



February 1, 2020

Dear Ministry Partner,

May the Lord bless you and hear your prayers and answer them beyond what you are able to ask or think! This is my sincere desire, the prayer in my heart, for you as our partner, actively engaged in serving the Lord with us!

These are “wonder years” for us! Everywhere I turn, I see the work alive and bearing fruit. Everywhere we partner together, great things are happening!

As I write these words, I am in Spain in the middle of a teaching trip. Even in these few days at our seminary, I have witnessed the multiplying power of your generous support for the ministry. . .

- A student I’ll call Luis wants to go full-time into evangelistic ministry, using a strategy that God has shown him over the last couple of years. He has assembled a team of personal evangelists who deploy in a given location in Spain. But before they launch in a new region, Luis and company go into a local host church and conduct a seminar on the *why*—the “apologetics”—of our faith.

This is a crucial first step. Most Spaniards (not to mention Americans) have never heard arguments for the existence of God, the reliability of the Bible, proofs of the resurrection, or any keystones of our faith. I learned apologetics from the great Dr. Norman Geisler. Now, thanks to your support, our students receive these same essential proofs themselves.

The HUGE question in secular Europe today (and more and more in the U.S.) is “How do we know that what we know is true?” Luis caught on early in his studies that this is a *must* for Spanish believers: They need to be able to **answer the atheists**. Europe has a painfully high atheism rate. In Spain, 53 percent of young people don’t believe in Christ. Among those 65 years and older, 88 percent claim to believe in God but don’t necessarily attend church.

Luis wants to address this need at the speed of LIFE! Not just going town to town, but multiplying the effort. He’s looking for synergy. He’s doing great things for God, but he is passionate about doing even *greater* things. Your generosity released his energy!

- Then there was a young leader I’ll call Pablo. He came to us from the Basque region, on the border with France. When he arrived, his hair came down to his waist. I’ve only seen photos. I never saw it personally because Pablo was warned that “the Director” was coming, and he would surely enforce the dress code!

When I first met this clean-cut Pablo some years ago, I found a great student in love with ministry—even though he’s serving in a very hard area of Spain, harder than most. He has a very active evangelistic ministry in the streets of the Basque Country.

After his years at the seminary, Pablo planted a church among the Basque and pastored it for a decade. Last year, he was invited to become the country director for an international evangelistic ministry. Having accepted the call, he is currently in passionate pursuit of developing an evangelistic grid for the entire country of Spain!

Your generosity—your support for this ministry, welcoming Pablo into our seminary—set all this in motion!

Now imagine what might happen if Luis and Pablo joined forces.

Pablo and I discussed the possibilities. They've known each other for four years. Pablo recognizes that Luis is gifted. But their approaches to ministry are different. Can they mesh the ministry philosophies that defines each one?

I don't know what will happen. But I can tell you this: Both men want only whatever will produce the greatest results. They are single-minded! They're both successful in their own way. They're both aflame in evangelism—but going about it in very different ways.

Other graduates of our seminary are great examples of how God works through your investment in this ministry . . .

- One is our current national director. He arrived as a 27-year-old wondering how we could “corroborate” things he had heard about Christianity since childhood. Today, he is a tremendous leader—and frequently called by international ministries to travel and teach various doctrinal courses . . . all the way out to Russia!
- Another graduate—another product of God's grace at work through your generosity—serves as the school's chief administrator. I remember how embarrassed she was as a student trying to learn to speak in public. Today, besides her full-time work at the seminary, she has led students in the planting of three churches!

Wow! I'm amazed at the place where we've arrived—you and I together! It is a delight to see the transformation in so many men and women . . . from what they were when they arrived, to what God inspired in them during their time with us—thanks to you! And what a joy to see how God has wired them all so differently!

Yet in every case, you have helped them become effective servants of the Lord. It's a reflection of 2 John 1:4: “I was very glad to find some of your children walking in truth, just as we have received commandment to do from the Father.”

And the fact is, I could fill pages with thrilling true stories of hundreds of workers in various countries who were launched by your generosity, your vision, and your dedication to the work of God. With your strong support, we are taking young Christians and turning them into fruitful disciples of Christ. This is exactly the bull's-eye of the Great Commission!

So with a heart full of excitement, I am excited to keep moving! This Friday, I'll fly to the Canary Islands—we have nearly 100 students in training there, more than in most seminaries anywhere in Western Europe.

The couple who leads our work there are both graduates of our Madrid program as well—more products of your investment in ministry! The director earlier led our work in two other regions. The churches he has planted or now leads total 43—yet he feels he is just getting started! And now he's pressing to start a full-time seminary program in Grand Canary. He's asking for our help.

Will you join HIM? Not the director . . . I'm talking about joining the One who is on board with the Father's work! This is what you've been doing as you support World Link: joining the work of Christ, empowering others to do likewise!

There is much work before us.

I am still in active pursuit of the four countries that will make it possible for us to make disciples in every continent in the world. I am excited as always by the fruit I see in every place where the Lord already has us working. What else is there to do in life that will follow us through eternity?

I'll make a four-day stop back home before heading out to Cuba with a group from Fort Worth. The 100 extra workers we hired last year are producing beautifully—not just producing, but *multiplying*. While I'm there, we'll go on an evangelistic expedition to encourage our workers, to help them make an even greater impact “to seek and to save that which is lost.”

And through it all, **I am driven by a dream.**

I don't often mention it, but what keeps me deeply involved in ministry, always wanting more, is a recurring dream, a deeply stirring vision of a young mother somewhere in Asia . . .

She's awake in the dark of night while her family sleeps. She is desperate in her sufferings. She doesn't know whom to call out to. She cries silently in her bed, longing, hoping that help will come from *somewhere* . . . that something will change . . . that relief will come in some way, shape, or form.

She makes me want to *run* to her and her family—to be there *right now*.

I'm reminded of a taxi driver I met in Viet Nam years ago. I got into his car and he announced to me in English, “This is not a taxi. It is an office for sharing the Gospel.” He had a small box fastened to his dashboard containing a neat pile of Gospel tracts. When he learned I was a “pastor,” he began sharing his testimony.

He had five teenage sons, all of them infected with AIDS.

After the first one died, the father heard the Gospel. Instantly he wanted to connect with “the real God.” He told me joyfully about leading his four remaining sons to Christ.

But then he began walking back the “what ifs.”

- What if he had heard about Christ before his firstborn died?
- What if he had heard the Gospel before they were all infected?
- What if they had heard the Gospel and not been infected?

Every “what if” is torture!

Then he asked the inevitable question: *Why did we delay so long in coming?*

I think the Asian lady in the dream will ask the same question. People are dying in darkness.

Yes, it’s true that we ourselves can only do so much. But we must remember that God can do **so much!** Our equation is a **ONE + one + one**. He is not joining us. We are joining Him. He is sufficient for the task, but we have the joy of being His hands and feet in the world.

Every time I go into a new country and see the great need, I have to remind myself of this truth: **The problem is big. Our God is bigger. The need is big. I am the channel. I am the “small part” in the equation.**

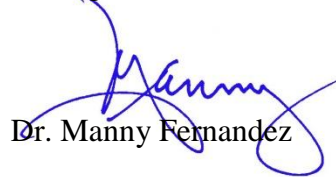
So I conclude, “I’ll give it my loaves and fishes.” And God always shows up!

Will you reach out to the needy lady? Will you speed your steps to join Him in reaching out to the many places where He has led us to work? He said to go into all the world. We’ve come far. We can make it to the whole world.

But this new year has dawned a little on the lean side. Giving has been down somewhat. We need to remember: “The main thing is that the main thing always remain the main thing!” Please make Christ’s Great Commission your number one priority this year. Jesus said seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and everything we need will be added unto us.

Let’s go! Into all the world! Let me hear from you soon. Thank you! God bless you!

Loving in Christ,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. God is moving. Let’s stay in the flow of what He is doing. Please be as generous as possible so we can say “yes” to each new ministry opportunity. Thank you again! I’m grateful to be in ministry with you!