

June 4, 2013

Dear World Link Partners,

Warm greetings from the field in the Name of the Lord! “May the Lord answer you when you are in distress; may the Name of the God of Jacob protect you.... May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed” (Psalm 20:1-4).

It is an overwhelming feeling to be doing what is proclaimed throughout the New Testament as God’s all-important purpose. **I have been in Spain for the last week — and for me, it has been a week of AMAZING SURPRISES.**

*Let me give you a whirlwind report:*

1. I was ministering in **northern Spain** after a week of teaching in Madrid. I was helping one of our graduates by preaching at a retreat for his church. The setting was picturesque to the *nth* degree. I truly wish you had been there. (Please consider yourself invited!) We were in the mountains of Navarra, close to the French border, a place of beautiful mountains and fast rivers.
2. At the same time, another retreat was being conducted in **Galicia**, in northwestern Spain, by our German professor. We’ve heard great reports from this retreat as well.
3. Meanwhile, Manny Jr. was preaching at an evangelistic conference on the southeast coast of Spain, in the city of **Benidorm**. One of our graduates, Bruno, is launching three church-plants there and making wonderful progress. Bruno and his wife Lydia just returned from a ministry stint in Canada. They are wasting no time in reestablishing themselves — they’re off and running fast to make a big difference in that very needy area of Spain.

It was a dream-come-true weekend! The dream was sweet — a vision of what could happen if we trained and deployed *Spaniards to reach Spaniards*. But the reality is much sweeter yet. God always has the fuller, bigger picture, and we are astounded when He reveals His own much bigger plan.

*Which leads me to tell you the remarkable story of two people named Rabbit, and nearly 11 million people you may never have even heard of before....*

Matt and Rose Rabbit are a Kechua couple. (Sometimes you’ll see it spelled Kichua, and some Kechuas call themselves “Runakuna Indians.”) This ethnic group, nearly 11 million people spanning three South American countries, has a proud past; some scholars link the Kechua to the ancient Inca civilization. In fact, some Kechuas call themselves Incas because of the ancient connection with the Incas.



*Here's why I want you to meet Matt and Rose: In less than one week, Matt and Rose will graduate from our program at World Link Seminary in Spain. The modern descendants of this ancient people are not only among us, with their attire and customs; they have been training with us, here in Spain—and they are already reaching out to their own ethnic group ... our first Kechua outreach!*

But it has not been easy for this first Kechua ministry to take hold, and I must confess to you: *I was a big part of the problem.*

I blush as I tell you the story....

When the first Kechua tried to enroll in our school, with his traditional long hairstyle, I told him he needed to cut his hair. It's in the handbook! (I wrote the handbook too!) But the young man declined; it was the custom of his people for the men to wear their hair long.

My response: It will be better if I don't let him in.

Big mistake.

I wish I could find him today, so I could apologize!

What was I thinking? (Glad you asked.) I thought there is no way that any Spaniard would accept religion from an Indian, to whom the Spaniards gave that "Christian" religion in the first place. If the Indian *looks* like an Indian, this would be all the more true.

But God told us to make disciples. He did not assign us to be the entire "placement department." (I was yet to learn this lesson!)

It turns out that three other Kechuas — Matt and Rose Rabbit and one other young man — got into the night program. How? Well, they had heard we denied entrance to another Kechua because of his long hair, so these young men tucked their hair inside the back of their shirt! They got past my security operation!

And they have been attending for the last three years. Today, they're ready to graduate!

But they haven't simply been sitting in class. Matt and Rose have already started a Kechua congregation, which they continue to shepherd, in the greater Madrid area. And, as if this were not enough to make me feel guilty, they're also helping to plant Kechua congregations in Galicia, in northwestern Spain; in Valencia in the southeast; and in a fourth location in Madrid!

In fact, Kechuas who left South America are spread out all the way to Switzerland and beyond. Matt is being asked to go all the way to Switzerland to teach the Bible and theology materials he received here among us! He's the only Kechua they know who has any formal Bible training.

**As you can imagine, I felt sheepish at the first news, that he planted one church. But now I repent in dust and ashes, after seeing all that God is using him to do!**

Now I've learned that Matt and Rose's son wants to come to our school — but he hasn't applied because he heard his long hair would not be allowed. Today, we're sending him a gold-lettered invitation!

*And we're just getting warmed up....*

The Kechuas speak their own “Kechua” language in their meetings and church services. As Matt teaches from our Spanish-language materials, he has to translate from Spanish to Kechua on the spot. We've now committed to helping produce a formal translation of our materials from Spanish to Kechua for the Master of Arts in Biblical Studies.

And more good news: I've been told that Matt can help me find the young man whose entrance I denied. The “humble pie” is in the oven!

*I am thrilled to discover, even when I make mistakes in ignorance, God has fun circumventing me and doing what He pleases.*

We ask often enough for God's will to be done. Too many times we think we know how His will is to be established. The joy of it all is that God is willing to use us if we want to be used by Him; we don't have to know all the details. We don't have to earn a cultural anthropology degree on the Kechua people. If we let Him, God will use us — going around our rough edges and mental deficits!

Praise God that He does not count us out when we make mistakes. He knew that He could count on us — *you and me together* — even if we were lacking in some areas of understanding. He knows that we are His and that we want to do exactly what He wants to do — which is cause for rejoicing! — and toward this end, we present ourselves and our resources.

I did not find out about the amazing true story of Matt and Rose Rabbit until a week ago. Yet for years, we have been supporting (*you have been supporting*) God's raising up of this great couple. Now we rejoice because God heard our prayers and made us partners in a wonderful reality, which will echo in eternity.

This is the story of our life of faith.

Many times we have only a small notion of what He is calling us to do, but there is enough light to obey.

Then one day, the deeds of faith and obedience will be exposed, and we will be blessed beyond words that God used us, even with our limitations, to accomplish His wonderful will.

As I write these words, we're approaching commencement for our 2013 graduates. Matt and Rose Rabbit are about to graduate. **I would love to send you a picture of them in their graduation gowns, if you would like it, as I send my thank-you letter for your gift of ministry support today. Please indicate "Photo" somewhere with your contribution.**

Of course, they're only two among many whom we're excited to be sending off; others have exciting stories as well, too long to recount here. (I would love to take four more pages to tell you about a Canary Islands couple with a passion and a vision to reach out to all eight of the islands in the Atlantic, off the coast of Morocco. A powerful story! Maybe another day....)

Of our 20 graduates, all have remarkable testimonies, most have a clear vision of what they want to do. Others of the group are letting the Lord unveil the plans as they go; they have enough light to go forward and obey.

Summer is a new beginning and an end. For us, June signals the end of the fiscal year.

We continue to watch our shortfall. We are working on strategies to stay ahead of it.

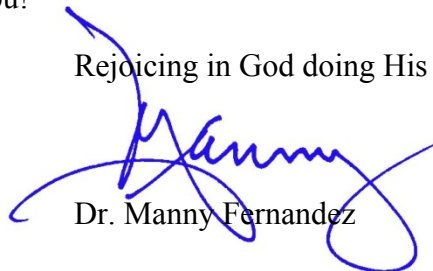
Please help us to finish our fiscal year well. With all said and done, we are more than \$20,000 behind budget on a monthly basis.

We don't want this deficit to grow. We want to erase it — we must go beyond it, in order to face the challenges ahead.

*Please give as generously as possible today.*

May God bless you in your willingness to trust and obey unto the days of victory that these virtues bring! Thank you! God bless you!

Rejoicing in God doing His thing, through us!



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. Matt and Rose are a beautiful example of how God works through our generosity without our even knowing it. He has taken our willingness to give — and has taken even my mistakes! — and worked wonders. Who knows what He will accomplish through the generous gift you give today? Thank you in advance!