



# EL PUENTE

**(THE BRIDGE) SEPT. 2003**

**“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, ...made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”**

**--Philippians 2.5-8**

**“Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’”**

**--John 15.20**

## **A MISSIONARY’S DEEPEST NEED! SHOCKING EXPOSE REVEALS ALL!!**

It’s a shameless way to get your attention, but the supermarket tabloids use such 4-inch headlines all the time with lucrative results. Then we read on to learn how a cultural heartthrob that we know and possibly admire has finally achieved fame and lasting happiness in their fifth marriage on a diet of algae-flavored bean curd and champagne, while driving a Maserati, spending a half hour of quality time with their “love child” by I-Chat once per month, discovering “self-actualization,” and campaigning against hypocrisy. And they’ll share the secret of how we can do it too! The truly shocking thing about an exposé such as that is that with growing numbers of people it seems credible and desirable.

Now let me reveal to you the shocking news of a missionary’s deepest need. While Chris was a missionary in Colombia a fellow missionary received a package of used tea bags. Why waste a good used tea bag when missionaries are in such need? In reality, weak tea wasn’t at the top of their prayer list! Certainly there were greater needs: health, personal safety, faithful financial supporters, and material comforts unobtainable “in the regions beyond.” Yes, those were greater needs, and should be prayed for. Ask God to bless a missionary with those things that will free him to work without hindrance. But there is a greater need, surpassing those by a quantum leap, unknown and unspoken, and we’ve probably never asked God for it. So what is this deepest of all needs, so shocking and repugnant that most will find it hard to pray for, and that no effective missionary can do without? Pray this: “*Lord God, make (missionary’s name) your submissive slave.*”

**“The disciple is not above his Master. The thought of the disciple being as the Master sometimes has reference to outward humiliation: like the Master he will be despised and persecuted. And sometimes it refers to inward humility, the willingness to be a servant. Both in his external life and in his inner disposition, the perfected disciple knows nothing higher than to be as his Master.”**  
--Andrew Murray

**“If anyone serves Me, let him follow me; and where I am, there my servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him my father will honor.”**  
--John 12.26

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Three of us just got over a brief bout of “Montezuma’s Revenge,” (or whomever the offended chieftain was in Costa Rica). A few weeks ago there were armed gang holdups of two local businesses. Our projections for financial support needs will likely fall short because of our unanticipated extended language school stay. And the stores here don’t carry grits. But above all, we need submissive slavery.

I know you missed this headline at the grocery checkout: “ (Celebrity’s Name) *SUBMITS VOLUNTARILY TO SLAVERY!*” But Paul gloried in it, as did James, Peter, and Jude. It’s the first thing off their pens in Romans 1.1; Phillipians 1.1; Titus 1.1; James 1.1; 2 Peter 1.1; and Jude 1. Why? Because it was the calling of their Master, the One they most highly esteemed: Jesus Christ (Mark 10.45; Philippians 2.5-8). And if they weren’t voluntary, profitable slaves, or “bondservants,” they were ineffectual nothings working at ultimately futile tasks, whatever the job was (Matthew 25.14-30). They would rather be culturally repulsive slaves than man-pleasing “self-actualizers” (Galatians 1.10). So much so that they wanted their identity to be lost in Christ’s, just glad to be working in His presence (John 12.26; Matthew 10.24,25; John 15.20).

Can we be so bold as to claim that this is our all-consuming passion too? No. I think I can very safely say that I spend most of my time in hypocrisy and self-indulgence. But by the grace of God the recognition of my deepest need and highest calling struggles against that sin. That is the core need we ask you to pray for: that God’s Spirit would continue and finish the heart job He’s begun in us, making us His submissive slaves. To the degree that’s accomplished, we (or you) are true missionaries, working where He is, to an eternally profitable end. Without it we’re still just hoping for 4 inches of fame.

The Lord bless you in *your* mission! Love, the Marshall’s

----- (please clip here and place PRAYER POINTS where you can view them) -----  
**PRAYER POINTS FOR THE MARSHALL FAMILY:**



- \*LORD GOD, MAKE DAVID MARSHALL YOUR SUBMISSIVE SLAVE
- \*LORD GOD, MAKE CHRIS MARSHALL YOUR SUBMISSIVE SLAVE
- \*LORD GOD, MAKE EMMA MARSHALL YOUR SUBMISSIVE SLAVE
- \*LORD GOD, MAKE ANNA MARSHALL YOUR SUBMISSIVE SLAVE
- \*LORD GOD, MAKE AMY MARSHALL YOUR SUBMISSIVE SLAVE
- \*LORD GOD, MAKE ELSIE MARSHALL YOUR SUBMISSIVE SLAVE
- \*LORD GOD, MAKE WILL MARSHALL YOUR SUBMISSIVE SLAVE
- \*LORD GOD, MAKE PETER MARSHALL YOUR SUBMISSIVE SLAVE

