



March 1, 2012

Dear World Link Partners,
It's over!

The story I shared with you ... about the Cuban pastor, confronted by a government authority ... who told he could shut down the pastor's growing church — with 1,200 members ...

You're going to love "the rest of the story"!

This new, wonderful "happy ending" begins, strangely enough, in the hospital. The pastor is battling a double kidney infection. But when we came to Cuba a few weeks ago, he asked for permission to meet with us on important ministry business. Highly irregular — but the Holy Spirit was on the job! The doctor was somehow "persuaded" ... Permission granted!

The pastor had turned off his cell phone during his entire hospital stay. But now, during this brief, temporary break, he turned it back on — and found that he had several voice messages. As he listened, I watched his face change. His eyes began filling with tears.

It was voicemail from *the man who had tried to shut him down*.

Back then, on the day of that miserable confrontation, the pastor had offered these parting words: "There is nothing you can do that God won't turn for my good." And he quoted Romans 8:28: "All things work together for good to those who love God..."

"Whatever you do," the pastor concluded, "will work out to be a blessing for us!"

Now, the pastor was hearing — via voicemail on his cell phone — the rest of the story....

Life went on. The official had problems of his own, at work. The chief of security for the province, an exceedingly difficult man, was adversarial toward the official. One bad day, they clashed in the worst way. The conflict was so fierce, it soon escalated into a fistfight!

But fists didn't settle this matter. No matter what happened in the fistfight, the chief of security had the upper hand — greater authority and power.

So the official was charged with assault — and sent to jail to await a court date.

After nearly a month behind bars, the official was released — and he went straight to the pastor.

"I have not forgotten the words you said to me when we met in my office," he told him. "I have been filled with hope, just knowing that God works all things together for good for us, even if our enemies try to harm us."

The pastor was quick to stop him. The promise of Romans 8:28, he explained, isn't just for "anybody." It's "to those who love God." The pastor began to explain the difference ... explain the Gospel ... explain the great gift of grace....

And now, suddenly, the official wanted to jump to the "right side" of the proposition! He wanted to be counted among "those who love God"!

Right then and there, our pastor friend led that government official to Christ. From that day, he began to disciple this new believer. The official was very faithful in his attendance at Bible studies. He wanted to know everything he needed to do to be right with God — so he could receive the blessings of the Lord!

But his court date approached, and the government had more jail time in store for him. Now, however, there was a HUGE difference. The official was convinced that now he was "on company time"! All things were working together for good for him — since he was among "those who love God"!

Eventually he completed his sentence and walked out of prison a free man. Soon he learned that his dear pastor friend was in the hospital fighting a double kidney infection. Immediately he called the pastor's cell phone — and left a voicemail.

It was the voicemail that I watched the pastor listening to....

"My dear brother," the official began, "I just got out, and heard that you are in the hospital with a double kidney infection. I want you to know that I have begun to pray for you immediately.

"I also want you to know that *I have two healthy kidneys and a liver* — if you need any of my organs. I want you to have them. We are brothers!"

We sat together, tears in our eyes, and thanked God for His matchless grace. It's amazing and beautiful to see how God is at work, as ever and always. We counted ourselves blessed to be right there, as beautiful miracles of grace were happening ... evidence of His incredible love for people! *A happy ending ... of eternal significance.*

This is the amazing work — the incredible ministry — the beautiful ongoing miracle — to which God has called you and me together ... and for this cause, I am asking boldly for your generous support again today!

God does great things when we work together. In fact, we went to Cuba this time with an astonishing goal: launch 100 new church-plants within 30 days!

And God gave us victory beyond what we had hoped!



One young pastor was out of space — his congregation had simply grown too large for their space — so they sent away four groups of their members to form new congregations: one group of 262, another of 150, another of 60, and the final group of 50.

But the very next Sunday, the pastor's original church still had 1000 in attendance — he had to preach five services due to the increase!

My friend, this is God's hour for Cuba. It is not the Cuba of half a century ago, cloaked in mystery and somewhat frightening. There is a transformation underway to a more regular economy and, in fact, a tourist destination. As the U.S. continues its embargo, the Chinese have come to the island and introduced a number of changes which they have already introduced in their own nation — leading to dramatic transformation in China.

Cubans today actually have the right to buy and sell houses ... buy cars ... buy cell phones and air time ... the right to open and operate businesses for profit ... and more. In fact, expatriates are even free to return to Cuba and buy property now!

All of this means new life in Cuba ... new energy ... but also new opportunity for ministry.

We know from our own experience in the USA that financial prosperity does not satisfy the soul....

As many Cubans come to see the Chinese, and new possessions, as their “savior” — they will grow hungry for the real truth, about the one and only Savior.

We also know that events can “turn on a dime” — and the openness to the Gospel that we are seeing in that country now *could end at any moment*.

In the meantime, among believers in Cuba, spiritual fervor is as high as I have ever seen it in my 12 years of ministry there! The Gospel is blazing through the country — lives are changing — the government official is only one beautiful example among many thousands of real-life testimonies!

But we don't know how long this great openness to God and the Gospel will stay at this wonderful high. **We must act quickly.** I am grateful that we have had 12 years to serve in Cuba, but I wish it were 20.

The call of God is like a phone call. Sometimes the phone rings and we don't hear it at first. Sometimes we hesitate — or we're too far away — or we're busy — and we don't pick up in time. Sometimes when we pick up, we find ourselves wishing we had jumped the moment we first heard the ring. *I'll tell you frankly, I hate that feeling of regret.*

**My friend, the eternal phone is ringing for you and me today.
Please pick it up. It is Cuba calling ... for the sake of eternity.**

**Whatever we are going to do needs to be done now. Whatever
we hope to achieve must start today.**



In Cuba, right now...

- To launch 100 churches costs only \$700 per month.
- To launch 3 churches costs only \$25 per month.
- \$100 a month plants a dozen churches!
- A one-time gift of \$300 will have planted 3 churches in a single year!

The alternative? Regret. Loss.

This is not a phone call that can be “returned” at a later time.

Please let us hear from you today. Cuba is *eternal opportunity* calling! Thank you in advance.
God bless you!

For the sake of eternal rewards,

Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. Yes, it's possible that there could be many more opportunities to go to Cuba in the future. But I have seen this mission field with my own eyes, in just the past few weeks, and I cannot believe that we will ever again see as ripe and receptive an opportunity as there is today! *Please help me respond quickly to the open doors!* Thank you again!