



November 1, 2014

Dearest Ministry Prayer Partners,

What a thrill to think of you there . . . where God has established you . . . where He is making you bloom! I pray that God will give you a great awareness of the bountiful blessings He bestows on you and your loved ones. May Thanksgiving be for you and yours a celebration of His great faithfulness, mercy, and love!

As I write you, I'm on a plane again—and excited to share with you the words of Jacob Vambo in Liberia. He wrote to tell me that he and Garbleejay are very sick. My immediate question, of course: Did they get *it*? Did they get Ebola? His answer was reassuring: “No. We have malaria, typhoid fever, and a bad cold—nothing serious!” What wonderful bad news!

In spite of these illnesses, Dr. Vambo is enthusiastic: “Many workers have turned out to join the program. I do not want to spoil this golden opportunity for the whole nation and the region! May the Lord show us the path He wants us to follow.”

Imagine: Liberia—a land of golden opportunity! This is certainly not how the world is looking at Liberia these days. It is a place of contamination, superstition, and ignorance that is propagating a deadly disease.

BUT God, who makes all things to work together for His divine purposes, is making this into a golden opportunity for the salvation of millions! *Everyone* in Liberia—Muslim or secular or nominal Christian, everyone—is seeking one thing and one thing only: GOD’S FAVOR!

God’s thoughts are definitely not our thoughts, and His ways are not our ways:

Seek the LORD while He may be found;
Call upon Him while He is near.
Let the wicked forsake his way
And the unrighteous man his thoughts;
And let him return to the LORD,
And He will have compassion on him,
And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon.

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.
“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways
And My thoughts than your thoughts.”

God’s heart is calling out to all who are thirsty to come to the waters, and for him who has no money to come and buy without money and eat! This is the golden opportunity for Liberia . . . and for every country where we work . . . and for every context where any of us who serve Him find ourselves. **Success is guaranteed**, He says:

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
And do not return there without watering the earth
And making it bear and sprout,
And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;
So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth;
It will not return to Me empty,
Without accomplishing what I desire,
And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.”

Because of the guarantees, we can be assured that our investment will be worth eternal gold. God Himself is investing His Word, His Son! He will see the result of His sufferings, and then His heart shall be satisfied! When we interpret Liberia in the light of Scripture, we can see that we are not just on the right track . . . we are in the center of God’s will!

I praise the Lord that all our fields are on God’s heart, and showing wonderful fruitfulness . . .

The last two weeks I’ve been all over Spain meeting with our people at the extension centers. There is genuine enthusiasm as the students articulate their vision for their ministries in the year ahead. Aimee, in her third year in the central program, has an exciting vision for her native Cuba. She lives in Madrid and studies with us, but her heart is at home.

She urged us to give her dad a chance at church planting in Cienfuegos, Cuba. I always feel some hesitation about nepotism, but we decided to give them a try. Suddenly I was greeted with a smattering of pictures of the “building project” from the church that her father has planted! The people of the new church *themselves* came up with all the funds to acquire the land and building materials—and then they built it!

I praise the Lord that He led us to say *yes* to the “investment.” The Word did not return void—it accomplished what God sent it out to do—in spades, for all eternity!

Aimee confidently shared her bold vision for Cuba. She has a passion for children’s evangelism—as a means of reaching their parents—in order to gather whole families into churches!

Last summer, she went back with her husband and their little daughter and started a child evangelism project linked with her father’s church-plant. She and her little team of “little women” led 300 children to Christ! The children came from different parts of the city, and Aimee knew that they would need follow-up. So with her own money, she has hired three Cuban workers to do the work that needs to be done!

Her maternal instincts have kicked into high gear. She wants to nurture the children and families in her program. She wants to provide for her workers and send support regularly to keep the program going strong.

She's only begun. She sees the countless neighborhoods throughout Cuba—a gold mine! She wants 15 champion ladies to fan out and replicate the program as far and wide as God leads them. The church is a living organism, we see it born, and then grow with a life all its own.

(I made the “mistake” of telling her that the mission was composed of three main parts: Great Vision, Great Strategy, and Great Capacity. She wanted to know all about the parts, and how they work, and why they work, and how they grow. Now, she says, she can't sleep at night! I told her to join the club!)

But Cuba is only the beginning! From **China**, our contact writes:

“We are finding a new rhythm for ministry. We have a new leader [a senior in college] we have been watching for three months. Bottom line, the leader is ready to be a church planter. I want to see if we can put him through the World Link Ministries as well.

“We are also in the process of evaluating other seniors as well, and they want to serve in evangelism and church planting beyond college also. Have there been any revisions for the vision and strategy on China to allow a higher cap and more workers? Can we provide an answer for these Chinese evangelists?”

What can I tell him? The need in China is massive, and we can only do what we can.

Fair enough. But are we doing all we *could*? Our team leader in China asks, “What is the cap?” This is a profound question! Is the cap in the will of God, or is it in the will of men?

Our China leader ends with these words: “As you know, your answer determines how we grow and how we respond to those who are willing to go preach . . . if someone sends them.”

Amazing enthusiasm! *Enthusiasm* means “God is in it.” It's what Isaiah 55 celebrates:

For you will go out with joy
And be led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you,
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

There's joy, there's peace in the lives of true believers who find rest in Christ . . . whose broken lives are healed . . . who come to experience the abundant life that comes through Him.

We certainly are experiencing the joy and the peace in lives made new in Him. So much is happening right now—leaders seizing this “golden opportunity,” people coming to faith! We are preaching the Gospel in places of danger and turmoil where hearts are wide open, and the soul-harvest is in full swing. We praise God like our brothers in Liberia who, even in the midst of Ebola, are rejoicing for the incredible “God-visitation” into their country . . . the result of many prayers they've offered up over many years.

And so, my friend, here is my question: *What does your heart tell you? How do you read the times? How do you interpret the scenarios churning our world?*

Jesus has a direct take on how we should view these harvest times and take advantage of them. At a time of thanksgiving for God's faithfulness and bountiful provision, it's good to remember that His blessing is meant to help us—not simply for our own sake, but so that His name may be known on the Earth:

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine on us—
*so that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.*

Jesus says this: "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom."

Jesus says this: "Sell your possessions and give to charity; make yourselves money belts which do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near nor moth destroys."

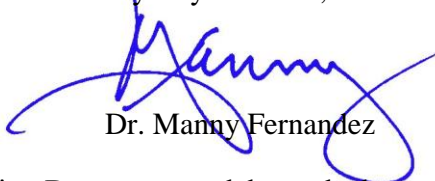
Jesus says this: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

We know that God graciously meets our needs, above and beyond what we can ask or think. He wants us to go beyond the assurance of His faithfulness, to accomplish the good works that He has prepared for us. He would have us, together with our brothers far away, seize the golden opportunities to make eternity the sweeter . . . leveraging His faithfulness beyond ourselves, to reach those who are yet to believe.

As this year draws to an end, please prayerfully consider how the Lord might have you put a "gold seal" on it—seizing golden opportunities in the many fields where He has led us to be engaged in His work together. Please give generously today.

May the Lord bless you in every way, as we finish strong in the soul-harvest!

Joyfully in Christ,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. I pray that on Thanksgiving Day, as you celebrate the bounty of God's blessing upon your life, you will also have the joy of knowing that you are sharing His life, His love, with a world in need. Thank you again!