



December 2, 2011

Dear World Link Partners,

Warm greetings in this happy season!

May the Lord grant you the blessing of understanding ... understanding His great love for you and yours ... as you dwell on the truest meaning of Christmas!

In God's heart, Christmas is definitely a Big Event. The coming of His Son was on His heart before the foundation of the world — Rev. 13:8 calls Jesus “the lamb slain before the foundation of the world.” Look at the very meaning of the word *Christmas*: the “mass,” or “sacrifice,” of Christ.

But the meaning of Christmas doesn't end ... the sacrifice didn't stop ... it didn't apply only to those first-generation Christians. Thank God that it did not stop with any generation before it got to us! *Christmas is the passing down of God's indescribable gift year after year.* We must pass it along, generation to generation, until the end of time!

I believe **God lives in the joy of Christmas 365 days a year.** The reality of what He did, on that first Christmas night so long ago, lights up the darkness of a lost soul. Every time we proclaim the Christmas message to someone who hasn't heard it — “To you is born a Savior to deliver you from your sins!” — there is celebration in heaven!

In this way, Christmas is powerful, it is personal, it is transformational. It transports people from “the domain of darkness to the kingdom of His beloved Son.” We could fill encyclopedias with galaxies of testimonies of people who were “fast bound in chains.”

I could show you a thousand times over, in story after true story — but I'm going to share with you just one beautiful example: I think it will make you smile!

Let me take you to Madrid, Spain ... back in time, to a fine, sunny summer day....

A group of American kids were coming to the end of a missions project. They were down to their last 8 Bibles. The bus was going to leave within 20 minutes. *This is Act I of a beautiful Christmas drama.* There was a multi-family building; the teens ran in and started knocking on doors, hoping to give away the last of their Bibles.

A dear lady, whom I'll call Mrs. Garcia, came to the door. She received a Bible, listened to the young people's hurried instructions — and began to read the Gospels. She had been going to a church regularly, but had never had a Bible to read. In fact, the ones they read in her church were in Latin, not in Spanish.

Mrs. Garcia was amazed at the easy reading ... delighted by her first-ever experience reading a Bible for herself! Time and again, she could read about Jesus' purpose in coming. She understood how freely salvation was meant to be obtained.

She could see that those who *should* have known God's Word were the ones who rejected Him and argued with Him....

She also saw how average people, who responded with faith, were blessed by Him, and became His people.

Soon, Mrs. Garcia decided she wanted to be sure that she was in the right group!

So she prayed a momentous prayer — and from that moment, she knew: having done what “the good guys” did, she was in a good relationship with God.

But then came the trouble. *Here's Act II.*

Mrs. Garcia went to the minister at her church and told him her entire experience — about the Americans, and the free Bibles in Spanish, and about her findings in the reading, and her heartfelt commitment to God by receiving Jesus as her Savior.

To her utter shock, the minister got very angry!

He began to reprimand her for not coming to him in the first place.

He told her she was not qualified to understand the Bible.

He actually proceeded to tear up the “free Bible” in chunks!

Mrs. Garcia was stunned. Deeply hurt. That was her Bible. He had no right to do what he was doing. She had never in all her years understood half of what she had understood in the last few days by reading on her own!

Through her tears, on hands and knees, she picked up the chunks of the Bible ... then she went home to *tape her Bible back together as best she could.*

Entirely on her own, Mrs. Garcia came to a key conclusion: it was not right to spend one's life going to church yet not learning the simple but powerful truths of the Bible. She even began to feel responsible for the discoveries she was making ... she felt she should tell everyone about this very important reality so that they would no longer live in ignorance like she had!

How? Where? The farmers' market!

Here begins Act III of our Christmas drama. The farmers' market is where people go to sell things or promote events and causes. But with this new idea, her son Carlos was getting worried about Mom. *What's gotten into her?* It definitely was something to do with "that book." Now she even wanted to go to the market and "promote" it! How would people respond to her?

Carlos decided he would go with her, to keep her safe. He would stand at a prudent distance — so he could rescue her if things went badly, but without any "guilt by association."

At the market, people were civil. There were no incidents. God was working "low-key." Two women listened to Mrs. Garcia share the Good News, then they invited her and Carlos to their church. Mrs. Garcia didn't even know that any other churches existed!

The next Sunday, Mrs. Garcia and her nervous son arrived at a church in downtown Madrid. They sat close to the door — Carlos wanted to ensure a quick exit if necessary. But as the service began, it didn't seem very threatening. The songs were very warm and friendly. The teaching was like a very much overdue explanation of the ancient truths in the Bible. The invitation for salvation was exactly like Mrs. Garcia read for herself!

In tears, Carlos and his mother both went forward to publicly accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

This was like Christmas in Madrid,
in the middle of the summer!

Fast-forward with me now ... to the amazing final scene of this real-life Christmas drama....

Carlos today is President of the Association of Evangelists of Spain. He is a graduate of London Bible College in England and a Professor of Evangelism at our seminary in Madrid. He has planted seven churches!

Those young people, delivering Bibles door-to-door, were Christmas messengers. They were living out the truth that Christmas does not stop on December 26. It is not limited to one generation, or one group, or any one person....

- The teens shared it with Mrs. Garcia.
- Mrs. Garcia shared it in the marketplace.
- Two anonymous Christian women shared it with Carlos.
- Carlos is sharing it through his multiple ministries. And those who receive it from him are sharing it with untold thousands!

The truest Christmas keeps going, keeps giving, until the very end.



Jesus gave us the “Christmas Commission” in John 20:21: “As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.” Someone, one day some time ago, shared the saving message of Christ “Mass” with you. How willing are you to pass it on to someone else?

The American kids who went on that summer trip probably will not know until heaven what their simple act of obedience accomplished.

It probably was not very dramatic at all to hand out a Bible.

They never witnessed Mrs. Garcia’s dramatic conversion.

They never knew about Carlos’s amazing ministry.

They just did what God gave them to do.

They just obeyed.

Today, I invite you to do what God has given you to do. To obey Christ’s “Christmas Commission.” To share the life-changing truth of Christmas with a world in urgent need by supporting our ministry in giving once again. God has entrusted resources to you this year. You can give back a portion of that through a “Christmas gift” today.

Please help us to finish the year strong and to launch a new and victorious 2012. People need Jesus. I look forward to hearing from you quickly. Thank you in advance. And may your Christmas be beautifully blessed!

Yours for a world in need of a Savior,

Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. Who knows what God will do, in the life of someone far away, through the Christmas gift you give today? Maybe by His grace, you’ll be reaching another Mrs. Garcia ... or raising up another Carlos ... But *whatever comes of your Christmas gift today, there is no question, someone will come to know Jesus — and there will be rejoicing in heaven!*

Thank you again for being a part of what God continues to do in the world through our ministry together!