

MY MANIFESTO For Ministry

By Mary Alice Barrett

Thoughts:

I look back to when it first began. I remember praying, offering the Lord the (2) natural gifts I had, music and my bookkeeping skills. I was 24 years old. I didn't and still don't consider myself a good guitarist, just enough to learn songs and memorize them. This came naturally. At youth group, we needed someone to lead the singing. It felt quite natural, like I did at home. Before long, I sang at church, then became worship leader for a few years. My guitar was always with me, glued to my right arm!

The Lord answered that simple, sincere prayer. He used me in bookkeeping too, gave me a job at the church where I attended. When I moved to another fellowship, I thought surely my singing days were over. But He assured me that He would open the doors. Peace followed the still, quiet voice in my heart, I waited totally content in soaking in the Word at Calvary Chapel. Not long, the door opened, I walked through it and here I am 10 years later, still singing and my guitar glued to my right arm!

For the past (3) years, doors have opened for me to sing at different places around the country and in Europe. As I write, it's hard to believe it myself. Plain Mary, *simplemente Maria*, a nobody, ministering to hearts everywhere. Lord You are incredible and totally awesome! You blow me away how You do this thing with me. I never would have believed it, had You told me early on. Your Word is true, You describe me quite well when You say You take the foolish things, the base and weak things You have chosen. Also, my life's Scripture from Luke 1:45 continues to bear fruit. Thank You! All I can do is thank You, Father, for Your sweet love and tender mercies towards me.

Today, I once again offer up myself to You. I want to sing for You as naturally as when I started. Please help me keep it simple. Search my heart; show me where I may have changed, if I have "added" anything that You don't approve of, if I have developed wrong habits, wrong concepts, wrong attitudes. I simply come and offer....You do the rest! I love You. Be glorified for the rest of my days here on Earth. Amen.

2Thess.3:3 For the Lord is faithful who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.

My example is Christ. ⁵Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross. (Phil.2:5)
¹Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. ²And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. (Eph.5:1-2)

My motivation to go - You did not choose Me but I have chosen you.....
Therefore I urge you to stir up the gift...(2Tim.1:6)

¹²Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. ¹⁴But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. (Col.3:12-15)
⁸But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and *as* a helmet the hope of salvation. (1Thess.5:8)

My pursuit is Holiness. ¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies. ²¹Test all things; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil. (1Thess.5:16-22)

Note to myself – look up holiness, holy in concordance of your Bible

RULES FOR THE ROAD

- 1. Pray at all times**
- 2. Behave – show respect, be gentle and kind, be last**
- 3. Watch your walk, dress, tongue**
- 4. Be honest, truthful**
- 5. Be wise**
- 6. Remember, the Lord is with you**
- 7. Do not be left alone with a man, avoid all appearances of evil**
- 8. Be accountable – stay connected with home and church fellowship**
- 9. Be ready to share the Lord with someone**
- 10. Read the Word**