



It is our prayer that God's mercies will be clearly seen by you and your loved ones, so that you may overflow with thankfulness (Colossians 2:6).

June 1, 2015

Dear Ministry Partner,

Greetings from the field! I am witnessing firsthand the power of your fervent, faith prayers and your generous, faithful giving!

God and You in Spain!

As I write you today, I'm in Spain. In just a couple of days, we will graduate 54 students from the north, south, east and west of Spain. We are also graduating students from Latin America and other countries!

It seems like a dream . . . because the early years were so difficult. We were marching against very big odds and challenges. Many people thought we didn't stand a chance! But now we will graduate a class several times bigger than many European seminaries have in their entire student body!

Even as other schools have been accredited, we chose not to be—refusing to compromise on homosexual admissions; yet we still have more students! We are becoming known far and wide as *the* biblically-based seminary.

I was in the northeast of Spain last weekend teaching a course on apologetics, the defense of the Christian faith. I was excited to find 33 students in attendance. There's another school in the region, but folks in this area asked us to open up an extension *because of the conservative biblical views that define our training*. **People are choosing a conservative Christian view.** We are grateful that people of kindred hearts see the need for a school like ours—even as other schools banked on accreditation as a bigger priority.

After we faced down the accreditation issue, we pushed to establish partnerships with theologically conservative Evangelical schools in the U.S.—Dallas Seminary and Southwestern Baptist in Fort Worth. Our first few couples have begun there, and they're loving it! They can't wait to come back to Europe and join the ministry in a bigger way.

In all of this, I thank God for your kindred spirit. You are playing a vital role in this growing work. Your ongoing partnership is being used by the Lord to keep the whole ministry going and growing in the fields.

It's tremendous when friends can come and see firsthand the work in the field. Nothing I can write or say can communicate like the lives of our students and the people they are touching in the fields. Everyone who has visited the fields has shared in this deeply inspiring experience. They also

know how inadequate a letter is for painting the picture!

Even so, Jesus said, “Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet believed” (John 20:29). I’m grateful that faith is living and active and yet is the evidence of things *not seen*. For by faith the Bible saints were commended (Hebrews 11:1,2). I celebrate the personal participation of so many who are committed to the work even though they have never seen it in person!

And your prayers, your giving, may soon bear even greater fruit . . . through radio! During this trip to Spain, our ministry team and I are exploring the possibility of radio becoming a major player in the evangelization of Europe. I look forward to hosting friends from Salem Communications soon; we’ll talk about using radio in Spain to magnify the Christian voice and promote biblical principles across this secularized continent.

The potential is enormous. Salem Communications’ experience and expertise set the stage for powerfully engaging the whole European continent—and we know God is much bigger than even Salem Communications! Next week could represent a BIG turning point for our ministry together, so I would ask you with all my heart to pray for the right connections to be made. May God do His thing! Above and beyond what we can ask or think! I am trusting Him for the supernatural “above and beyond” effect—for one purpose, and one purpose only: to bear much fruit . . . fruit that will remain for eternity. *Thank you so much for remembering us in prayer!*

God and You in **India!**

After Spain, I continue to the birthplace of Buddhism, the state of **Bihar**. This remote area in northeastern India is the third largest in population—and the fastest-growing. Some 60 percent of the population is under 25 years old. Our God-given goal: to plant 1,000 new churches here!

We’ll be arriving to a *warm* welcome: The forecast is for a sweltering 111°F., with lows in the 80s! But I am excited to serve the Lord in such a place, to connect with the Indian church-planters. We need prayer here too, that the Lord will come out to meet us and make His best plans known to us. Pray that the team will catch the fire of God’s plan and respond with great faith and obedience!

Bihar is no simple field. It’s in the headlines lately as the place where land has been donated for building the largest Hindu temple in the world. And who has donated the land? Muslims! Normally there is great animosity between the two groups. But Christianity is the common “enemy.” Anything the Muslims can do to oppose the Christian faith in Bihar, they’re eager to do.

Open Doors UK reports that “Hinduism is experiencing a revival at the moment and India’s Christians face persecution in all spheres of life.” India is notorious for its “anti-conversion laws,” which often lead to the disruption of Christian church services. House churches have been raided, Bibles and hymnals confiscated as illegal “conversion materials.” Christian believers and leaders are frequently harassed, sometimes beaten. Hindu attackers are routinely left unpunished, while their Christian victims face accusations and trials.

“Christian converts from a Hindu background are often under huge pressure to return to Hinduism,” Open Doors adds. “Every tactic to achieve this is applied, even if this means killing the convert.”

British newspapers also report attacks on British *reporters* who simply *interviewed* former

Christians who have been forced to convert. The Christians were told to burn their Bibles, but they hid them instead. Their own neighbors make sudden appearances, hoping to catch them reading Bibles or engaging in some other forbidden Christian activity. Their supposed conversions to Hinduism are continually inspected, so their oppressors can confirm the ultimate severing of all their ties to Christianity. ISIS kills Christians where they find them—now Hindus are pursuing another brand of the same trade.

In some areas of India, as you can imagine, it's virtually impossible to get the official permission necessary for building a church. (Hindu temples can go up anywhere, anytime.) "Due to this climate of fear," Open Doors says, "Christians find it difficult in some states to testify about their Christian faith, to distribute Christian material to conduct social works." Bihar is one of these states.

So we are not heading into a place of interfaith cooperation, as some might suppose from the construction of a Muslim-sponsored Hindu temple! This is an extremely anti-Christian region. I will aim to be careful while I'm there, meeting with our workers in a safe environment; but as we lay plans for the future, we will keep in focus the fact that they live among Hindus, and they will have to face tremendous opposition and serious risk. Some will face persecution from their own family members. We have reports of families sending their own to prison, or going so far as to hang them.

There is no doubt whatsoever that the believers working with us will need prayer! In India, your personal beliefs are not regarded merely as the functional worldview you happen to have chosen. Beliefs in India are defended—and marketed—with swords and daggers.

God and You in **Morocco, Cuba, Ukraine,**

and the ends of the earth!

In Morocco, in a clandestine church meeting, I joined a group of scared believers who had purposefully staggered the timing of their arrivals so as not to attract attention.

There was no singing, just a reading of a hymn.

Any music, even a song sung *a cappella*, would bring the authorities. An unmarked police car sat out in front, but believers came in through a back door opening onto the alley behind the house.

The "message" that evening was only a quiet reading of Psalm 44. They all followed in their Bibles. The Psalm in that cultural context was perfectly suited to the paradox of the situation: *God, we have heard you are great and do great things—Why are we so oppressed?*

If we had forgotten the name of our God,
Or stretched out our hands to a foreign god,
Would not God search this out?

For He knows the secrets of the heart.
Yet for Your sake we are killed all day
long;
We are counted as sheep for the slaughter.
Awake! Why do You sleep, O Lord?

Arise! Do not cast *us* off forever.
Why do You hide Your face,
And forget our affliction and our
oppression?

For our soul is bowed down to the dust;
Our body clings to the ground.
Arise for our help,
And redeem us for Your mercies' sake.

You are becoming the answer to their prayers. You are bringing them hope!

I praise God for the immense privilege of serving Him *together with you* in so many places. Whether in Cuba, or Spain, or India, or Ukraine, you and I are standing together along with our frontline brothers and sisters in Christ. **God is using you to lay the absolutely essential supply lines to the boots on the ground!**

Pray with me that God will inspire them to be bold and courageous. Pray that God will protect every one of us, as the enemy knows what role each of us plays.

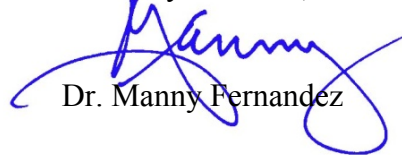
The best defense is to go on the offensive. *To pray, to give, to go.*

As we march together in obedience, we will see yet many and greater victories . . . even more, even greater, than we have seen thus far!

I warmly invite you to keep doing your part, and faithfully. You can give with confidence. You can see that many souls are being saved. God has given us a wonderful strategy, a proven strategy; it is making a huge difference all over the world. Your role in this is vital; you are making a great impact!

Please let me hear from you quickly! God bless you!

Sincerely in Christ,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. As I urge you to pray and to give, I feel like the prophet Elisha, in 2 Kings 13, commanding the king to strike the ground with a bunch of arrows to symbolize his trust in God for victory in the conflict to come. The king obeyed, but he was tentative about it. Elisha's heart was about to burst—He wanted the king to beat the ground till his arm ached! Calling on God fervently—trusting God completely—means *maximum victory*!

That's my prayer today . . . that you will join us again in fervent prayer . . . complete trust . . . generous giving . . . for maximum harvest

