



June 1, 2016

Dear Ministry Partner,

It is our prayer that you may have a delightful summer and enjoy wonderful times of family and friends' fellowship. May the Lord make you aware of the fact that His mercies are new every morning!

I have been on the road for the last few weeks, and here is what I can report:

A freight load of blessings!

And everywhere I've gone, discussions have centered around one topic: **YOU**.

People in every corner of the world touched by your ministry are giving thanks for your friendship and partnership. Time and time again, I have heard this sentiment:

"We thank God for those who make all this possible, even though we do not see them!"

I heard this again, more than once, at our graduation ceremonies as we celebrated these last 25 years of ministry. . . .

When I look at what your generosity has accomplished, I see not only high-potential graduates, not only graduates who already have wonderful ministries under way, but also third- and fourth-generation believers . . . people who have come to Christ through the ministry of leaders raised up through your prayers and gifts!

*What a thrill! **It was like walking inside a dream!***

You are making a beautiful contribution to a BIG ministry. It's not the work of just one person. The Body has different members, and not all members have the same function. But like any body, this Body has vital organs without which it cannot work.

You're one of the vital ones! The servants in the field know you are there, and they thank God for you! (To see video of some of the graduates whose ministries you're making possible, visit <http://www.wlink.org/#!spainvideo/afmtk>)

And yet, the work is not finished. To paraphrase the Revolutionary War hero John



Paul Jones, *We have not yet begun to work!*

Blessings in Cuba!

Not many days ago I was back in Cuba training pastors in the mornings and conducting evangelistic meetings in the evenings. People keep coming to Christ in droves. Are you tired of hearing this refrain? I don't think so. I'm not tired of sharing the Gospel!

And now, with changes in the relationship between Cuba and the U.S., we see that the mighty harvest we've been experiencing was really only the laying of a great infrastructure for a *gargantuan* harvest!

The door has barely cracked open, and already we see throngs of Americans in the towns and streets of Cuba. As American churches begin making it their aim to come to Cuba on mission outreaches, we are going to see *phenomenal impact*. The thousands of churches we have already planted will partner with those who come to help them fulfill their mission, and the results will be *massive*.

Sobering Moments in Greece

I stopped at home briefly to unpack and repack, then continued to Greece and Turkey. I had the joy of retracing the steps of Paul in Asia Minor and Greece by invitation from wonderful friends at Westgate Church. It was my privilege to lead Bible study and devotionals, but what I learned may have been even more important than what I taught. . . .

At Corinth, I went to the Bema Seat court, the court where Paul presented a defense of his faith and practice. Standing there alone, I realized that I'll have an appointment someday at the Bema Seat of Christ, according to what Paul says by the Holy Spirit.

You do too. There our achievements will be tested to determine their true quality. Will it be wood, hay, or stubble? Will it be gold, silver, or precious stones? The quality of our accomplishments will be tested by fire (1 Corinthians 3:12-15).

It is sobering to stand there, at the original Bema Seat, and think about the Bema Seat to come. It will be a very real event. It will have an eternal, lasting outcome. May God help us to be ready! (Matthew 10:15; 1 Corinthians 1:8; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; 2 Timothy 1:12,18; 4:8)

But this was not the only high-impact moment. In Pergamum I reviewed what Jesus wrote to the seven churches in the Book of Revelation. I thought of what He says to those



who hold to the doctrine of Balaam, who set up stumbling blocks before God's people, leading them to participate in the immoral festivities of their cultures.

God was speaking to me so deeply, reminding me of the enormous importance of the work in which we are engaged!

I could not help but think, with pain, about the eroding morality of our culture in the United States and the passivity of so many people in churches. I found myself deeply convicted for our country.

Yet what comes of such a powerful moment of impact? Should we simply claim helplessness in the face of our culture's decline? Should we simply rejoice that we are part of the "remnant" of God?

No.

Coming away from Greece, I burned with desire to be in the throng of those who believe and live according to the promises and prophecies of what God says He will do . . . *to claim the harvest!*

Heartache in Turkey

Several of the seven churches in Revelation 2 are located in present-day Turkey. Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul) was named after the emperor Constantine; it was literally "Constantine's City." The emperor decided to make Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire.

But eventually it fell to Islam. Istanbul is a Muslim city today; Turkey is a Muslim country. The historic Christian church of Saint Sophia became a landmark, but was then surpassed by the Muslim Blue Dome mosque.

Saint Sophia is now a museum. There is no church active there.

How could it happen? I believe Christians at the crossroads of those civilizations were substituting "the greatness of God" for the **obedience** that was due Him. It hurts to think of all that we have given up.

The Bema Seat is going to be one rude awakening! Loss of gain will be a painful, devastating reality!



Celebration in Spain!

And then—Spain . . . the flagship ministry we started 25 years ago. It is growing and thriving in every direction—not merely in the directions we had guessed or hoped for, but in directions we never even *dreamed* of!

There I found a couple I had not seen in many years. He gave me a huge hug—which was for you too! I hardly recognized Nino; he has clean-cut salt-and-pepper hair. Not at all like when I first met him some 30 years ago.

Here's how it happened. . . .

I was attending a church in Madrid, helping the elder board and learning the ropes in Spanish evangelical church circles. In the congregation was a 9-year-old girl named Charo. She and her brother were sweet kids in the Sunday school. From there, we went on to launch a seminary.

Years passed, the seminary developed, and the day came when I went back to visit that church. By this time, little Charo had grown to be a beautiful teenager. But she was now in very bad trouble with the church. . . .

She had a boyfriend named Nino—with “offensive” hair down to his shoulders—and she was pregnant.

Everyone despised them, stigmatized them as a shameful couple. They were sorry, they were sad, but they had no apparent way to fix their situation. No one seemed to dare to talk with them. They were outcasts.

I remember inviting them to lunch at our home after church. They were so grateful! They explained their predicament. They didn't know how to get back “in.” No one would open a door.

I explained to Nino that his way “in” was Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “I am the Door.” “I am The Way.”

Nino walked “in”!

I shared our conversation with the elders. They were thrilled that there was a way to receive this couple. (Biblical ideas! What a concept!)

Time passed. Nino became a fireman. (The fire department made him cut his hair!)



The baby was born: a little boy named Tareg. Now, all these years later, Tareg couldn't make it to our graduation ceremonies—he was working that weekend! His two sisters came though (and you truly couldn't tell which of these three beauties—Charo and her two daughters—was the mom).

So what were Nino and Charo and their children doing at our seminary graduation so many years later?

Well, **Nino today is the deacon in charge of evangelism for the church—the same church that would not take them in so many years ago!** He is now a student in our seminary's extension program. He and Charo are both due to graduate in two years. They can't wait!

I saw Pedro too, the third of three brothers who have come to our seminary to study. He is there because his older brothers, David and Miguel Angel, came to the seminary, launched their lives and ministries, got married, started families—and inspired their baby brother to do likewise.

At first he wanted to prove he was his own man, so he resisted becoming a Christian. His brother Miguel had talked to him until he was blue in the face, but Pedro was having none of it. . . .

Then, on one of my many visits to their country, I was invited to speak at their church. My mission was simple: preach the Gospel. When I gave the invitation that morning, the first of seven to come forward was Pedro! He hugged his brother Miguel and wept for the next ten minutes. The entire church was in tears.

Today, Pedro knows the way to life eternal and life abundant and a life of ministry. He is at seminary to get his life set up just like his brothers. His attitude has changed. He doesn't say, "I am not going to do something just because my brothers have done it!" Today he says, "Anything my brothers can do, I can do better!"

Second brother, Miguel, is a couple months from going on to Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, first to work on his Master of Divinity degree, then to go on to his doctorate. The three brothers took a "selfie" at graduation and sent it to their mom. They thought she might like it. She wept too!

You were part of ALL of this! You were part of Nino and Charo, way back when, and of the three boys. And of EVERYTHING else!

You have been an investor in the work—and your



investment has “paid off” . . . exponentially.

And yet there is even more. There is another harvest waiting to happen this summer.

There are other students waiting to make the decision this summer. There are more Charos. More Ninos and Davids and Pedros and MIGUELS. There are many more names waiting to make history.

God has many more deeds “prepared beforehand” for you “that you may walk in them,” just as Ephesians 2:10 declares: “We are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works which He prepared beforehand that we might walk in them.”

What next, for you and me?

Welcome to summer! Summer is the season for harvest! Yet here is the sad truth: Summer is our leanest season. So *your generous support is needed today*.

Yes, summer is the season for evangelism and for decisions about life and ministry. Many people come to Christ in summer campaigns. Many are making decisions about what to do next year. Kevin, for example . . .

Kevin is a young man who likes what he hears every Sunday, and likes what he reads in his Bible. He is wondering if he should study at our seminary. But his mother wonders where the funds will come from for him. She wonders if ministry is a viable career for life and sustenance. Her husband walked out on her, and she’s afraid it might be suicidal for her son to chase a “pretty dream.” Will he starve?

Will God come out to meet them? Will they crash if they “jump into His arms”? Will He catch them?

The pertinent question for you and me is this: Will we scholarship another class? Will we trust the Lord to keep providing? Have we grown tired of doing good? Have we grown tired of growing in His grace and trusting Him for more? Will Christianity be safe in our stewardship? Will it collapse like it did in Constantinople?

I pray not. I bring you this plea from my heart: Please stand strongly with us to move forward in bigger and stronger ways into the new cycle. It starts now, with the salvation cycle. It will move into the discipleship cycle. It will train and it will deploy. It will multiply and it will grow beyond our wildest dreams. It will make for an astounding



eternity.

Please make your commitment count today. Send your gift. Do your part. Make it real and make it strong. The victory will echo in eternity!

Marching in His train,

Manny Fernandez

P.S. What happens to us in the summer months? We get distracted. We have fun activities. All of this is wonderful. Rest and relaxation are important. I hope you have plenty of both. But the work of the harvest does not rest.

This is a crucial season. Please give as generously as possible today. Thank you so much for understanding the urgency of my request, and thank you in advance for your gift of love today! God bless you!