



May 1, 2013

Dear Ministry Prayer Partner,

Warm greetings to you and your loved ones. The joy of the Lord is our fortress! The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe!

We can proclaim this — we know God’s Word is true — even after the shock of Spain.

Because God has called you to this ministry with me, and because you love His work around the world, I know you will want to receive the astonishing news....

We were feeling great a few months ago, because our seminary in Spain was well on its way to accreditation. The government in Spain was beginning to grant accreditation to Evangelical institutions. It was wonderful news!

Everything we have been teaching — requiring a certain number of lecture hours, a certain number of homework hours, and covering the required materials — was all set to pay off in a big way!

But then — we saw the Spanish government’s price tag.

The conditions for accreditation were as follows:

- We must submit to all regulations of Spain’s university system.
- We must drop the requirements for evangelism.
- We must not mention any word that might be considered derogatory or demeaning to homosexuals.
- We must allow homosexuals into our seminary programs.
- We must allow people of any religious conviction into our programs: Muslims, atheists, Hindus, and others.

All of the above requirements are a true reflection of the Constitution of Spain and its amendments. Therefore, compliance would be essential. If we were willing to conform, there would be accreditation *AND* financial aid for our institution.

What could we say to the government of Spain? *Thank you for speaking so clearly! There is no fine print! There is no need for any interpretation of the “legalese.”*

At the same time, how can we say *No* in the most profound way? *Absolutely not! Nyet!* Their option for accreditation is no option at all. It is denial of the very Scriptures we are commanded to “teach them to obey.” It is a denial of Jesus!

The shock of Spain’s outrageous offer sent my mind reeling backwards to a very dark time....

A major denomination stood on the brink of liberalism and extinction. The six great seminaries of the denomination had capitulated. But a very courageous pastor decided to oppose the tide of liberalism that threatened the denomination.

He had many powerful and influential people to contend with, but he was aware that the Almighty God was with him. He took on the leadership of the biggest seminary first. He stood squarely on the Scriptures so his position would be unshakeable. It was not only hard to “reason with him,” it was impossible.

There were myriad discussions. There were personalities in the balance. All of the factors were weighed and measured against the Scriptures. And in the end, there was a resurgence of “the old-time religion.” This denomination experienced a profound catharsis, a “house cleaning” that went as deep as the foundation!

The Scriptures prevailed. The seminaries were renewed with Bible-believing and Bible-teaching professors. The denomination stepped back from the brink of liberalism and extinction. It was a God thing! Today, this denomination is back in the business of proclaiming the Gospel, proclaiming the truth that “there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). *No apologies to the Department of Education!*

The main thing
is that the main thing
always remain
the main thing!

We would do well to shine this old German proverb like a floodlight on the Great Commission. Acts 1:1-11 gives us the very last words of Jesus to His Body, the Church. We are to be His witnesses by making disciples, not merely teaching them *what He said*, but teaching them to *obey all that He commanded us*. It is obedience training, not intellectual data-bank collection.

**So I say to the government of Spain — and I say to you, my
friend and partner — we will continue to do what we have
been called to do. We will keep the main thing the main thing.
We will be true to our Lord and to His Word.**

We will continue to live and work by the early Biblical model of missions: what Paul the apostle did when he rented the Hall of Tyrannus (Acts 19:9). It is quite clear that Paul was not simply about academic achievement; verse 10 says, “And this took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia *heard the word of the Lord*, both Jews and Greeks” (Acts 19:10).

We, like Paul, “rent a hall” (in our case, we’d like to buy it!). And we are not simply about academic achievement. We teach our students the 66 books of the Bible, all the doctrines, a set of ministry skills; and we deploy them weekly to saturate their regions with the Gospel and to plant churches.

We have been doing this training and deployment in every country and every context since the beginning. **Last year, by God's grace, nearly one million people heard the Gospel proclaimed through our outreaches. Nearly 100,000 came to faith.** These achievements deserve credit, not shame, from governments and authorities.

But the world does not see as God sees. These achievements will receive *eternal* rewards — and not because I think so, but because God had so decreed!

Now — I also bring you good news from Spain. Beautiful news.

Remember my telling you of the brave pastor who took on the heavyweights of his denomination and kept them from liberalism and extinction? His name was Wally Amos Criswell. Criswell College was named for him.

In one of God's wonderful "coincidences," the *current* president of Criswell College accompanied me on my last trip to Spain. While we were there together, we received the news about the Spanish government's requirements for accreditation. He was shocked most of all to learn that four of the five seminaries in the country had already complied with the secularist agenda of the Ministry of Education — including the seminary *from his own denomination!*

But the response of the president of Criswell College was constructive. Forward-looking.

He looked at our students. He saw some very bright lights. Diligent and obedient. Some eager to pursue a higher level of training to bring greater credibility and influence to their countries. He was excited to see our students not only in the classroom, but also in downtown Madrid, sharing the Gospel and leading people to Christ. He was overjoyed to go to a jail and to see our students leading prisoners to Christ.

So he made a decision.

He awarded "Presidential Scholarships" to 12 of our students — the opportunity to come to Dallas, to attend Criswell College, to receive a U.S. education. Their entire tuition will be covered! Cause for rejoicing!

But you need to see yourself in this story as well ... because *these students were already "scholarshipped."* **You were the first to scholarship them** — these 12, and many more — through your financial support of this ministry! You didn't see them with your physical eyes, but you saw them through the eyes of faith. You allowed the Lord to use you, in the Biblical model and according to Biblical principles, to accomplish His work through you and us.

You will share in the spiritual rewards, the eternal rewards, which God has planned for the people of faith who take part in His plan!

Consider this concluding concept. Years ago, two Fortune 500 consultants were paid to meet with me and examine why our Cuba ministry was working so well. We met over the course



of four days, and they asked me many, many questions. They wanted to piece together the “model” we were using. They put it together in an 18-page “business plan” that could be replicated.

They summarized with a simple illustration. They drew a picture of a church with a steeple on the main building. They observed that there are two types of seminary training: formal and non-formal. In the picture they had drawn, if we were to reduce everything that formal theological training has accomplished down through all of church history, it would be only as big as the steeple.

But the need for training in the Christian church is tantamount to the entire campus ... and growing!

They left me with this charge, and I bring it to you as well:

***You and I must keep on doing what we are doing.
Formal theological training cannot do the job. It is
losing ground. Non-formal theological training is the
hope.***

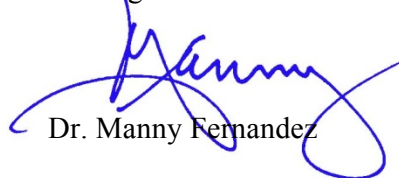
As you pray, as you give, as you “scholarship” dedicated men and women, the work will get done. As you see with the eyes of faith, as you respond in this same faith, the work will go on.

Jesus charged us as well: He commissioned us to make disciples. I urge you to stand with us as a committed partner to see new, young workers trained and deployed into the “whitened harvest fields of the Master”!

Please be as generous as God would have you to be. And may God, who wants to reward you, lead you in your participation.

*The main thing
is that the main thing
always remain
the main thing!*

Serving the Great Commissioner,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. The government of Spain is not our Lord. The policies of men are not our Guide. Together, we follow our Great Commissioner and Him alone. And He will provide as we continue to stand by faith! I look forward to hearing from you soon! God bless you!