

Who Is Danica May Camacho?

Gary McDade

It is not every day that a child born to a struggling truck driver in the Philippines makes world news, but when Florante Camacho's daughter, Danica May Camacho, came into the world on October 31, 2011, she was recognized by several authoritative organizations as the seven billionth person on earth today (www.guardian.co.uk/world, www.usatoday.com/news/world, www.foxnews.com, and www.nydailynews.com are some of the news agencies that carried the story). The world is a big place; the United States only has just over a third of a billion citizens.

Every Christian who has been fully taught knows that the Lord gave the members of His body, the church, a very special mission which is to “seek and save those who are lost” (Ephesians 1:22-23; Matthew 18:11; Luke 19:10). He had every creature in the world in mind when he commissioned His disciples, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:19-20; cf. Mark 16:15-16 and Colossians 1:23).

Little Danica May needs exactly what every one of the other 6,999,999,999 people in this world need and that is to be taught the soul saving gospel of Jesus Christ. He said, “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me” (John 6:44-45; Isaiah 54:13).

As we are reminded of the enormous task of taking the gospel to such a large world, the question that likely is weighing on our minds at this point is not what is someone else going to do about honoring the Lord's command but what am I going to do about honoring the Lord's command. May I offer five practical suggestions that will highlight how import each Christian is in fulfilling the great commission?

1. Christians assemble to “show the Lord's death” every Sunday (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:26). I obviously cannot personally teach seven billion people, but I certainly can assemble with the saints every Lord's day to “show the Lord's death till He comes.” Our assembly is where we partake of the Lord's supper (1 Corinthians 11:20). We, therefore, are not alone in declaring the Lord's death among ourselves and to our community as together we “show the Lord's death till He comes.”
2. Each Christian can (and should) support the preaching of the gospel, not only financially through the weekly collection but, with his or her presence when the church meets (1 Corinthians 9:14). I may not be able to fly to the Philippines and teach Florente and his family the gospel but I can do my part to make sure the families—mine included—right here in the local congregation have the opportunity to hear the soul saving gospel of Christ (Romans 10:14-17).
3. Each Christian can strive to be more Christ-like. The world needs to see Christ, and many will only have the opportunity to do so by seeing a faithful Christian. The Bible says in this connection, “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Corinthians 3:18; cf. also Colossians 1:27 and Matthew 5:16).

4. Obviously, it will be challenging to reach across the world to teach the Camacho Family, but each one of us can reach across the room and teach a family member or a co-worker or a neighbor about the gospel plan of salvation. People do not know the gospel plan of salvation; someone in eternity will thank you for teaching it to them. (A few notes that may help are: Hear the gospel, Luke 8:18; believe it, John 3:16; repent of sins, Luke 13:3; confess Christ, Matthew 10:32-33; and be baptized to be saved, Mark 16:16).
5. Use your influence in the local congregation to keep the focus of the congregation on the salvation of a lost and dying world. The Bible says, “To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some” (1 Corinthians 9:22).

Who is Danica May Camacho? Right now she is an innocent, infant child half way around the world who has a soul that upon her reaching maturity will spend eternity in one of two places—either heaven or hell (Matthew 25:46). Let’s do what we can to make a difference in her world.