

My prayer for you today:

May the Lord <u>answer</u> you in the day of trouble!

May the name of the God of Jacob <u>protect</u> you!

May he send you <u>help</u> from the sanctuary
and give you <u>support</u> from Zion! . . .

May he grant you your heart's <u>desire</u>
and fulfill all your <u>plans</u>!

Psalm 20:1-2,4

April 1, 2017

Dear Ministry Partner,

The cloud is moving! Let's go!

God led the children of Israel with a "pillar of cloud," starting in Exodus 13—whenever the cloud moved, they moved. They only stopped when the cloud stopped.

Today, no question about it—God is still on the move! The only question is—can we keep up?

Will we keep moving with God?

Every young leader who graduates from our teaching programs is trained to *move with the cloud*.

As they move, their ministry multiplies into the lives of others . . . and they begin moving with the cloud too.

Through your generous support for World Link, you are moving with the cloud of the Lord all over the world!

Let me give you just one beautiful but typical example: His name is Bruno. . . .

He was born and raised in the Canary Islands and first heard of our seminary through our ministry in the Canaries back in 1998. Bruno and Lydia, newlyweds, began attending our extension in Grand Canary. When Bruno saw how we reached out to all eight of the islands in 2001, he liked what he saw!

On fire for Jesus, Bruno and Lydia decided to follow us back to Madrid and enroll in our four-year program. One of our requirements is that students must do (not just study) evangelism and church-planting. But Bruno and Lydia were too passionate about the work of God to plant only one church—they planted two! Bruno's heart beats for Christ's Great Commission!



Soon after their graduation, Bruno and Lydia joined Evangelism in Action, a Spanish organization committed to evangelism and church-planting. In Malaga, close to the rock of Gibraltar, Bruno and Lydia planted a <u>third</u> church!

But by age 33 Bruno was hungry for more. Where was God's cloud moving? Bruno looked at the world and saw GIGANTIC need *EVERYWHERE!* 

When the couple was invited to British Columbia to learn English through a one-year program, Bruno spent the whole year fidgeting. He didn't like being "out of the ministry"—even though it was just one year of study!

The Lord, however, had moved the cloud strategically. There in <u>Canada</u>, Bruno was approached by a <u>Japanese</u> family from <u>Peru</u>—asking them to plant a church among <u>Salvadorans</u> and other Latin Americans in British Columbia.

God's tapestry is global! This seemingly crazy connection of ethnicities is only a surprise to us because we don't have the "big picture" that God has. As a matter of fact, throughout the 1990s, the president of Peru was a Japanese leader named Alberto Fujimori. Peru is home to more than 100,000 Nikkei Japanese (Japanese emigrants and their offspring).

Bruno realized that God's cloud had led him and Lydia to Canada not only to learn English, but for a much greater purpose. There were Latin Americans everywhere! Bruno was thrilled with this new mission field—except for the weather; he felt like the stereotypical suffering missionary coming from the land of endless sunshine to a land of long winters!

The Son was shining in their hearts, however. It was clear that this wasn't just a one-church opportunity. Bruno remembered how we had reached out to eight Canary Islands simultaneously in a single month—a single campaign reaching three million people with the Gospel!

So Bruno sent an SOS by email: "The harvest is great, the workers are few!" His description was exciting—he could start multiple churches, if he only had help. It was a predicament of great opportunity but limited capacity: low human resources and few financial resources.

Would we help—even though Canada was far from Spain? Our answer was Yes! (It was especially easy to say Yes because Bruno and Lydia were laboring barely 100 miles from Alderwood Community Church, one of our most faithful partners over the past three decades, in Lynnwood, Washington.)



Bruno wanted the whole program! He wanted to establish a "train and deploy" extension with the same curriculum and the same requirements as our work in Spain.

## Soon we had launched 14 churches in Western Canada with Bruno and Lydia serving as our ambassadors . . . <u>your</u> ambassadors!

As a special gift from the Lord, their beautiful daughter Hannah was born there. (Her beautiful golden hair reminded them of their far-off, sun-drenched homeland!)

In 2008, the economic crisis hit Canada hard. To help provide work for Canadian citizens, the government revoked foreign workers' visas. Bruno and Lydia weren't distressed. The cloud was moving again—so it was time to move on!

Back in Spain, seven churches invited them to come serve as their pastors. After much prayer and consultation, Bruno and Lydia headed for the neediest place: Benidorm, on the Mediterranean coast. The city's largest religious compound: Jehovah's Witnesses!

Again Bruno called us to ask for help. "The harvest is **VERY** great," he reported, "the laborers are **VERY** few!" They wanted to open an extension in Benidorm and do multiple church plants.

"I knew Manny never says no to evangelism and church-planting," Bruno recalls. But I'd put it differently: <u>God</u> never says no to evangelism and church planting! He said "Go into all the world" and "Behold, I am with you always"—so we go, and He is with those who go!

With Bruno and Lydia, we had the joy of launching another 15 churches, and we've graduated nearly 50. One of the graduates, Francisco, has planted a church in the community of Murcia, with more than 150 adults—tremendously successful by the standards of Spain, where the average church has no more than 65 members.

The cloud was moving! Francisco asked if we could launch an extension in Murcia using his own church as a springboard for the Gospel to the region—soon another 15 churches were launched there as well.

And still the cloud is moving: In the last three summers, Canary Islanders have invited Bruno and Lydia to conduct evangelistic campaigns back in their native land. After Bruno and Lydia's 17 years of working in hard soil far from home, the Canary Islands seem like a fruitful garden. They can't believe how readily people receive the Gospel now that they're working "Spaniard to Spaniard."



(They're experiencing what God showed us way back in 1985. Spaniards respond best to Spaniards, Italians to Italians, Indians to Indians. The Lord has shown us in every country that cultural affinity is fundamental for accelerated church-planting.)

In Spain alone, we now have graduated more than 500 students. Their stories of evangelism, church-planting, and ministry are endless. And Spain is only one field among all those where the Lord's cloud has moved us. . . .

- 703 workers are being trained and deployed in <u>Cuba</u>—and more than 2,000 waiting to be integrated into our program. (My son Manny Jr. is there leading a training course for preachers with Pastor David Daniels.)
- 120 workers in <u>India</u> are planting 350 churches as you read this—with an additional 40 other churches being planted by volunteers who have attended our training courses but couldn't wait to be officially integrated into our teams! (My daughter Elizabeth is there with the team of women from Johnson Ferry Baptist, her home church in Marietta, Georgia.)

Where is the Lord's cloud moving next? For Bruno, the next step is to open an extension on every one of the eight islands in the Canaries. For someone else, the next step is to give a generous gift to empower those on the front lines of ministry.

The key is to move when the cloud moves—and only camp when the cloud settles down—just like the children of Israel in the wilderness (Numbers 9:17).

This is my fervent plea to you today: Ask the Lord how He wants you to move. Where He wants you to camp. *Stay in step with the cloud.* This was the Israelites' divine mandate.

And it is ours! Are you in motion with Christ's Great Commission? Are you keeping in step with the cloud? Have you camped where God's cloud has led you?

"...We are convinced of better things concerning you, and things that accompany salvation... For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints. And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end" (Hebrews 6:9-11).

Let us be like the Lord of the harvest. Let us be known for never saying *No* to evangelism, discipling, and church planting. Our summer ministry campaigns are just around the corner, so we need your help now. By God's grace, with your generous support today, the summer harvest will be a glorious time of salvation!



The cloud is moving! Let's go! Thank you! God bless you!

Rejoicing in the Soul Harvest,

Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. How many thousands of people have been touched by the power of God through the multiplied ministries set in motion by one friend like you who gave the gift of support that brought Bruno to us nearly two decades ago! Who knows how God will use the generous gift you give today? See how God works; I invite you to be as generous as possible!