

MY SUMMERTIME PRAYER FOR YOU (from Ephesians 3:14-19):

May the Lord who loves you grant you to be strengthened in the inner man . . .

SO THAT Christ may be at home in your heart . . .

SO THAT this happy state will allow you to understand the love of Christ, which can't be understood by simple human knowledge . . .

SO THAT you may be fulfilled with all the fullness of God!

July 1, 2016

Dearest Ministry Partner,

Summer! Season of joy!

And yet—harsh realities intrude. I just got word that a friend on the mission field died, suddenly and unexpectedly, in his sleep. Relatives back home have to be contacted. Prayer is ongoing. The shock of it gives pause. *Are we sure of what we are doing? Are we confident that we are living our lives to “full effect”?*

I say “Yes.” We know whom we have believed. We are persuaded that He is able to keep that which we have committed unto Him against that day.

So . . . we take a deep breath, and turn back to the great work of our calling. The “game” is on! We have a summer before us. Proverbs 10:5, in the Amplified, says, “He who gathers during summer and takes advantage of his opportunities is a son who acts wisely. But he who sleeps during the harvest is a son who causes shame.”

We intend to gather during the summer! To take advantage of our God-given opportunities! To act wisely!

It would be easy to get rattled . . . not just by the sudden death of a friend, but by world events. Things seem out of control. No one nation can solve the problems. Some regions of the world are so shaky, we can't help but recognize that the kingdoms of men rise and fall and will ultimately be done away with!

But we know what we are about, because we know what Jesus said: *The fields are white unto harvest!* As wise sons and daughters, we see summer as a season of many opportunities for bringing in the Harvest. So . . . *here we go!*

- We are about to launch two evangelistic campaigns in SPAIN. My son and his family left today to lead the effort.
- Meanwhile, we ALWAYS have ongoing campaigns in CUBA—even when I don’t take space in a letter to report to you! The month of May was *typical*:

Cuba East: Evangelized 13,140. Conversions: 3,175. Churches launched: 28

Cuba Central: Evangelized 14,531. Conversions 4,139. Churches launched: 38

Cuba West: Evangelized 11,579. Conversions 2,478. Churches launched: 71.

The average number of new churches we plant in the Cuban soul-harvest does not drop below 100 in any month of the year!

- I am scheduled to go to INDIA and LIBERIA within weeks. I’ll participate in teaching and other church activities in these strategic days of summer.

The need of the moment in India? Faithful monthly support for church planters, each one committed to planting three churches. A generous group gave us two grants toward this goal—a wonderful catalyst for the launching of 360 new churches . . . work that’s under way as you read these words!

The first grant was intended as a “one-time gift,” but I didn’t quite get the message—so I asked for a second! These friends were so encouraged by the wonderful results of their first grant, they agreed to contribute a second. Praise the Lord! But they do have a giving policy, and could only give us this one additional donation. So—while their second grant is put to work—I’m praying, searching, hoping for others to help support church-planting in India each month. Maybe the Lord is speaking to your heart. . . .?

A worker in India costs barely more than \$50 dollars per month. Think of this: *three church plants* for only \$50 per month!

- In UKRAINE, the war is no longer in the Western news headlines every day, but the war goes on anyway. The continuous pressure of the invasion is on everyone’s mind. Soldiers are being killed every single day.

One friend reported from Ukraine, in his broken English, a few days ago:

“There is a threat of terrorist attacks inside the country. . . . In Kyiv, the situation not really like war. But sometimes you see column of military hardware moving eastern direction. When column is coming back from east, machines are broken: tanks with detached towers, trucks are torn and burned, sometimes with no wheels. Please continue to pray for our country and for people here.

People still need Jesus. Last two month, church planters gave out hundreds of food bags. With evangelism purpose for 500 to 600 people. Many people prayed about salvation in Jesus.

During summertime, church planters are trying to do many activities: camps, summer Bible schools, different types of evangelistic activities. The most difficult issue is resources for ministries; for food bags; for camp materials; for Bible materials and Bibles.

The groups are asking their own people about special offering. Little by little they collect money and food. So much more needs to be done . . . please pray for all summer activities.”

I thank God that we have the privilege of serving alongside these dear people giving their lives to the work of the Lord in the fields of the world. Some are sacrificing all comforts. Some are operating with little more than their obedience. Some are risking their freedom and their lives.

What will we do?

What will we sacrifice?

How will we obey?

What will we risk for the sake of the Harvest?

My prayer is that we will mobilize our resources—our bounty, as Western Christians—to maximize the evangelistic activities in Spain, Cuba, Ukraine, Liberia, and India. God help us to empower their training, their evangelistic summer camps, their vacation Bible schools, their myriad types of outreach campaigns and activities for the sake of the Gospel!

Today, I ask for your help in a special way. Of course summer is a time for family vacations, time in the “great outdoors,” time for renewal in general. Ideally, we find a balance between renewal and Harvest work. God wants us to be wise with both, so they’re not at odds with one other. To exclude renewal would be a mistake. To exclude the Harvest would be an even greater mistake!

As this summer season approached, I made my plans for “gathering,” for “taking advantage of opportunities.” I had plans to attack every mission field. Then came terrorist activity, and official government “terror alerts,” and warnings against Americans traveling in certain areas. A few of my plans, it appeared, would evaporate.

But our teams overseas were not to be denied. “A wise son gathers in summer”—regardless of obstacles. Together, we adapted, we morphed our plans, we found ways to go ahead. I now believe the results will be even greater than if we had proceeded according to “Plan A”! *If God is in it, the opportunity is always there. If we obey, there is always fruit.*

We can be inspired by Ruth, Naomi's daughter-in-law, in the Old Testament. She had no visions of grandeur. She was in a tough situation. She was a nobody. She was less than that. As a widow, she had nothing—except a relationship with a needy older widow. But even in such dire straits, she saw opportunity. The clearest reality in her life was that there was a widow that was in greater straits than she was. They were both widows; they were both broke. The only difference was that Ruth was younger, strong enough to work hard.

Ruth could have reasoned that each woman should wish the other well and go back to her own family. But the need of the older widow was all too clear to her! There were many possibilities, but there was a clear *right thing to do*. Naomi couldn't fend for herself, but Ruth could fend for both. That's it! "I am going to take care of Naomi because she has no one to care for her, and she can't take care of herself!" *She had no desire to seek anything for herself.*

The rest is golden Messianic history. First she found a job. Next she became a regular worker. Then she found a husband! Then she was given a life she could not have dreamed of. *She was made partaker of the lineage of Christ.*

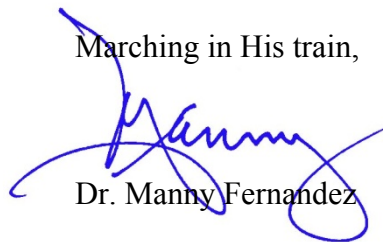
Ruth's story is the story of the Church, and of every one of us, as the Church's members. We were dead in our trespasses and sins. He gave us life! Now He wants us to be life-givers to those who are hopeless and helpless.

So from a heart of love and gratitude for all you've already done, I bring you this challenge: Will you "do the right thing," like Ruth, this summer? Will you be a wise son or daughter? Please see the need of those who are hopeless and helpless. Do something about it.

I invite you to say "Yes"!

Thank you so much for being my friend and partner in the Harvest. I look forward to hearing from you soon. God bless you!

Marching in His train,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. I do hope you find rest and renewal this summer. I also hope that through your generosity today, multitudes will find rest and renewal through newfound faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I pray that as this summer season comes to a close, they will have the joy of knowing God as never before . . . and you will have the satisfaction of knowing you have done what you could to *gather during the summer . . . to take advantage of God-given opportunities . . . to act wisely!* Thank you again!