



June 1, 2018

Dear Ministry Partners,

Warmest greetings from Jerusalem!

My prayer for you at the Western Wall of the Temple is that He may strengthen your inner man, so that Jesus may freely lead your life—and you may thereby experience the fullness of what God’s love means to do in your life! (Ephesians 3:14-19)

Why am I in Jerusalem? *Here’s why:*

A group of students and church people from Spain have come to Israel on a field trip—gaining a foundation for their understanding of both the Old and New Testaments for the rest of their lives and ministries! Fantastic! (You can inquire about joining us on an upcoming visit to Israel using the enclosed reply card.)

This has been a whirlwind trip—America to Spain to Israel! I wish you could have come along with me to see everything firsthand!

In Spain I saw great preachers graduate, finishing their courses in preaching and commencing on a life of sharing God’s Word, gathering much fruit that remains. **THIS IS YOUR DOING!** This could not happen without your help! I’m so grateful to the Lord for your support!

One terrific graduate you’re sending out is Joshua. He’s from Catalonia in the northeast of Spain, and he has distinguished himself as a great scholar. He actually *came* to us with an amazing background in the Scriptures and in theology. His pastor told me that since he was fourteen Joshua has surprised him with remarkably perceptive questions!

(As we studied 2 Samuel 24, he actually wanted to know if the passage is to be preached as a study of [a] David’s sin in taking a census, or [b] David setting the stage for the future temple by staying the plague and setting up the site for Solomon’s later construction project! He has an incredible thought process!)

It has been special working with Joshua. It was particularly gratifying to hear his end-of-seminary interview before the students. He was asked about his favorite subject. Since he was excellent in every one of them, I was very interested to hear his answer.



Joshua declared homiletics—preaching—to be his favorite. “I have been learning, and will always continue to learn,” he began. “But I did not know how to preach—and I could not learn that on my own.”

I’m grateful that you and I had a key role in this life-changing, ministry-shaping achievement! We’ve always taught our students that if you know a lot of Bible and theology *but you don’t know how to preach*, you’re like a computer without a monitor or a printer! There might be a lot inside of you, but no one can benefit from it.

Joshua wasn’t the only one who had something heartwarming to say in the final chapel interview and the graduation ceremonies. These were great times of affirmation and blessing—that YOU should have heard! Students expressed *gratitude* for what you’ve done. Speaking of friends like you who invested in faith, one spoke these clear and beautiful words:

“We won’t meet them until we get to heaven, but they are the ones that have made this possible.”

Daniel is another graduate I’m especially proud of. He got a perfect score for preaching! He’s heading to the Fort Worth Seminary to get his master’s degree, then coming back with a passion for making a difference in as great an expanse of Europe as God has in mind!

Yet even in the midst of all this well-deserved celebration . . . there was anguish.

The recent airplane crash in Havana hit me hard. As I write this, 107 of 110 people on board are confirmed dead. This was the same flight we once routinely took for some 18 years between Havana and the Holguin area of Cuba.

(Some time ago, our teams switched to making this trek by van, in two or three cross-country segments, simply to use our time and money more efficiently, and to get more ministry accomplished en route.)

Twenty Nazarene pastors were on board the doomed plane; they were returning home from a conference in Havana. A number of our workers in the country are Nazarene; I haven’t heard yet if anyone from our group was aboard.

The whole country is shocked by the tragedy. Our workers are doing their part to respond with compassion and care and taking this opportunity to



guide people to consider the need to be at peace with God.

Our hearts grieve with the families who have lost loved ones. I feel an especially deep sadness for the families—and the congregations—of the pastors who died.

Yet this sobering shock also spurs us to action: We must press on. We must get the Word out to the people of the land!

This is how Jesus responded to tragedy.

The governor Pilate reportedly executed Galilean Jews—a horrific tragedy. A tower in the Jerusalem neighborhood known as Siloam collapsed and killed 18 people—a terrible calamity. Jesus seized the moment, directly and decisively, to express a crucial truth: Everyone is in peril—and the insecurity of life should spur us all to ponder our absolute need of security in eternity!

Certainly the shock and sadness of a tragic situation can be paralyzing. But Jesus shows us the way: Shock and loss—and the recognition of our own frailty—must translate into *marching orders* for the Christ-follower!

Let us be reminded all over again that *people are being lost—entering eternity with Christ—every day*. Let it be clear to us, in a new way, that *time is of the essence*—and that we must make the most of our every resource in order to achieve the eternal purpose that God has entrusted to us.

The testimony of eternity lives within every heart. This is the very fabric of our faith. Our spiritual future, our eternal future, is not a fantasy. It is *reality*. Secularism, in its modern-day advance, seeks to strangle this reality out of our thinking and our planning.

It's nonsense, our culture sneers.

It's far away, our culture yawns.

We must keep our eyes, and our hearts, focused on the reality of the future—which is eternity.

We must fill our hearts with His Word, which is the source of faith . . . for “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”



Oh friend, I pray for you today the way Paul the apostle prayed in Ephesians 3:14-19. It is not a “generic” prayer by any means. He specifically prays for each member of the Trinity to make an effective impact in our lives:

“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father . . . that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory . . .”

1. **“To be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man”** — He asks first for the Spirit to strengthen us—that we would be able to do what He wants us to do, and not do what He tells us not to do.
2. **“That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith . . . to know the love of Christ”** — He wants Jesus to feel at home in our hearts as we let Him rule freely over our lives . . .
3. **“That you may be filled with all the fullness of God”** — that we would experience a complete, deep relationship with the Father!

In this, we would come to know the depth, and breadth, and length, and height of all that the love of God can accomplish in our lives! Imagine that!

I am so grateful to have tasted it myself. God took me as a street kid in Mexico—and has propelled me into a mission field as wide as the world is wide . . . sharing His love with multitudes!

He is doing the same in you, as we link our hearts and hands in this worldwide work!

Together we’re logging millions of miles a year, planting and cultivating His love in the lives of those being reached with the Gospel. You are part of His plan at work!

Please stay tuned in, stay in step with Him. Let us commit to undoing the grip of secularism in our lives. Let us commit to staying in step so we can experience all of God in our lives. Let us go the distance—the depth—the breath—the height of all that the love of God wants to do in us and through us.

Please let us partner together into a rich summer ahead of us.

Let us engage to make this a season of harvest greater than any that has come before.



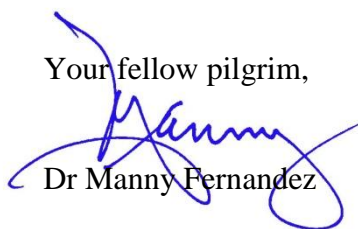
Let me hear from you today, with your most generous possible gift of support for the harvest work.

Let us engage to bring in the harvest and end our June Fiscal Year paying all our bills.

We need your financial support today, please!

Thank you in advance. And I look forward to sharing more equally amazing stories of the impact that you are making, as the Lord moves you by His love to give as He has blessed you. Amen!

Your fellow pilgrim,



Dr Manny Fernandez

P.S. "Only one life, 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last." Please give as generously as possible, to reach as many as possible, through our proven-effective harvest work around the world. Thank you again!