

May 1, 2012

Dear World Link Partners,

May the joy of the Lord be your strength. He is unceasingly working to make “all things to work together” for your good.

I am excited for the great things we see happening on the fields. But the opposition — the pressure — the persecution — is growing dramatically. The latest news out of Spain from a TownHall.com report:

Efforts are currently underway in Spain to criminally prosecute Catholic Bishop Juan Antonio Reig Plà of the diocese of Alcalá de Henares.

It seems he had the audacity to deliver a homily from the Bible during a Good Friday mass extolling the virtues of the sinless life.

And as bad as this was—reading aloud from the Bible on Good Friday and all—everything he did was acceptable until he included “homosexual behavior” as one of the sins to be avoided.

This brought out the ever-predictable torches-in-hand witch-hunters promoting, above all else, the notion that any and all of criticism of homosexual behavior must be harshly stamped out, and those uttering such blasphemies must be punished to the fullest extent of the law.

Here we see how “Christian” Spain is coming along! The country boasts of being the third country in the world to legalize gay marriage. Ironically, the bishop under fire comes from the Barcelona region, the number one gay city for the whole of Western Europe!

People say, “But I thought Spain was Catholic!” It was. Today it is under the stranglehold of secularism.

And yet — **God is doing a wonderful thing in Spain!**

(You’re probably thinking “this better be good.” Yes! Is it fantastic!)

In the early 1980s, we had the greatest number of missionaries that Spain had ever seen — as many as 2,000 of them. We didn’t know it at the time, but our ministry was part of that push to “get missionaries into Spain.” But Spain became “the cemetery for missionaries.” Today, the number of North American missionaries has decreased considerably.

But God has not given up on Spain. In fact, He has used the Spanish government to **import** an impressive “missionary task force”!

Here's how it happened:

- Spain's government discovered that the country has a severe decrease in biological growth of the population — one major byproduct of same-sex marriages.
- Spain's leaders calculated that their population would lose 10 million people, and the rest of the population would be around 68 years old.
- The highly taxed working class pays for the socialist country's programs. The country needs a working class to pay for so many retirees on the pension plan.
- The solution was to "import" millions of Latin Americans. These people already speak the language and obviously have ties to Spain. They needed about 10 million such people.
- The genius of the whole ordeal is that 20% of those millions are *born again Evangelicals* — who are also, characteristically very evangelistic!

I was with the pastor of the largest church in Barcelona, Julio Perez, last month, and he concurred: The reason for the explosive growth in all the Evangelical churches of the country, he said, was due to the influx of Latin American believers looking for churches!

"They are acting as a large missionary force," he said, "inside the very homes of very influential people in the country."

I can't help but think of a brave little girl in the Scriptures in the house of a very influential general....

Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.

Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "*If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy*" (II Kings 5:1-3).

The rest is a beautiful story of redemption for Naaman. The opportune words of an innocent "nobody" brought salvation to Aram!

God is still using every tactic in the book. *He is still using every person who will speak and act on the strategic information they have.* You and I are part of God's strategy!

By God's grace, we have received many of the newly arrived Latin Americans into our Spain

seminary programs. This May, we are graduating a majority of Latin Americans. This year, also, we welcomed a large first-year class — the majority of whom are Latin Americans!

(Confession time: When I saw how many Latins we have in the school, I felt fear. “Lord I don’t know if the Spaniards will respond to Latin Americans,” I prayed. But God’s gentle response, I think, was: “Haven’t you ever seen yourself in a mirror?” Ouch!)

So the old “missionary thrust” brought some 2,000 missionaries to Spain ... but with this, the *new* missionary thrust, we have around 2 million, and growing!

Are we done then? Can we “go home” now? No! Spain’s population of 40 million of yesteryear is now over 46 million. God wants all hands on deck. He has a part for each of us to play. He wants you and me to stay focused on, and understand, and execute the strategy....

The commission was and is “make disciples by teaching them to obey.” A disciple is not a disciple until he or she is *walking in obedience, following the captain*.

You and I are to bloom and bear fruit from our position wherever we are: from Jerusalem, to Judea, to Samaria, to the ends of the Earth. This is the Great Commission, and orders remain unchanged.

What does this look like for you and me, right now? Well, I have been handed the blueprints of the church which serves as our seminary campus in Madrid. (If you want to “walk around” it, go on Google Earth and ask for c/Talia 32, Madrid, Spain; choose the street view — while you’re at it, you can tour downtown Madrid!)

I was handed the blueprints because **the time is at hand for us to purchase the building**. The church has outgrown it, and by a miracle of God’s provision, they were granted free “religious soil” from the government, an almost obsolete practice. But under the rules of such an acquisition, they have just two years to build the facility they proposed.

So the church needs the proceeds of the sale of their current building (which also serves as our current campus) in order to begin construction.

The challenge for us: \$1 million. (The church will also be raising another \$1.7 million to build their new facility.)

In the natural, it is not a “done deal.” Owners of a Chinese restaurant would love to buy the church and turn the church into a “Chinese Palace.” This is a sad movement across much of Europe. Churches are becoming restaurants, pubs, fruit markets, and worse.

But with the help of Quail Lakes Baptist Church, we can take out a loan for one-half million dollars, and a ministry partner may be able to help us borrow the other half-million ... with the goal of establishing our seminary as a center for igniting the re-evangelization of Europe.

Our vision: “Accelerated Church-Planting ... a Spirit-empowered evangelistic force that

recognizes, continuously trains, deploys and supports committed Christian leaders in their countries to saturate their regions with the Gospel, and to plant churches.”

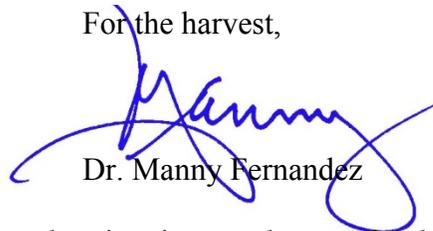
For this cause, I have no doubt, God wants you. He has committed to *all the reconciled* the **ministry of reconciliation**. He made you and me ambassadors for Christ.

Why are we working to get loans? Because of the urgency of the church to build so quickly, as they have pledged. But as we secure these loans, we will need to stay current on our payments, as well as our ministry expenses.

- **We need scholarships** at \$200 per month to train the students God has commissioned. God Himself asks, “How will they go unless they are sent?”
- **We need prayer** for God to lead us to people of kindred hearts, to unleash the resources to pay for the building, and to transform it into a facility for igniting the re-evangelization of Europe.
- **We need 6 friends** giving \$1,000 per month, or **12 friends** giving \$500 per month, to pay on the loan until funds are secured for the total purchase.
- **We need you** to do whatever God would have you to do — immediately and monthly, large or small. He can use “faith-driven” loaves and fishes!

Now, I entrust this plea to your heart, and to the work of the Holy Spirit within you. Please notice the Lord at work. Please join Him in this ministry of reconciliation. Please let me hear from you quickly! Thank you. God bless you!

For the harvest,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. I trust you can sense that time is very short — for this great challenge to be met -- and for our work in the world to be completed before Jesus returns. So I ask you again, from my heart, to act quickly. Thank you for understanding.



Linking the World to a New Life in Christ
