



January 1, 2019

Dear Ministry Prayer Partners,

If ever there was a moment when I wish you had been with me on the mission field, it was this week—right here in Spain.

I witnessed, in a single 90-minute span, a living panoramic retrospective of what the Lord has accomplished through you!

Here's how it happened:

Two new friends of mine from the U.S. were visiting their daughter in Madrid. Since I was going to be here, they wanted to come by the seminary and see our ministry. So I arranged for several of our students and graduates to come together and share what God is doing in their ministries—by what strategies it's happening—and how they're dreaming for the future.

Of course in my head I know all this already. I've seen many students go through our seminary and graduate. I've visited countless of their churches and ministries. But never has it all been expressed by the workers themselves, in person, at the same time.

The result was nothing short of ASTOUNDING. ***Your investment in this work of disciple-making is being supernaturally multiplied around the world—making a MASSIVE impact!***

- ☐ One graduate from the south of Spain has planted 43 churches.
- ☐ He is also ministering to the single largest student group—some 70 young people — in the entire Canary Islands.
- ☐ One young man is overseeing eight churches as well as a training camp two hours south of Madrid.
- ☐ Another student has a Madrid-based ministry of engaging, training, and deploying youth groups to go out into streets and onto college campuses sharing the Gospel.
- ☐ Another is working for the Billy Graham Association here in Spain, identifying teams and campaign strategies with a goal of planting a church in every town and city in Spain!



- A number of students are pastoring churches around Spain.
- One young woman, desperate to serve, started a church in a certain neighborhood, but the work was shut down by the authorities when neighbors complained about the noise. She went to another place—with a bigger population—but the church grew, and the police kicked them out, again because of noise complaints.

Did she quit? No! She has now gone to a third place—where she believes their days are numbered because *the church keeps growing!* (This is what I call a “good problem”!)

- We heard from Naci, a distinguished-looking gentleman. (I wrote to you about him some time ago.) He was reared in the ancient biblical city of Antioch. When the town was taken over by Muslims, Naci wanted to start a guerrilla movement and overthrow them. God had a different strategy in mind! He called Naci to our seminary instead. Today he leads the largest church in northern Madrid—a wonderful and powerful ministry!

Naci also shared a request—but he wasn’t seeking help for himself. The longing of his heart is to see his congregation involved in helping to build new ministries! He wanted to spread the word—so those who are developing new ministries will arrange to come to his church and share their vision with his people!

- A young man from Colombia told his story. He was a lawyer but felt the call of God to study with us for four years. He married a German young lady who was also studying with us. Today they’re planting a church in the city of Velilla. Their vision for their church? To get involved with *all the ministries they possibly can . . .* so their witness as a church can impact every corner of Spain—and the world beyond!

For a solid hour and a half, the stories poured out—every one of them a new stanza of music to my ears. My American friends were stunned. When it was over, one of them turned to the other with wide eyes and asked in astonishment, “What was that?!”

But it wasn’t just me, and it wasn’t just the visitors who felt it. Every one of the students, the teachers, the administrators, and the graduates in that room sensed the power of the Holy Spirit’s work through our God-given strategy of multiplication-discipleship.

In fact, other ministries have served in Spain for decades—some nearly three quarters of a century—yet no other strategy has come even close to producing such phenomenal results!

What God is doing through your generosity is HUGE!

Yet at the same time, as I listened to these accounts and basked in the glory of God, I couldn’t help but also think of **those who weren’t in the room . . .**
. those whose lives and ministries had been cut short . . . those whose



legacies serve to remind us that time is short—that we must hurry—because none of us knows how long we have left to do the Harvest work to which the Lord has called us.

Andres was one. An amazing young man who had a short but powerful career in our midst. I remember his small pickup truck—with a message affixed in Spanish across the top of his windshield: “Salvation can only be found in Jesus Christ.”

He married a single mom who had a young daughter named Stephanie. Andres was a wonderful father, even though this little girl wasn’t “his.”

But this storybook turned dark. Mommy fell in love with another guy. She left Andres—and left her daughter behind. Andres could not abandon little Stephanie. When he came to our seminary to study, he always went back to his hometown in Granada in the south of Spain to visit “his” daughter. *He was sold out.* I admire him to this day.

On the eve of spring break, Andres left for Granada, a seven-hour journey. But he set out at 7:00 p.m.—and fell asleep at the wheel a half-hour away from home. The entire town came to the funeral at the Catholic church. The broken-hearted priest said to me, “I know he was a student with you because he came often to share the Gospel with me.” What fervor! To share Christ with a *priest!*

“Would you mind doing the homily?” the priest asked me. Of course I did it. In that setting of grief and memory, I met so many people. Everyone in the town was saying, “He was a real Christian, because no one would do what he did for that little girl with that kind of a mom!”

There was one more beautiful “legacy moment” for Andres. The field where his car rolled was freshly plowed. He always carried two types of Gospel tracts. They were spread all over that field:

1. “To die, and then what?”
2. “Where will you spend eternity?”

It was a powerful finishing statement. ***His entire family came to faith and joined the church!***

Another of our graduates whom God decided to “graduate” early . . . was Ruben, the youngest of 14 siblings. When we started teaching in the Canaries in 2001, he came to me and sheepishly admitted that he wanted to be trained to become an evangelist—going through the full program in Madrid. He seemed to sense that he didn’t have “what it took” to master the academics, but his heart was simply compelling him to try.



I came up with some sort of a plan. We had acquired an 18-wheeler truck that turned into a stage where our team produced concerts and preached the Gospel. I suggested to Ruben that if he would get his CDL—commercial driver's license—I would give him free use of the truck for his own life and work, and for ministry.

His eyes filled with tears. "Don't lead me on!" he cried in Spanish. "I will be tempted to invest my whole life!"

I assured him I was making a bona fide offer—and Ruben got to work. He came to Madrid and studied like crazy, but he failed the CDL test—*not once, but three times!* Meanwhile, he plunged into his seminary work. The separation from his wife and three children was terribly difficult for him. Eventually he moved his entire family to Madrid—and finally, when I was about to give up on the idea, he passed the CDL test!

Ruben fell in love with a beautiful mountain town, Rascafria, 5000 feet above sea level, just north of Madrid. With his family settled in Madrid, he began a ministry to the communities there, and on a beautiful Sunday morning, he inaugurated a new church building.

On Monday he would fly to the Canaries to connect with his family. **The plane crashed on takeoff.** He and 153 other passengers died.

Andres and Ruben remind me: We may think we have it "down to a science" and we can cruise for the rest of our days—but, NO. *Not for a moment.* **We have a world to reach. People are desperate.** There are more people on this planet every day. The forever truth is that "the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few"! We must engage in the Harvest until He comes!

So I bring you this renewed challenge for the year 2019. Yes, our work is adding up; we have the joy of achieving great things for eternity—nearly 1.5 million documented decisions for Christ so far! Thirteen thousand churches launched!

But how many more are still lost? May God help us to look at 1.5 million decisions and declare that *from this vantage point, 3 million doesn't seem too daunting a goal!* May we look at 13,000 churches and declare that *from this vantage point, 25,000 or even 30,000 doesn't seem too daunting a goal!* Especially with God opening doors in Brazil, with the largest population in South America—and India, soon to become the most populous nation on earth!

Our vision is to double our numbers in less time than it took to get here. And the Bible tells me that God is happy when we trust Him to get there.



This goal is not far-fetched. Anyone who was part of our ministry in the beginning will remember that *when we started, our vision wasn't as big as where we have already arrived.* We never imagined being even where we are! So how much MORE can God do if we stay the course!

Let's not be intimidated by vision. Vision is only a lighthouse. The lighthouse isn't the port. Vision is only the journey; it's not the destination. *The port that God is leading us to will be far greater than what we imagined along the way!*

I never dreamed of the blessings, I never dreamed of basking in the breakthrough figures that I encountered in that phenomenal 90-minute meeting. But God had a plan. He brought you, he brought others, and together, we discovered the truth of His promise: **His yoke is easy, His burden is light.** By God's standard, this wasn't work. ***It was a walk in the park!***

I hope you'll give generously today. Join me at the dawn of this New Year invigorated by the wonderful blessings we've already experienced. Let me hear from you with a generous gift to jump-start into the victories of 2019! God bless you richly and make His wonderful plans for you come to pass!

With a spring in my step,

Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. Let's plunge in. Let's see what God will do in 2019. Let's pray and work and give. Let's sell out. *Regardless of how long God may allow each of us to serve, let's pour ourselves out completely as a thank offering to Him every single day. SOLD OUT FOR CHRIST.*