

December 1, 2019

Dear Ministry Partner,

Warm happy greetings in this very special month!

My prayer is that you and your loved ones will rejoice in the greatest gift, the gift of the Son, who brings us salvation, life eternal, and life abundant! Thank you for passing on the gift of the Savior in our partnership all year long to the peoples of the world!

You often hear Christian leaders talking about "vision." But for my friend Dr. William Boothe, vision is <u>practical</u>.

Dr. Boothe, a committed believer, was a record-setting LASIK surgeon, performing more than 150,000 LASIK procedures. He gave the gift of 20/20 vision to all the members of our family and many missionaries. He actually made a commitment to donate two LASIK surgeries per month to our missionary friends! Innumerable members of our ministry family received this gift of vision in the years before he retired. We sure miss him!

His work was not automatic. It was a work of <u>calibration</u> and <u>recalibration</u>. Dr. Boothe guaranteed his patients perfect vision—which meant that he would re-calibrate and "touch up" as needed until they had the promised 20/20 results.

Meanwhile, he checked his LASIK machinery every single Thursday, year in and year out. As the machine did its work over time, as temperatures and other factors fluctuated, he needed to make absolutely sure there would be no miscalculations on surgery days; he *recalibrated* until the settings were perfect.

He was a living picture of our ministry today—as we ponder our vision for the year 2020.

We need to be calibrated to the will of God, calibrated to the Great Commission that He has given to all of us. And as we do our work over time, as various factors fluctuate, we must recalibrate.

Today, we are doing the most exciting recalibration in our ministry's history. We are close to a MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH—poised to go into **four new countries** in 2020—which will clinch the purpose for which World Link was originally raised up. . . .

The countries we are going into will make a reality of our great vision: ministering on every continent in the world! By this time next year, by God's grace and with your help, World Link will truly be everywhere in the world. (Well, we will leave Antarctica to its only official residents: the penguins and polar bears.)

With a heart full of joy, and with the excitement of anticipation, I am thrilled to bring you OUR GLOBAL VISION FOR 2020:

ASIA!

We will revitalize our efforts in **Viet Nam**. We have already done what I would call a "short warm-up" there—which has clearly demonstrated that Viet Nam is perfectly aligned with what World Link is called to do: *In a brief period of time, we have established 260 church-plants in Viet Nam!*

We are also going into **Indonesia**—the most populous Islamic nation on the planet, with more Muslims than even the traditionally Arab nations of the Middle East and North Africa!

God began setting the stage for our Indonesian ministry all the way back in 1989. I was sharing with a professor that God had laid on my heart to start a seminary, to train and deploy students for evangelism and church-planting. The professor gave me exciting news: He had just come back from a seminary in Indonesia that was doing this exact ministry!

He urged me to go and see for myself, to find out how and why this seminary was working. I was unprepared for the amazing things I saw and heard in Indonesia. *Their seminary had been born in the crucible of conflict*. They spent two years preparing to launch the work, and then just two weeks before they opened, the Indonesian government declared that proselytizing would be *forbidden* in their country!

The Christians were devastated. But they were not deterred. They went to prayer—and out of that time of intensive prayer, they made a decision: There would be no turning back. They would go forward and let the Lord show them what to do each step of the way. But some of what the Lord showed them was not what they expected! . . .

A student asked a teacher for money to buy a young goat. "What for?" the teacher wanted to know. The student said it would be useful for his ministry, and the cost, just \$5. So the teacher more or less shrugged and gave him the money.

The student took his goat to a goat farmer and asked him to take care of it for him. He would go every weekend to visit his goat and the farmer. Amazingly, the farmer and his family soon received Jesus as Savior! The student rejoiced with them! Then he moved his goat to another farm—with the same results! He repeated the cycle over and over.

He planted his first church through something he calls "goat evangelism"!

What was going on here? The law banning proselyting includes a loophole: If a business transaction governs your relationship with someone, you can talk with them about *anything*. You're only barred from establishing a relationship exclusively for proselyting! Soon, other students followed this example by launching "goose evangelism" strategies!

It is now evident that God will use Indonesians to reach Indonesians until Christ returns! But with our help, this work can multiply dramatically. We are eager to start as soon as possible—because Indonesia has more than 165 million people . . . most of them Muslims.

North America—Yes, MEXICO!

Mexico is in our backyard. Its violence is making headlines. Their needs and their crises reverberate here, next door, in the U.S. In the chaos, the people of Mexico don't know where to turn. Many are turning to God. But they need to be shown how to establish a genuine relationship with Christ, to seek the Lord's favor and help.

We conducted a three-city pilot project. In just two years, we saw 25 churches planted—which began immediately not only to grow, but to multiply!

We must pursue this mission field. We know there are many dangers, but Mexico is our neighbor. God has positioned us, literally, for this work. We have ministered in the Caribbean and in South America, but Mexico—which many Americans don't realize is technically in **North America**—urgently needs God!

AFRICA!

Africa is a challenge from multiple angles. We have years of experience in the Maghreb, the region above the Sahara desert. Some 82.5 million people live there—and not even 0.5 million of them know the Lord!

The Maghreb and the adjoining sub-Sahara of Africa are a melting pot of cultures and economic philosophies and social issues. A longtime ministry friend has asked for help with an outreach strategy in Sierra Leone and Nigeria. By the time you read these words, I will have met with a group of his supporters to help them get underway.

Meanwhile, in the African nation of Togo, my daughter is making a life investment; she has been ministering for several years at the Hope Hospital, an American missionary work. They're developing a church-planting program and she is asking for our help there as well.

The ends of the earth!

The requests are coming to us from many directions. The fields are indeed white unto harvest. The laborers are indeed few. *Can we say no?*

God who made humans to glorify Him, and to enjoy fellowship with Him forever, is looking for *true worshippers*, people who will worship Him everywhere they go, according to the full counsel of His Word. Incredibly, even though He created us for this purpose, He has to *search* for people who are willing to join the purpose He made us for!

It's also hard to fathom that **He died** for us so that **we would live for** Him. He reconciled us—and He has called us to the work of reconciliation. Who could be better equipped to understand the need for salvation, and the joy of it, than those who have been saved? We must all work in the ministry of reconciliation. It's time for recalibration of our vision!

Dr. Boothe, the LASIK surgeon, in a way modeled the work of Jesus from 20 centuries before. Jesus was the first LASIK touch-up doctor—when he healed the blind man at Bethsaida.

Jesus led him outside the town (Mark 8:22), spat in his eyes, and asked him if he saw anything. The man replied that he could see, but he saw "men as trees walking." He surmised they were men because trees don't walk! Then Jesus touched him again—and the man saw with 20/20 vision.

This is what's known as a "didactic miracle"—a teaching moment. The man was healed, but Jesus perfectly calibrated the miracle—He initially left him in an intermediary stage—Why? To show His disciples that they needed to understand their situation: *They were not yet clear on all that they were to do*.

They were living like so many of us. We have clearly grasped some things, but others not so clearly. We may understand that there is a Great Commission. But what's not always so clear is *our personal role* in the divine scheme of things.

The disciples saw Jesus multiply bread twice—first for 5,000 people, then for 4,000. But when they forgot to bring bread, they were back in trouble. *Having eyes, do you not see?* Jesus asked them. *Are your hearts still hardened?*

He wants <u>us</u> to be "<u>IN</u>." He wants us to join Him in the ministry of reconciliation— 20/20—in 2020!

And we can. In fact, at this moment, we can almost touch it . . . the perfection of the vision He has given us. But without you, we can't do it. We must grow our potential to handle the next four countries in order to be truly global . . . to establish a ministry that is fruitful in evangelism, church-planting and leadership training on every continent.

I invite you to recalibrate your vision. With 20/20 vision, we see greatness ahead. But we need help in 2020. **Your generous end-of-year gift today can help to clinch it!** Would you please pray about this—and give as generously as the Lord has blessed you? If we work together shoulder to shoulder we can do it: *We can go into all the world*.

Please respond today. Let's finish strong in 2019 and launch 2020 with perfect vision. And I pray that God will bless you richly as we all share in this victory!

Gratefully in Christ,

Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. Yes, I am asking boldly for your help. I am asking you to consider perhaps a more generous gift than you've ever given. The response of God's people between now and the final day of the year will determine how we are able to move forward in 2020. We have the potential to advance the kingdom of God on *every continent*. Please take part in this historic movement. I am grateful for your partnership! Thank you in advance!