



*My Prayer for You... May the Lord protect and defend you. May He always shield you from harm. May God bless you and grant you good life! These are heartfelt prayers from me as we journey through life together!*

April 1, 2014

Dear Ministry Prayer Partners,

**New ground!** This is what God is calling us to conquer!

Of course we shouldn't be surprised—He said He would build His church, and the gates of hell would not prevail against it! The church is marching on! We have the privilege of being part of this divine adventure.

But today I bring you amazing news—because God is setting the stage for us to conquer new ground in not ONE country ... and not even TWO countries ... but THREE new countries!

### **1. Liberia, West Africa!**

God began arranging this years ago when I was in seminary. One of my professors developed a burden for Liberia and began making plans to visit the country. But then, a pastor from Liberia—a man he didn't know—contacted him, out of the blue ... to ask him for help in fulfilling his own vision ... to train Christian leaders to plant churches ... and reach out to all of Liberia!

The professor was stunned by God's behind-the-scenes orchestration of events. He plunged in to explore the situation in Liberia. There he found tremendous advantages—it's an English-speaking country, for example, and the people are both pro-American and pro-Christian ... tremendous opportunity—there's great hunger for the Gospel ... and tremendous need.

But he also discovered a serious problem: *church politics*. Many in ministry in Liberia were squandering tremendous time and energy on the question of who will be the "top dog"!

Our professor friend knows that such a focus is far from productive. Liberia is a land ripe for harvest—but church is focused elsewhere. This is the ideal moment to bring a healthy perspective to the work in Liberia. The call for help was no coincidence; it comes in God's timing. The ingredients for a tremendous move of God are all here before us.

So—what next? The professor has been to the field with us. He has taught with us in Spain and in Cuba. Again and again, he has seen God powerfully at work through our Accelerated Church-Planting strategy. Now—witnessing the conditions in Liberia—he came to me asking what it would take to launch a World Link initiative in Liberia.

I answered with the same God-given criteria that have always guided our work. We must examine the health and maturity of seven factors:

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| 1. Students with vocation for ministry;  | 5. Funding to run the operation;                                   |
| 2. Teachers who will train them on the job;  | 6. A champion to shepherd the operation in country;                |
| 3. Some place to gather and teach them;  | 7. And God-given maturity or readiness in all of these components. |
| 4. Curriculum to transform them into leaders who know what they believe and why they believe it, and can bring others along; |  |

The professor could assure me on most of these factors, but he wanted me to go personally and test the soil — and I can tell you: The ground is ready!

I believe God has positioned you and me “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14)—and I believe He has been moving us into position for a long, long time. Years ago I was invited to breakfast with a graduate of our seminary in Dallas and a friend of his. The friend boldly asked me how World Link planned to reach out to his native country—Liberia! I of course recited, as always, the seven factors we employ in our strategy—and he promptly wrote them down....

Two years later, I received news that this young man had launched *50 churches* in Liberia! He had his hands full! He has only struggled because he doesn’t know how to support such a sprawling ministry on his own!

I also believe the ground in Liberia is ready because of God’s divine passion for missions. The Father is in the ministry of reconciliation; the Son said, “I will build my church.” And the Spirit is at work convicting the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. We are in pretty good company! God has committed to us the work of reconciliation. He is with us always in this work, until the end of time. My heart is crying out: *Let’s go to Liberia!*

## 2. India!

God is just as clearly in our second new initiative—in India—as He is in Liberia!

As you read these words, we’re beginning in earnest to pursue a new crop of church plants and the training of scores of church planters. We’ve established a great relationship with a group of dedicated believers on the ground in Chennai (former Madras).

Our training and deployment strategy? We'll gather church planters from all over the region to a mission base in the city of Chennai. The teaching will be in English, with translation into Tamil—a common arrangement in India. We'll be ministering among India's 200 million English speakers, but with multitudes of Tamil speakers in the population.

But our outreach into India isn't just for India. From this nation, where the doors are open, God is opening yet another door, to a nation that is *closed* ...

### 3. [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]

A pastor in the U.S., who comes from a closed country, heard about our initiative in India and came to us with an urgent request: Would we allow church planters from his closed country to fly into India and be trained there?

It was a life-or-death question. Church planters in his country are at risk of their lives—one pastor was recently executed. So training church planters there is out of the question. But this closed country regards India as “neutral,” so church planters can travel to India safely.

In God's perfect plan, the closed country is also a place where training is often conducted in English, with an interpreter standing by to translate into the local language. So the setup in Chennai will be a reasonably comfortable situation for these visitors.

Where in the world is this closed country? If you and I meet face to face, I'll tell you—and you'll be thrilled. But for security purposes, I can't reveal the location in print. This is an extremely belligerent antagonist on the world scene—yet the people there are wide-open to the Gospel!

I'm doubly thrilled by this opportunity because it gives us two countries for the price of one—both extremely needy!

### 3 Open Doors ... What Next?

We can move through all three of these open doors today—by the Lord's grace, and with your generous help.

- There is a ripeness and readiness in **Liberia**—but they have difficulty doing the mission on their own.
- There is a huge need in **India**—the second-most populous nation on earth—and tremendous opportunity for making a massive impact for the Kingdom.
- There is an urgent need—and danger—in the **closed country**. But God has made a way.

Our participation is not their idea, nor ours—it is God’s plan. God never meant for the members of the Body to work in isolation. Hebrews 11:39-40 says: “These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.”

This passage can easily be applied to our humble Liberian brothers ... or to our brothers and sisters in India, and in Spain, in Cuba, in Vietnam, and beyond. And, of course, in lands where there are needs and struggles, where people live lives of humble means, we can see the need for us to help them so that they can be “made perfect.” But——

This passage is not just about the Liberians and Cubans and Vietnamese. The author of the Book of Hebrews is actually referring to superheroes like Abraham and Isaac, Jacob and Joseph, Moses and Daniel and the prophets!

This passage, focusing on the great patriarchs, teaches us this crucial truth:

Faith focuses on the future, not just the present.  
Faith focuses on eternal realities—not things of the moment.  
We must invest our lives confidently in the future, looking ahead to the eternal joys God has promised us!

Many of the heroes of Hebrews 11 suffered for the faith. They inspire us with examples of how people of faith face opposition and hostility. Just as Moses was undeterred by the anger of the pharaoh, we must persist in our devotion to the King of kings and Lord of lords!

God does not want us to miss the Grand Ceremony of rewards. He does not want us to languish as second-rate citizens. He calls us to be worthy of standing in the company of the varsity team.

Friend, you and I live in the midst of very real faith heroes today. We are being asked to help men and women who are living lives of faith for God in the midst of opposition and hostility. *This is about a faith focus that banks on the truth and reliability of God’s promises.* We must come to God believing that He is and that He is the Rewarder of those who seek Him.

The Liberians look to us as we look to the patriarchs and the prophets. We all have an appointment. Indeed, while the Liberians “need” us, we need the Liberians—in order to fulfill our God-given calling!

Please step up with me to this opportunity to conquer new ground. It is our God and Savior who is leading the effort. It is not some beleaguered organization but the church of the Lord Jesus Christ whose march will not be quenched. Are you coming? Please join Him!



I ask you to join me in making room in our hearts for more of God's things; let's not let our God-given vision be crowded out by the trivial things of this world. Let us say together with the Spirit, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives through me." Thank you! God bless you!

Gratefully in Christ,

Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. Come with us to Liberia ... to India ... and to [ \_\_\_\_\_ ]. Let me know how the Lord leads you to be part of taking this new ground—for the salvation of multitudes yet lost in their darkness and slavery!