



November 1, 2015

Dearest ministry partner!

I wish you a happy Thanksgiving! May the mercies of the Lord through the years find you in the great spirit of gratitude.

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him, established in the faith, just as you were taught, overflowing with gratitude (Colossians 2:6,7).

I am filled with joy and gratitude for a great start to another ministry year! I just got back from launching the ministry year in Spain, and I am excited about the fresh enthusiasm that I see every time we start with a new group of young, eager servants.

They have felt the call!
They have answered it!
The teaching is new to them!
It opens their eyes.
They can't wait to go out and try it!

The most striking quality I saw was in San Sebastian. I was teaching “homiletics”: how to draw and prepare biblical messages. During the Q&A session, these students had lots of questions about answering people when they're sharing the Gospel.

But the great need they wanted to prepare for was “apologetics”: the *reason* for the hope we embrace as Christians, the defense of the Christian faith. I was so blessed by their eager questions!

And they were not only overjoyed to learn that we as Christians have answers, but also impressed with the quality of the answers . . . answers developed over the entire 2,000-year- history of the Christian faith!

The whole weekend took me back to the early days when I first received the vision from the Lord to start the seminary. . . .

A pastor friend and I, sharing the Gospel with a pharmacist during our weekly Gospel outreach.

The pharmacist began to make arguments for evolution. I began to answer them one by one. He finally ran out of material!



But just then, a former priest—who had turned into a philosophy teacher—walked in. He heard what we were talking about and wanted to give a happy solution to the debate. He suggested that the Bible was only a book of practical help for some people. “It works,” he said.

The philosopher then suggested that Moses had climbed a mountain and carved out the Ten Commandments; then he came down and told the people that God has given them to him. They were to obey them in order to become a nation. The people obeyed them—so . . . “it works”!

This theory would be acceptable, I replied, if we call Moses a liar. He objected that he had not said this. *Uh, sorry . . . but this is exactly what you said.*

Now the philosopher wanted to switch tactics. He wanted to talk about the existence of God. So I answered with a theistic argument. By the time I got to the fourth point of the argument, the philosopher simply stopped—and changed subjects.

He began to relate his sad experience as a priest. I shared the good news of authentic Christianity with him.

We parted with two new friends . . . a pharmacist and a philosopher.

But as we left, my pastor friend talked about the loss he felt, not having training.

“I wish I could answer like you,” he said, “the way you answered both of them.” My explanation was straightforward: every single answer, I had learned in the seminary.

And in that moment, I began to realize:

We must train Christian leaders.

The vision for our Seminary for Theological and Evangelistic Training had been born!

We have seen clearly, down through the years, that God was in the birthing of that vision.



- We've graduated more than 400 people—a huge achievement in Europe. Many seminaries have only 15 or so in their entire student body! Other seminaries close their doors every two or three years, until they can recruit enough students to function for another cycle.
- The hunger for study and preparation among young Christian leaders continues growing. This year we have another 150 students in five programs around the country.
- Many are pastors who have never attended seminary; they're coming to be trained for the first time! This is thrilling!
- We're also fielding requests to open extension campuses in other parts of Spain—and beyond.
- Our program has become a flagship: The study of the Scriptures with a requirement of evangelism and church planting has been very attractive to a number of other countries.
- (This morning, our team in Liberia reports wonderful progress in church planting: nearly 4,000 people have been converted, and 1,200 of those have been baptized. The stats are also amazing in Cuba and elsewhere!)

God is good! Within a couple months, we'll enter our 25th year of ministry! And now He has given us an opportunity to establish a permanent home for our flagship school. This building will give us a powerful platform for attracting and training many more students.

We have momentum. We're the only conservative evangelical seminary to reject an alliance with Spain's Ministry of Education—which makes us unique for the right reasons. To have joined the university system would have obligated us to embrace homosexuality as an acceptable practice. Our decision to stand alone is an inspiration to all those who love the Bible in Spain and surrounding countries. (Already we're hearing of the adverse impact on institutions that signed the agreement with the government.)

The establishment of a facility to house our seminary will be the lifting up of a banner. As the Scriptures say: "You have given a banner to those who fear you, that it may be displayed because of the truth" (Psalm 60:4).



In the midst of chaos, God's banner will rally His people around Him, to make a stand for His truth, to fulfill our calling, Christ's Great Commission!

My prayer is that we will leave a legacy of teaching, a legacy of proclaiming God's truth to a wayward continent.

We are called like Elijah—to whom God made His intentions clear: *Although He can destroy with quakes, and wind, and fire, His plan today is to seek and to save.* We are to carry out the ministry of reconciliation. We are to speak with the gentle whisper of His mercy and His grace.

The time is ripe for reaching out. It's not too late to reach multitudes. God's heart of compassion, as revealed in Revelation 10, is to plead until the very end for people to turn to Him and be saved. The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ will not retire from its mission; it will be raptured while in the midst of it!

This new seminary facility is urgently important. Please help build it.

With this letter I'm enclosing a drawing of the building; it's been approved by the city authorities. We're preparing for construction—we will move absolutely as quickly as possible—we'll break ground as soon as we have enough of our construction funding in hand.

I believe this is God's timing. . . .

- As I write, we're preparing for the holidays . . . wonderful festivities deeply rooted in the Christian faith. At Thanksgiving, we as God's people will be especially grateful that God did not spare His Son, but delivered Him up for us . . . and He gives us all things.
- Then comes Christmas, that most beautiful reminder that we, the people who used to dwell in darkness, have seen a great Light! It is also a reminder that we are now commissioned, in the name of Christ, to go and proclaim that "unto you is born a Savior!"
- And finally, New Year's Eve. A time of revelry around the world . . . but for us, far more importantly, an ideal time to serve as God's channels for God's purposes. Year-end giving can have special meaning for us this year, as we prepare an extraordinary legacy . . . building something that will outlast us . . . a work that will keep producing eternal fruit beyond our lifetime!

I warmly invite you, before the Lord, to give a



year-end legacy gift today. I also encourage you to commit today to support this great effort over the course of the entire three-year construction campaign.

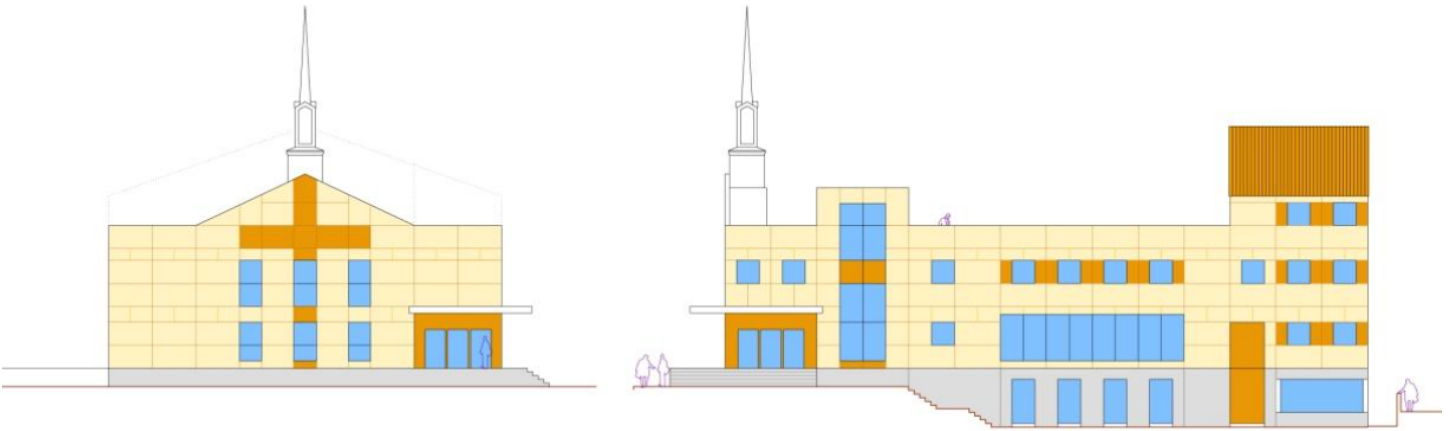
You can make the vision come to pass. *Only one life: 'twill soon be passed; only what's done for Christ will last.* Whatever God would have you to do, large or small, do it with all your heart. I make the same commitment to you. I hope to hear from you soon.

May God bless you and fill these special days with a joy unspeakable and full of glory!

With joy,

Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. Someday in heaven you'll meet countless multitudes who came to Christ through the witness of those who came through our seminary in Madrid. Their life in Christ will be your legacy. Thank you in advance for helping us "raise this banner" over Europe "because of the truth"!



Exterior architect drawings (above)
 Exterior image basement entrance to
 dining hall and clothes bank (left)
 Exterior view of loading dock (right)



The Vision Becoming Reality

Main Sanctuary Level blueprints
 and 3d Image. Image includes
 offices and study area lobby

