



Dearest Ministry Partner,

Thanksgiving looked very different at my house this year.

My son was leading our family in prayer over our traditional meal.

I wasn't there. I was in Liberia.

Why? Because of Psalm 67.

The psalmist asks for blessings from the Lord so that God's way may be known throughout the earth. The ultimate objective: "Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. God blesses us so that all the ends of the earth may fear him!"

I spent Thanksgiving week in Liberia working with national leaders to bring the gospel to every corner of their country. Our goal: to create a grid that will cover the entire nation with churches—so that every single Liberian will be within reach of a church!

It was very fitting, I think . . . to celebrate the blessings of the Lord in Thanksgiving while, at the very same time, implementing a plan of outreach "in the ends of the earth." We have a "Psalm 67 purpose"—that all the people of the earth may praise Him! This is why God has blessed us . . . He's empowering us to give and pray and work to proclaim His name all around the world!

And never before in all my decades in ministry have I sensed more profoundly the intimate presence of our Lord in the midst of this process.

Let me tell you a true story—something that happened barely 100 hours ago, as I write these words—

—and I believe you will see how *you are setting the stage for "God moments" that will **change the world.***

. . .

I was in Cuba last week. It's routine to pick up hitchhikers. Many folks don't have cars. Many live on routes not frequented by buses. Some can't even afford a bus.

We stopped our van to pick up a couple who looked like they had been waiting for a ride, for a long while in the steamy heat. We've done this a million times. We always introduce ourselves right away and tell them we're on a mission trip. But this time, the man grinned from ear to ear.



He happily replied that he himself was a pastor. He and his wife had just been visiting one of a dozen churches they have planted.

Then George, our Cuba coordinator, shared that he himself is a local pastor in a city called Artemisa.

And then it was *endless chatter*, in Spanish of course, as we all began sharing our experiences!

Where are you coming from?, the pastor's wife asked.

From Ranchuelo, we replied.

My mother lives near that town! she replied. *My mother and brother live nearby in the town of San Juan.*

Really! We just held an evangelistic meeting last night in that very town!

The lady was astonished. She asked what church we had connected with.

That's where my mother and brother attend!, she cried.

Coordinator George pulled out his phone and began scrolling through the pictures he had taken the night before. (He always takes pictures of the congregation in order to count those who make decisions for Christ and to give a copy to the local pastor, so the pastor can follow up on the people who make decisions. *When we tell you how many people attended an event, or made decisions for Christ, it's not a guess. It's real.*)

The pastor's wife looked at the photos and quickly found both her brother and her mother. She was overjoyed!

But she was in for another surprise!

This lady in the green blouse is your mother?, George asked. *She's part of our team! She's helping us plant 45 churches in the region!*

The pastor's wife was astonished. Her mother had told her she had joined a church planting team . . . but she had no idea who these people were.

A seemingly random stop for a couple of hitchhikers . . .



Out of scores of hitchhikers we could have picked up . . .

80 miles from the town we were talking about . . .

Not even on the same highway . . .

Off the beaten path, amid dozens of mountain towns!

The young pastor became quiet and thoughtful. We made a rest stop, then bought the couple some coffee and ice cream. Back on the road, the pastor opened his heart to us. . . .

He was scheduled, within three weeks, to leave the country. He had been agonizing about how to leave his church and the churches they had planted. He had no real prospects for someone to take over.

But now, in this moment, he was under clear conviction that our meeting was not random at all. He felt that God wanted him to ask . . .

Could we take over their 12 church plants?

It was a “God moment.” We were all amazed by this divine appointment. *We knew we were not alone.* God was there with us holding this meeting.

Would we take over the church plants with the personnel and the momentum we have in that region? . . . With the experience we have in the country? . . . More importantly, with the deep trust God established for both parties—without our even knowing each other before this moment?

Yes.

We will do it. This was God’s agenda for this divine appointment!

We sailed through the rest of the week with such confidence . . . such joy . . . knowing that we were doing exactly what God wants us to be doing! Overjoyed that God would have us be His “assets” on the ground to accomplish His purposes!

We know full well that we are not the only ones. But we are thrilled to know we are on His team! You are the vital root, and we are seeing the fruit! We’re all in His harvest equation!

We are seeing God move through your generosity all around the world. Just before visiting Cuba, I was in India. There we mapped out the launching of 360 churches. In three



strategic steps, we can plant 1,000 churches! Experience tells us that 20,000 church plants in India will come faster than the 10,000 church plants in Cuba!

Liberia! Cuba! India!

Psalm 67:6-7 declares it: “The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us. God blesses us so that all the ends of the earth may fear him.”

This, my friend, is Thanksgiving.

The heart and soul of Thanksgiving is to recognize that the earth has yielded its produce because God, our God, blesses us. **Thanksgiving and missions are intimately intertwined.**

Many miss this. The more people drift into the spirit of the age, the more they miss the connection between *the blessings God gives us* and the purpose of these blessings—which is making God known. But this is our calling as His people.

So today, I ask you to give generously once again.

Let us not be merely “hearers of the Word.” Let us bring far more than merely a “spectator mentality” to the message of God’s Word.

Let’s not simply be amazed at the “funny coincidence” of God directing strangers to come together in a faraway land to achieve His purposes.

Let us rejoice that He saw fit to make us channels of His grace; members of His team; His assets, for His glory, available for divine appointments!

It’s hard to imagine ourselves as the ones in need of being reached, groping after answers to life, hoping for something to break in on our needy, desperate lives. Such is the condition of the vast majority of the human race! *Oh, how much we have to be thankful for!*

We are blessed in order to be a blessing. So I ask you only to give at this year’s end as God has prospered you. Your generosity today will plant more churches around the world. This is the bottom line of reaching the ends of the earth . . . imparting the knowledge of God . . . **so that** the ends of the earth will praise Him!

May God bless you more!

Blissfully in His service,



World Link Ministries

Linking the World to a New Life in Christ



Manny Fernandez

P.S. God is in this. He is at work through us, together, in Liberia . . . Cuba . . . India . . . and the ends of the earth! *He is also at work IN you, as He is at work THROUGH you.* You are becoming the person God planned for you to become, as you step into His work around the world.

Let the flow of His blessings continue in your life, as you give generously today.
Thank you again for being on our team!