adult bible study group, the youth group at church, and my women's coffee group in Campillos. That doesn't count the breakfasts that we hosted for the bible study group that meets each Thursday, or the cookouts and barbeques we hosted on our patio for the church and for friends. Most of those groups revolve around a bible study time. But is it necessary to bake and cook and host dinners? In our opinion, yes. It is part of a ministry of hospitality. It's part of a ministry of care and loving others well, a ministry of listening and spending time with others... time that is precious and necessary to building deep relationships and truly knowing each other's stories. So, if loving my neighbor well means whipping up a cinnamon cake and putting on another pot of coffee, then that's what we will do. If it means sitting around the table till the wee hours of the morning listening to the tough stuff that my friend is going through, holding a hand or wiping a few tears... that's part of hospitality.

We are a place of care. We are a guest house. We are a place of shelter, a place where people feel received, where people are entertained and well fed. Mostly, we are a place where people are well loved, regardless of nationality or social status or religion. Be they Spaniard or Nicaraguan or Brazilian. Be they missionaries serving in Asia or the Middle East or Africa or Europe. Be they local pastors or farmers or students. They are welcome in our home. We'll put on another pot of coffee and set the table and settle in for the evening, together.



DEAR BILLY AND LAURIE,

I will pray for you.

As God provides, I plan to partner with you by giving \$ _____ Per month / quarter / year for _____ years.

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Sharing the Love of Christ with the least, the lost, and the left out... immigrants, displaced peoples, the lonely, the abandoned, those who need a friend.

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 who we are... the care-givers!



A **brasero** is a traditional Spanish heater. The original **brasero** was a metal dish or pot that went under a specially designed table called a **mesa camilla**. Coals from the fire were placed in the pot. The table is covered with heavy tapestry-type table cloths which hold in the heat. Since the only heat in the house comes from the fireplace or the **brasero**, it is common for people to arrange furniture in the winter around the **brasero** table and sit with their legs covered by the table cloth. The heat from the **brasero** warms the bodies sitting around the table. Modern **braseros** are electric, although we know of several places in town that still use the original plates of real fire embers. Spain only saw the introduction of central air and heat in the last 15 years, so only newer homes or renovations have any 'heat' other than a **brasero** or a **chiminea** (fireplace). Most homes in our area of Southern Spain, even the newest ones, still use the fireplace or the **brasero** for heat instead of making the investment in central heat.

The **mesa camilla** is just another testament to the very social nature of the Spanish culture. Sitting around a table, staying warm, chatting, eating, playing games and spending time together is a way of life here. Time spent together is important for relationships!