



My New Year's prayer is that you may be wonderfully well . . .  
May the Great Shepherd of the sheep lead you . . . And may you not want!

January 1, 2018

Dear Ministry Partner

Wait till you see what you did!

I am absolutely thrilled to bring you GREAT NEWS about the way God has used your faithfulness and your generosity to change the world!

First, from the very place that sent the Apostle Paul . . .
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Meet Naci—an Aramean man from Antioch, the city whose church launched Paul on his missionary journeys. He's a graduate of one of our extension centers, with a wonderfully successful ministry pastoring in Madrid.

You have been key in making his training possible. You've equipped him for his beautiful ministry. He has a most amazing testimony—which you have helped to shape!

He was 18, living in his native city, when Muslims swarmed into the next town and killed 300 men, women, and children. There was panic in Naci's hometown at the prospect of the Muslims attacking. Most of the population fled.

Naci was fortunate—he could afford to leave the country. But his rage went with him. Resettled in Germany, his one all-consuming dream was to organize guerrilla militias to slaughter the Muslims and take back his country.

He didn't get far. Word of his violent plans reached the highest levels of the German government. Mr. Helmut Kohl, who was Chancellor of Germany at the time, summoned Naci to a personal interview in his office—and “invited” him to leave Germany!

Naci moved to France hoping for a new start, but there were fewer opportunities there, and the economy at the time was more difficult. When he heard of opportunities in Spain, he moved again, found a job, and settled in.



Which is where God got hold of him!

One day at Puerta del Sol, the Spanish equivalent of New York's Times Square, Naci was casually people-watching when a group of young people caught his attention. One was playing guitar, and they were singing songs—badly. So badly, in fact, that he was inclined to approach them during a break to make some suggestions! He wondered, however, if they would notice the gun he was carrying under his coat.

He never got a chance to decide. As soon as the young people stopped singing, a man stepped up onto a soap box, looked straight at Naci, and started preaching—pointing a finger directly at Naci and asking, “Soldier of men, do you want to be a soldier of Christ?”

Naci was stunned! He actually wondered if the speaker was with a secret service group like the KGB or CIA.

As the speaker kept talking, it seemed like everything he said was coming out of the chapters of Naci's life. Everything about his past, about his life purpose, was challenged and denounced. He was confronted with the only real answer to life, the only cause worth living for.

The Gospel was clearly explained. “When he gave the invitation in relationship to every item he touched in my life, it was irresistible,” Naci says with tears in his eyes, “and I received Jesus as my Savior and Lord.”

Where had these singing students come from? You sent them! A number of them were from our World Link Seminary in Madrid!

The man who shared the Gospel began discipling Naci. Fantastic things were about to happen in his life and his family.

His faith began to grow rapidly. Now, instead of wanting to recruit members for a militia, he began to share the Gospel and to lead people to Christ. He started a church!

But Naci felt inadequate to teach, preach, and lead. Soon he was checking out our seminary. His work schedule didn't allow him to attend the daily program, so he enrolled in our Madrid extension seminary.

Last May he graduated! And he brought me a word for you. At least three separate times he urged me to share his gratitude for the ministry of training and sending people into the harvest. This is a wonderful strategy, he declared, which is blessing lives and multiplying outreach to many people!



But he brought more than a simple “thank you”—he also offered his church building as a place for us to host our extension in northern Madrid! (And the second of his three sons will also begin his studies in our main program next year!)

God used you to reach Naci, the “wandering Aramean”—you raised up the ministry that touched and transformed this “Antioch Christian”—and God is multiplying your investment through Naci to this day!

This same downtown Madrid ministry gave birth to another fantastic ministry led by a Romanian named Dawn. . . .

Dawn, a long-time member of the downtown team, is about to graduate. She prayed for a long time that the Lord would open a door for her into full-time ministry. One of the ministry leaders suggested that she “adopt” a downtown street and focus her personal ministry work there. But the leader couldn’t possibly have foreseen Dawn’s selection: Montero Street!

A cringe-worthy choice! Montero Street is in the heart of Madrid’s red-light district! More than a few young women have been abducted there—kidnapped into the nightmarish world of forced prostitution. Alarmed, the ministry leader assigned someone to accompany Dawn during her work on Montero.

She hadn’t been ministering there more than a few hours when she was astonished to discover that 98 percent of the prostitutes on Montero Street have something in common with her: They’re Romanians! She speaks their language! She shares their cultural background!

The fruit of this strangely specialized ministry has already begun to appear. Dawn has led some of these young women to Christ and has already brought some of them out of the street into a “shelter.” Well, actually, it’s her own apartment, which she shares with another young woman from church. Yes, as you can imagine, it’s a little challenging for both roommates to make room for the extra guests, but all agree: There’s no way they’re going back!

We have the great privilege of engaging with the ministry to these young women. We’re committed to seeing it through. This is courageous Christianity! They could fill a large house and operate a major ministry given the number of girls they’re helping to come out of Montero Street!

God is also working in new ways in south central Spain. . . .



We've opened a new extension center in Ciudad Real. One of our earliest graduates, class of 1994, has been directing a retreat and mission center for almost 20 years.

- He has a thriving church there,
- Plus a site for distributing food to needy people—they provided nearly 10 tons of food last year.
- This ministry has also planted half a dozen churches in the region—which our graduates are leading.
- They broadcast a weekly radio program too; they've been blitzing the entire region for almost two decades!

At this mission center, I was blessed to meet with some 20 pastors from across the region, leaders who had never had seminary training. What a joyful event! They're elated that help has finally arrived—in the form of training! I plunged into teaching apologetics—strong medicine for believers living and ministering to Western Europe's profoundly secular culture!

I wish you could have been there! Everyone was grinning and thanking us—but their gratitude was really for you—for what you're doing through your support of World Link Ministries! You are the one to receive their thanks because of the vital role you have played—and are playing—in the training and equipping they have all received.

So I thank you . . . and I bring you this additional word: Keep up the good work!
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In the “bucket list” world in which so many live today, it's easy to develop a “checklist mentality.” People tend to say to themselves, “Since I already experienced it, I'm ready to move on.” But we, as God's people, are eternal investors. Eternal return on investment is a sweet strategy for building treasures in heaven.

This is God's analogy, not mine!

Think of the man Jesus described who found a great treasure in the field and hid it, and went to sell all he had so he could acquire the field. He expressed the same principle in His parable of the pearl of great price. The Kingdom is the single focus in the life of the believer.

We need to hang on to the big-producer strategies! Would we pump an oil well only until we got tired of the monotony of the pump? Would we not want it to go on producing its riches for as long as it could?



In Christ's parables of the Kingdom, God has given us a value system designed to give us the greatest eternal return on investment.

Is it working? The riches are pouring in!

This is why I bring you this heartfelt admonition today: Please do everything you can to make the biggest possible strike! Our fields are not oil fields—they're the "white unto harvest" fields of God!

Thank you for what you have been doing; it is working beautifully! Let's keep pushing! I can't help but think of the Old Testament King Joash (2 Kings 13). He struck the ground for victory three times. The prophet Elisha was furious. Only three times? Why the small effort? You and I have found a "big producer" for eternal gain! I want to hit the ground until my arm falls off!

Please help strike the ground! Let us go on swinging and striking till the Lord declares victory! Let's launch 2018 with POWER! Let me hear from you quickly. Give as generously as you can. Who knows what God will do through you in the year ahead? May the Lord continue to prosper you!

Sincerely grateful for your partnership,

Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. You can give with JOY! We see the evidence of how God is multiplying your investments in His harvest work. Let God work through you again today! Thank you in advance!