



September 1, 2011

Dear Followers of Christ,

It is good to remember that “the One who holds the future is the One who holds our hands!” I take great comfort from His Word, “So do not fear for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.... I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, ‘do not fear; I will help you’” (Isa. 41:10, 13).

We need to remember that God is not operating “under the circumstances,” but above them. That compels me to constantly seek the mind of the Lord and then to act according to His best practices. That, I have discovered, is the key to real success!

### **The Fruit of Best Practices: By God’s Grace – 100,000 New Churches**

God’s plan done God’s way inevitably produces good fruit in the fields of the world to which He has called us. Yet, I do not take His blessing – and the good fruit that flows from it – for granted. We believe in prayer and planning, patience and proactive obedience.

Over the last few months we have been reviewing the effectiveness of our work in each country in which we serve. We have been even more focused and prayerful, seeking the fresh direction of the Lord. Every week it becomes clearer and clearer that God is challenging us to press on to the next level in our ministry strategy.

It has taken us a while, but we realize that God has entrusted us with what we term a “Ministry Strategy for Accelerated Church Planting.” I realize that words do not define reality, they describe it. But, they also can help shape reality as we align our thinking and daily practices with the plan that God has set before us.

*Accelerated church planting is exactly what the early church experienced  
as it spread out of Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria  
and unto the uttermost parts of the world.*

I begin each day excited about our ministry strategy for Accelerated Church Planting because it gives us the realistic expectation that God can use us to start 100,000 new churches in just a few years.

### **Accelerated Church Planting and Boots on the Ground**

Beyond the concept of Accelerated Church Planting is this sweet reality: it is happening right now!

Let me tell you about a church planter whom we call Sgt. Joe. *Joe* is not his real name, but he has an amazing and contagious New Testament church planting record and technique. Just like the Apostle

Paul, Sgt. Joe surrounds himself with a small band of 6 or 7 coworkers who are his core team. Joe and his coworkers have already planted more than a dozen churches and they continue to branch out for an explosive impact around Havana, Cuba.

It is so encouraging to watch Sgt. Joe at work with a 10-month-old church where we last saw him. He was drilling the 150-member congregation about the fundamentals of the Christian faith. His drilling habits are what have earned him the nickname, *Sergeant*.

The drill goes like this:

Sgt. Joe: “Who is our only and sufficient Savior?!”

The congregation in unison: “The Lord Jesus Christ.”

Sgt. Joe: “What is our mission as His church?”

Group: “To proclaim that there is salvation in no one else!”

Sgt. Joe: “Where do we start our proclamation??”

Group: “With our family! With our friends! With our neighbors!”

Sgt. Joe: “What is our goal in our outreach??”

Group: “Our neighborhood! Our Province! The Country! And the world!”

The drills go on to specific lessons, specific passages, and specific action steps. It is a thrill to see that people who didn’t know the Lord a year ago have been transformed in such a short period of time to become active members of the Lord’s Army – His church – thanks to Master Sergeant Joe!

### **How Long Will It Take to Reach the World?**

Robert E. Coleman, in his classic book, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, makes the compelling case that if every believer reaches just one person with the Gospel, who then reaches just one other person ... in just 17 years we would reach more people than are alive today! *Imagine that: just 17 years!!!*

As I pondered the equation, an observation jumped to the forefront. Christianity has been around not only for 17 years, but for more than 17 centuries. So the profound question is: *Why has the world not been reached?*

It hasn’t been reached in 17 years – or in 17 centuries – because Christians have not followed the Master’s plan for reaching the world: Discipleship! But God doesn’t beat up His followers. He’s not out to castigate and spiritually cripple us. He challenges us to trust Him, follow Him, share Him. He challenges us, if you will allow me the phrase once more, to “Accelerated Church Planting!”



### **The Financial Cost to Reach the World Is Remarkably Small**

Sgt. Joe is an inspiring example of a dedicated disciple-maker – an accelerated church planter. With a salary of just \$25 per month, Sgt. Joe seems to not have a care in the world. His consuming passion is to get the Gospel out as quickly as possible and to as many as possible. Disciple making is a joy for Joe; you can tell that he is having fun and finding deep fulfillment as the group calls back the answers to his drills.

In Joe's mind and heart it doesn't take material riches to be obedient. *"Godliness with contentment is great gain,"* the Apostle Paul wrote to young Timothy (1 Tim. 6:6). Sgt. Joe is living proof, as he sees great gains every day.

We cannot all be like Sgt. Joe, but we are all designed to bear much fruit. God calls every Christian to make disciples (Matt. 28:19). We can do it from the front lines or we can do it from behind the front lines by providing the logistics that keep the men and women on the front lines equipped and fed. Perhaps God has called you to be on our logistics support team through your financial support of workers on the front lines.

### **A Ministry of Multiplication**

Sgt. Joe is but one in a network of more than 1,000 worldwide workers supported by people like you. With the purposeful participation of friends like you, we are able to achieve and multiply results as we empower our worldwide network of Accelerated Church Planting.

For every worker we support, there are two to three others who serve without support. For example, we support 450 workers like Sgt. Joe in Cuba, but there are another 1,500 at work without any financial support. So, their time is more limited, but their passion for the Gospel is not, and that means we have 2,000 on our greater church planting team in Cuba.

Today we have a happy situation: We have thousands of qualified, self-sacrificing workers –not merely waiting in the wings – but working on a part-time basis in Accelerated Church Planting. They are successful in their efforts and it is a blessing to see them bringing groups together and following the Lord with such fervent hearts.

Many of these dedicated disciple-makers could be moonlighting to augment their often meager salaries, but instead, they are giving priority to the kingdom of God and His righteousness. They are not working for material gain or wealth. They have an entirely different mission in life.

### **Your Role in Reaching the World with the Good News**

Let me be as clear as I can be: We need more supporting partners so that we can have more full-time workers engaged in Accelerated Church Planting.



Can you help us to bring many more of these worthy brothers and sisters into the worker core of those who are freed up for full-time ministry by giving just \$25 per month?

Your gift of \$300 will allow us to add another full-time worker for a full year. \$1,200 adds 4 more workers. Or, maybe you could give \$25 per month to support a worker. We can set that up for automatic payment each month on your credit card.

Please ask God what part He wants you to have in “making disciples of all nations.” I am certain of one thing: He doesn’t want any of us just sitting in our recliners watching the world go by! He has a distinct role for each one of us in His master plan of evangelism. I know He has a special role for you.

Focused on the Harvest,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. If you would like a free copy of Robert Coleman’s classic book, *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, I would love to send you one. Just check the box on the enclosed reply slip or drop me a note. It’s a great book that will stir your soul!