



February 1, 2011

Like a gigantic submarine coming out of the water . . . when God's will emerges, it's *fantastic!*

Dear Friends,

The testimony of our friends was shocking and heart wrenching at the same time. Here's the story. . . .

They have been to a province of more than 80 million people in India. This is only one of 28 provinces. The largest has 180 million people!

The parents don't know what to do with the kids they are bringing into the world.

Many children are being "offered to the jungle gods."

In other cases, the girls are being sold into prostitution.

When we first heard the report, we knew that we needed to do whatever we could to help our friends who were "throwing their lives" at this gargantuan need.

Their envisioned strategy? Acquire a herd of 300 dairy cows and use the income from the dairy to support four orphanages . . . to raise wonderful children in a Christian environment . . . which would become an idyllic oasis in the midst of chaotic circumstances.

I knew that our great friends in the dairy business would be happy to help us set up the business model since they have been very successful at it. (I'm not commenting on the price of milk!) They were willing and ready to get involved.

Our friends in Atlanta, who had witnessed the need firsthand, were totally committed. But there were so many things to do to get some legs under this dream. And there were complications. Delays. Confusion and backtracking and adjustments to the plan. At times it seemed the vision would be derailed.

But a seed had been planted.

Our daughter, Elizabeth, who is to graduate from medical school in a few months, wanted to keep informed on the project's development. When she inquired, she was sad to hear that

there was now total uncertainty about its progress. Help for the destitute children had been postponed indefinitely.

Our friends in the dairy industry asked about the progress on the project as well. Being men of action, they wanted to come right away and get started with the process of breeding cows in India to create the best milk-producing breed in the country!

But no. The Atlanta-based project was at a standstill.

We all wondered what had happened. Why would the Lord make us aware of such a sad ordeal and then let our help fade away? Were we supposed to get involved? How and when?

And then . . . a twist in the story. . . .

Fernando Dantas is a very bright student from Brazil who attends our seminary in Madrid, Spain. He comes from a group of Presbyterian churches in his native land.

When Fernando arrived in Spain, he observed the level of sophistication of the people. He had not been trained in a seminary, and he could feel his handicap. Having heard of our seminary, he decided to take classes alongside his missionary duties to improve his ability to minister in Spain.

Fernando loves music and plays several instruments very well. His love of worship drives his music. Fernando began to not only develop his knowledge of worship through the Scriptures, but also to organize worship seminars for worship pastors in the city of Madrid. He originally came to Madrid serving as a missionary in Youth With A Mission (YWAM).

His YWAM colleagues recommended him for a teaching assignment in India. Fernando enthusiastically accepted and went. The abject poverty and lostness of a nation many times larger than Brazil overwhelmed him. He saw need everywhere and on every level.

- He saw many orphanages that barely touch the desperate need of countless street children.
- He saw the need for training pastors and students.
- He saw the need for planting new churches to become beacons for the vast population.

Fernando felt helpless before such a tremendous need. His action strategy was to come and share with us about what he saw. He knew that we are ministering in a number of countries around the world; he was sure we could to go India too.

Fernando pressed his case with me, but I told him about the plan we had already seen stall out there. Over the years, God has led us to develop a list of seven factors that must be in place in order to enact our model of ministry. One request does not provide all aspects of the paradigm.

But thank God, Fernando's passion was not quenched. He was invited to become a frequent teacher of pastors in India—basically reteaching, from his own class notes, a series of worship seminars he had attended under the leadership of Dr. Jim Altizer, a visiting professor from California. Fernando has replicated the seminar in India, and he keeps being invited back.

And every time, every trip has fanned his conviction that *our ministry is sorely needed in India.*

After I responded negatively, Fernando went to see Manny Jr. (our son, who is leading and teaching at the seminary in Madrid). Fernando wanted to convince Manny Jr. to go with him to India to see for himself—and then talk to me. Manny Jr. said he would like to go “sometime.” To Fernando, this was a great breakthrough! He began to work on dates and coax the plan into reality.

Then Elizabeth got wind of the plan that Manny Jr might be going and asked if she might go too—or better yet if “we” might go. She was thinking, *If we’re there, we might as well see the orphanage, see the need our Atlanta friends saw . . . whatever compelled them to want to help in the first place.*

Since Elizabeth was in motion, *I had to pay attention!* “OK, where exactly is Fernando going?” I asked. Answer: “to an area north of Chennai.” I suggested we contact our friends in Atlanta and find out how far we would be from the needy province they had targeted. When they gave the name, it did not mean anything to us. When Fernando heard the region, he gave us the news: **That it is *exactly* where he wanted to take us!**

In preparation for the trip, we have arranged to see the children living in the slums of Mumbai. It turns out that the ministry working among these children has a U.S. headquarters—*20 minutes from our house here in Texas!* It seems like God’s will emerges like a gigantic submarine coming out of the water!

Now friend, I hope you will hear my heart. You know what God is doing through our ministry together. We are on a quest to plant 10,000 churches.

I have known, before the Lord, that India is a crucial field for replicating our church-planting strategy. India is about to surpass even China in population! The desperate poverty and spiritual darkness compel us to address the physical needs as well.

We have a holistic approach to the India ministry. Elizabeth, who will graduate in May, never intended to practice medicine in the States; her heart has been on the mission field since childhood. How she may practice medicine is not yet defined. After her graduation, she has three years to do a pediatrics residency. Her heart aches for the children who are helpless and being sold into prostitution and worse yet, being thrown to “the jungle gods.”

Certainly India is a difficult mission field. I invited a friend from the church to come along on the trip; his answer was quick and decisive: “No!” I was surprised; it seemed like a premeditated answer. He explained it succinctly: “Nothing about India is easy. I have already been there.”

In fact, we’ll be going to into an “HLZ”—that’s military terminology for *Hot Landing Zone*. We’re going at the end of May, the hottest time of the year. Temperatures range from 115 to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. When friends “in the know” hear that we’re going to India in the first part of May, they suck their breath, they lament for us, they ask *why?*

But in our jam-packed ministry schedule, this is the only time available. And I can only believe, in spite of the physical temperatures, that Eternal destiny without Christ will be much

worse, according to Jesus.

“So . . . will you come?!” When all the parts fall into place, when the picture becomes clear, we feel the responsibility from the Lord to look to Him. Our sufficiency is in Him.

At this point we need to start with the **launching step** to do *discovery* and find the seven crucial components of our ministry model. We need to travel to India—then, once we’re **in** India, we need to find the places, the people, the costs, the work already being done, and the gigantic footprint to target.

We will need God to lead us to a faithful and reliable director on the ground to begin to assemble the different factors. We know that just as God has brought the seed to our hearts, we need to lay down the seed in that land for the harvest to emerge.

We believe that the original setup costs will total less than \$100,000. In the midst of such a vast population, this is a “bargain.”

Our ministries elsewhere continue as always, of course, thanks to your faithfulness to the Lord and your joining Him at His work.

How can you be a part of what God is calling us to do in India?

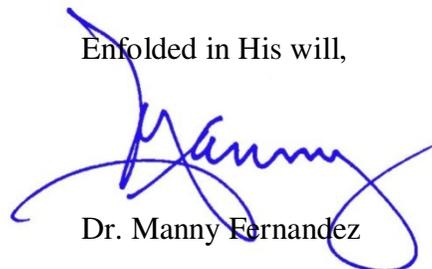
God is the one who calls. We need for all to pray, we need for some to go, we need many to give generously. We need for those whom God touches to engage in India for this formidable task. God is much greater. He is infinite. **He** will build His Church. He wants us to do what we can, as He has enabled us. He can do wonders with loaves and fishes. God is the All Resourceful One: El Shaddai.

Yes, India is huge. But please, don’t let a feeling of helplessness paralyze you. Please pray for us and pray for those whom God wants to engage directly. Please ask God how generous you can be—to help set this outreach in motion and to help us continue all of our critically important ministry in other fields!

Please write to us today and help us with a generous gift to get us on our way. May God confirm to you that He is calling you alongside us in India!

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress” (James 1:27).

Enfolded in His will,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. I need to be able to contact Fernando and the rest of those waiting for word from us. What can I tell them? Please stand with us. Do what you can. Let’s see how God will move in India through us together. Thank you! God bless you!