

June 1, 2012

Dear World Link Partners,

Warm greetings from the fields! I have been to Israel, Spain and Italy in recent days — thinking of YOU. God is doing a mighty work throughout the world ... and *you and I* are privileged to be part and parcel of what He is achieving for eternity!

Israel has a feeling all its own. You feel like you are at the “bull’s-eye of the Great Commission!” After all, Jesus said, “You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria...” We are active in the innermost circles of God’s target area — not to mention “the ends of the world.” It doesn’t get better than this!

But there is more to be done! As the composer Leila Naylor Morris wrote in the year 1900:

“Sweet will of God, still fold me closer,
Till I am wholly lost in Thee;
Sweet will of God, still fold me closer,
Till I am wholly lost in Thee.”

After splendid days in Israel, connecting with our partners and seeing church plants firsthand, we headed to Spain. As I write these words, we are poised for graduation in just four days. **This is our largest graduating class ever** ... lots of excitement and expectation! Already the celebrations are beginning, with end-of-the-year chapels and farewells for the graduating students.

I was asked if I could kindly go and “hunt something” so we can have an end-of-year feast on Friday. I happily obliged. First, on Sunday morning, I had the privilege of “fishing for men” in a church service in the northern city of San Sebastian: more than a dozen people came to Christ! Full of joy, I headed down to La Mancha, where I shot a couple of wild boar, fulfilling my promise to the students.

It’s been a whirlwind — and life is a whirlwind for many of us — but it is a good thing to slow down and consider the quality being produced by our “busyness”....

Today, for example. I got to hear a student named David preach his first sermon — and he was superb. I wish you could have been here to enjoy it in person with me....

David is a wonderful Spanish student with tremendous potential. He is already a youth pastor with one of the larger churches in Madrid. He is also the key student who ushered us into a jail ministry in the outskirts of Madrid a couple of months ago — where most of the audience received the Lord!

David's sermon text was 1 Corinthians 8; he spoke about restraining our freedoms for the sake of weaker brothers. The message fits because he is an example of a humble servant who is sensitive to the needs of others. The rest of the students were blessed to hear a great guy like David do such a good job in his very first sermon.

Wonderful high points like these were what we dreamed of when we first launched the seminary more than 20 years ago. The vision of training sharp Spaniards who are sold out to the Lord, gifted by Him, called and trained — back then it was just “stars in our eyes.” Today they are a very blissful reality.

David is getting married this summer to Stephanie, a pastor's daughter. They are full of dreams and full of hopes for a fruitful life of service to the Lord. The whole panorama of their life, their commitment, fulfills our own hopes of years ago ... above and beyond what we could ask or think.

Carlos and Tanya in Haifa, Israel, are exact counterparts to David and Stephanie in Spain. I sat in their tiny apartment sipping coffee and hearing the thrill and passion of their leading Arab and Jewish Israelis to Christ all around them. Carlos is a bold evangelist in Israel. He is Arab; his wife is Russian. Carlos was born and raised in Israel, and he is proud of it...!

Carlos and his brother Thomas, both trained at our partner institution in Israel, decided one day to go into the Western Wall Plaza in Old Jerusalem....

They were overwhelmed in the presence of so many Jews, since they are Arabs. They also felt a certain amount of dread, because they believe fervently in Yeshua, Jesus!

Surrounded by the Shabbat crowds in the overcrowded Western Wall area, Thomas felt it was “crazy.” They were in no way going to make an impact among such overwhelming odds.

Carlos, on the other hand, was “pumped” to be in such a place! It was like Peter and John going to the Temple to pray. Imagine being there — just the two of them, in the Temple crowds, just like Peter and John.

A Jewish man spoke to them; he was selling red yarn lucky charms at the Temple plaza. Carlos could not stay still. He chided the Jewish man. “Look at you,” he began. “You are selling magic charms in a place like this? Your Temple lies in ruins and there is a mosque in its place. The Glory is absent, and you resort to tricks!”

The man was taken aback. But Carlos continued:

“I am here as a Gentile, longing for the Glory to be restored. I am anxiously awaiting the Messiah's return, and you are not even aware of these realities, but only care to have people buy this yarn.

“Where is your God? Where is your awareness of God? Did you miss Him entirely the first time He came? Do you know He was here?”

“He was here and your people did not recognize Him. He came here just like the Scriptures predicted, and you missed Him!”

The man was overwhelmed; he was knocked totally off balance by the staccato statements from this man — and more importantly from the Scriptures!

Carlos continued to share the way out of such a “predicament” — God’s plan of salvation for Jews and Gentiles alike. The man was deeply convicted. Tears began to fill his eyes and God’s love overwhelmed his heart. **He prayed to receive Jesus as his Savior there at the Western Wall Plaza — close to the “Holy of Holies”!**

This is not an isolated incident for Carlos and Tanya. This is the young man I’ve written about before, whose father named him Carlos because he wanted the boy to be like “the Jackal,” a terrorist of the 70’s who wrought havoc in Europe. His boldness has found great expression in evangelism and church planting. And Tanya is his strong partner in evangelism, a loving and very supportive wife who prays constantly for Carlos even in the middle of these encounters.

This is another example of the incredible value of your simple faith and obedience in support of our schools.

God’s servants trained and deployed in these schools are blessed and helped by your generosity, and they are worth your investment.

You are the vital link for Carlos and David, and the many who will graduate this year.

God is using your faithful support month to month to produce a tremendous harvest.

And of course, these are just two among hundreds of men and women being trained and deployed to plant churches — I spotlight them only because of my travel path in the last two weeks! In about 10 days I’ll meet with scores of *Cuban* workers who are great and mighty heroes of the faith. It is our privilege to call them and deploy them into the ministry. You are a vital link for them as well!

Because of what we have seen God do through your prayers and giving ... because of the commitment you’ve demonstrated toward the work that God has called us to, together ... I bring you one more opportunity — a significant need, heavy on my heart today:

In Spain, we need support for our students — and, as I write these words, we have only half of the full loan for our new campus facilities secured through U.S. guarantors. Others we’ve approached are not able to do it for various reasons.



The Lord has laid it on my heart to share this: our “situation” is not as if we have gotten ourselves into trouble. Not at all! We are in this situation because we are attempting to seize an opportunity to set up a great base for the re-evangelization of Europe.

The good news is that the financial climate of Spain and the economic pressures on the country are making it possible for us to secure our campus and keep a major church in a large “neighborhood” of a couple of hundred thousand people. This move will also help us to support a wonderful sister church in leveraging its ministry onto a larger stage.

We are thrilled at the prospects, and I sincerely ask for your prayers. We believe God has a plan and He is willing to show us the way to victory. His protocol calls for any true spiritual achievement to be secured through prayer. We know that this is a vehicle for blessing.

Please join with us as we join Him. We are asking the Lord to help us with a guarantor for the other half million loan. That means we need ONE million to buy the building outright. We are asking God for the whole thing! We are also asking the Lord and you His people to please provide through the very challenging summer months. For many, life seems to detour into the extracurricular activities. For us, ministry MUST go on... all of this, of course for the sake of a great Soul Harvest!

Help us to keep the momentum and to build the momentum. We know we are chasing victory!

From victory to victory,

Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. We are seeing wonderful results that will lead to eternal joy. We know that God will use our best efforts at obedience to bring in a mighty harvest. We must stay in step on all our efforts — keep current with our monthly obligations — even as we reach out to seize the amazing God-given opportunity of a new campus facility.

We “press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus!” (Philippians 3:14)