



July 1, 2011

Dear World Link Partners,

I am always grateful for you as I think of your sincere faith and friendship in God's work. His Spirit doesn't make cowards out of us. The Spirit gives us power, love, and opportunities to do good. Let's use the power that comes from God to share the Good News with more and more people this summer!

It thrills my heart – and, more importantly, thrills the heart of God– to see people come to Christ! It's like the stories Jesus tells in Luke 15: the joy of the lost sheep that was found, the joy of the lost coin recovered, the joy of the prodigal son who comes back home!

Today I am thinking of Alberto, a man who was horribly lost in the depths of vice, the pride of life, and the rotten fruit of his bad friendships. I was on visitation when I met him; there was nothing that seemed special about the encounter for either of us. Alberto listened politely to what I had to say and even agreed to my dropping by for a visit whenever I was in the neighborhood.

Shortly after the visit I found out that his nickname was “Wobbly” because he was notorious for his drinking. Just one week after the visit, his wife Martha surprised me by calling my cell phone. Martha was very upset. Alberto had left with his friends and she knew that this would mean another chapter of heavy drinking and bad consequences. Her outrage was even greater because Alberto had talked of a new beginning after I had visited him. Supposedly things were going to change!

Martha was desperate because she had truly believed that this would be the new life she had hoped for. She asked me to please help her and Alberto! She wanted me to go across town and break up the party! That was audacious, bold, and unorthodox all at once. But it also would demonstrate that we were serious about a new life in Christ. So I went.

My mission was clear: I was going to be the party pooper!

It wasn't hard to find the party house, the loud music gave it away. When I showed up at the door, all of the gaiety turned to embarrassment. I was as out of place as a bull in a china shop. The music stopped; the silence was suddenly deafening. Alberto announced to his drinking buddies, “I'd better go home now.”

The conversation that followed was not patronizing: it really was a painful recognition on his part that he had so quickly gone back on all his good intentions. Talking about becoming a spiritual leader for his family was far more awkward for him. He felt utterly unworthy.

But Alberto was a very serious-minded individual. The experience touched him deeply and transformed him completely. He received Jesus as His Savior and he began a journey down the path of “the straight and narrow.” He was at every meeting we held, and we disciple him for ministry. In time he became the most dependable leader we had. His situation at work also improved and he became a foreman.

Alberto is a living example of how the Word of God can transform a person. By the time I left his town for my next assignment, Alberto was one of the elders in the church. From being “old Wobbly” to being an elder of the church in a business suit every Sunday, the transformation was incredible! And it was totally real. As you can imagine, Martha was a very happy wife in her new life with the reborn Alberto.

When you give to support our evangelistic ministry, it’s people like Alberto that are in the harvest reaped from the seed you are sowing. Your gifts keep us in the fields which are, I can assure you, “ripe for harvest” (John 4:35).

I would imagine you have heard many testimonies of the transforming grace of God. I certainly hope so! We are to encourage one another with the power of the Gospel!

*The guarantee from God’s Word
is that where sin abounds
grace abounds all the more.*

Sometimes, though, I wonder if people, even those active in one form of ministry or another, really get it. For example, I was recently at a Christian event where I was given the opportunity to introduce our ministry and vision. There were three other ministries also being presented, and I was gently warned that the audience wouldn’t think that evangelism was very “sexy.”

What does the obedience to the Great Commission and the Great Commandment have to do with “sexy”? I know that the term was being used instead of “appealing,” or “attractive.” But even so, the fact that leaders would use “sexy” to communicate more fully what they meant already speaks volumes about their audience. Whatever the cultural weight and value of “sexy,” the Great Commission is not about jargon.

“Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls” says the Psalmist, “all your waves and breakers have swept over me” (Ps. 42:7). Just as “waves” have a language of their own, so also does the Lord of the Harvest!

The Holy Spirit calls Christians to join with Him, the Father, and the Son to rescue people from sin and its physical and eternal consequences. The situation is so serious, that more than entrusting it to foundations and organizations, the entire Trinity is personally involved in evangelism!

Please think about this cosmic intervention for a minute.

Jesus is involved in evangelism because of His death and resurrection, and also because He says quite emphatically, “I will build my church” (Matt. 16:18). And He is in it alongside the Father: “My Father is working until now, and I myself am working,” says Jesus (John 5:17). The Spirit is working, for as scripture says, “And He [the Holy Spirit], when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin because they do not believe in Me” (John 16:8,9).

So the Father, Son, and the Spirit are at work in this ALL IMPORTANT rescue of the souls of men and women. The Father is working by the testimony of the Son who joins Him. The Father is reconciling

the world to Himself through the Son, not counting the sins of an “old Wobbly” like Alberto against him (2 Cor. 5:18, 19). God’s grace is the critical element, for all of us have areas where we “wobble.”

We must understand the profound impact of the fact that God sees ***the paramount importance of the ministry of evangelism***. The three persons of the Godhead are fully engaged in this ministry. The most influential, powerful, intelligent, strategic, creative person in the universe has made the rescuing of souls His highest priority.

God is in it! Join Him! Each person, each life, each relationship, is a component of the powerful drama of redemption. Your own life, your son, your daughter, your wife, your husband – all are part and parcel of the same predicament.

The greatest affirmation you and I can have about being involved in a meaningful way is that God our Savior is involved as seriously today in this ministry as He was on the day He saved you.

As I write you today, there is an evangelistic campaign going on in Spain. The Gospel is being presented and lives and souls are hanging in the balance.

As I write, preparations are in full swing to execute two simultaneous campaigns in Eastern and Western Cuba. The campaigns are simply the tip of the iceberg. Our evangelistic workers and their teams are active in every corner of Cuba, every day.

Cuba is only one of the countries where workers are sharing the word of life with countless numbers of people. Each of the countries where we are engaged has the same effective evangelism ministry at work.

God’s love and God’s Word are flowing and pulsating through a whole network of proclaimers. ***Because God is in it***, as “Deep calls to deep in the roar of your [His] waterfalls.” As the billows have a language of their own, God calls in His special voice to those who are His, seeking people who will join Him. God wants all who hear His voice to join Him.

Second Corinthians 5:18 puts it all together in a powerful way: “Now all these things are from God who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”

God wants **you** to be active in His ministry of reconciliation. That’s why you’re still here on earth!

Will you join with your Triune God in the ministry of reconciliation today?

Even in the midst of the cacophony of voices and plans of so many activities and initiatives, will you remember the God-set priority of spreading the life-saving Gospel?

Are you responding to God’s call to join Him in the priority of evangelism?

I am painfully aware that the summer months often distract people from their calling. In this “come before summer letter,” I have shared with you just a few of the opportunities we have this summer. We



need your financial support to keep our evangelism teams equipped, cared for, and energetic with the Gospel.

We work efficiently and effectively, doing so much good for so few dollars. Still, we need the generous gifts of friends like you to fuel our work every day, every season. Especially in summer, when so many are distracted.

Please stay focused with us and tuned-in with the Lord through these months. Help us partner with our Triune God, joyfully bringing in a summer's harvest.

Let me hear from you today with a heart-felt participation in God's priority.

May the Lord, the great Shepherd, guide you with His skillful hands, meeting your every need as He rewards the integrity of your heart.

Gratefully in Christ,

Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. Thank you for your faithfulness in keeping us strong. Thank you for the partnership with us that God is using to bring thousands to salvation every single month.