



November 1, 2019

Dear Ministry Partner,

In English we say “Wow!” In Portuguese, the language of Brazil, they spell it “Uau!”

Either way, I think it’s the single best way to express the wonderful things that God is doing through your support of our ministry together in Brazil. I just got back, and I’m still rejoicing . . . *rejoicing, and humbled.*

Yes, in awe and humility at the passion of our brothers and sisters in Christ there . . . their vision, their dedication, and their willingness to sacrifice in order to experience everything God has for them.

I was teaching in the northeast corner of the country in the city of Teresina. When I learned where these students came from—when I discovered what they had gone through just to be there and learn of God’s Word—I was astounded . . . humbled . . . shaken in my spirit.

Some had traveled 932 miles. Others came 746 miles. One traveled 497 miles by motorcycle.

Please understand, this was not a big glamorous worship crusade. *This was a simple seminary course on the historical books of the Old Testament!* But the hunger for God’s Word is so great . . . the commitment to knowing and understanding the Scriptures, to accurately express them in ministry to others . . . the fervor is so intense, they will do whatever it takes.

Honestly, I thought I would never hear of greater distances traveled to our courses—but in LaBrea, in the northwest, **some students travel two weeks by canoe—for a one-week course!**

Does it seem as if I must be exaggerating? I am not. These are just the plain facts.

What can we take as a lesson from these dear servants of God who are paying such a high price to accurately handle the Word of God? We need to walk worthy of their example. We need to be serious partners with them to make the spreading of the Gospel as productive as it can be!

This is good soil. Among the 90 trainees we taught at Teresina, they have planted 350 churches. One student alone, a young man named Targino, has 112 church plants underway himself!

You might expect them to swarm the American visitor with requests for help. But no. They came to me with only one humble request:

Can you hold a training center in the city of Natal? For most of our people, this would require a journey of only 400 kilometers: “only” 250 miles!

Thinking back on their eager, open faces, I again humbled. All they want is to make this training available to more leaders, to grow the number of active church planters, to reach more, more, and more of their people with the life-changing Gospel! These are people *sold out* to the Soul Harvest.

I came away asking myself some hard questions:

- ❖ How can we resist going where there will be more workers for the harvest?
- ❖ How can we resist making more disciples?
- ❖ How can we say no to more conversions?

When the cry of our God's heart is that "none should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9), *how can we turn a deaf ear to the pleas of our brothers and sisters in Brazil?*

The initial answer, the immediate answer, was relatively easy. Of course, we are now mapping out a plan to take our training to the city of Natal in the northeast of Brazil. But Natal is only one opportunity among *innumerable* opportunities. What is our response to the *innumerable* opportunities?

The fields are white. The laborers indeed are few. But the Lord of the Harvest is showing us His plans to get the Gospel out.

I am thrilled that He is pointing the way. I am thrilled that our Lord has seen fit to bring you and me together, to join the Father in His work just as Jesus Himself has joined Him.

Now we must make good on His calling. We must take action.

As the season of Thanksgiving draws near, the physical harvest is in view. It is right for us to thank the Lord for our sustenance. The fact that we live in a land where food is plentiful is an unspeakable blessing. It is "grace upon grace," as John 1:16 TLB states: "We have received one gracious blessing after another."

But the physical harvest is not the whole story. There is a Soul Harvest too. And the Soul Harvest is so much more! Much fruit remains. Jesus says this is how the Father is glorified: "that we may bear much fruit." He says this is also how we prove that we are His disciples: "by bearing much fruit" (John 15:8).

Are we doing it? Are we obeying? Yes! Through your prayers and your giving, it is happening! We are bearing much fruit together, glorifying the Father—in Cuba, in Spain, in India, in Ukraine, and beyond.

One brief example:

I will travel to Ukraine this month. We started ministering there 18 years ago. We led with a campaign which saw more than 2,000 decisions for Christ. We established partnerships throughout the country, and we launched 126 churches from that original evangelistic effort.

Now we're going to launch a massive follow-up study to document what God has done there over nearly two decades. I'll bring you a full report, of course. But I can tell you this already: We have grown exponentially. We have planted hundreds of churches in partnership with you. And those churches have planted an average of two more churches each! The total number of churches planted in Ukraine is now somewhere in the thousands!

You never know how God will move. . . .

In that very first Ukraine campaign, my son met a girl from a California church's youth group. It seemed like "kid stuff" to me, quite frankly. I didn't think much about it. Well, they made a life out of it—and a family! My son and his wife just celebrated their 13th anniversary. They have three children with a fourth due soon!

Their romance is a lesson to me. We went through the door God opened, maybe we thought it was a small door, a small opportunity. Maybe we didn't expect much to happen. Yet don't forget the two most powerful words in all of human history: *but God. . . !*

God decided to teach us the same lesson that He has taught for generations since the beginning of time: Little is much when God is in it!

In Ukraine from that day, hundreds of thousands have come to Christ. They have been born again. History and eternity will never be the same. The Gaither Vocal Band sings that old song:

*Little is much when God is in it! / Labor not for wealth or fame;
There's a crown, and you can win it, / If you go in Jesus' name.*

Whatever we bring to the table, God can do great things with. It just takes a few simple loaves and fishes, gifts of faith. The widow's mite. The boy gave all he had. The widow's mite was mighty because it was an honest, sacrificial effort born of faith.

I am bold in asking you to give generously today because of **what God does** through your giving to this ministry. **By His grace and power, WE SEE RESULTS.**

This is not true in every ministry effort, every charitable effort, or every nonprofit effort. Breast cancer charities, sorry to say, have not come close to finding a cure for breast cancer. Homeless charities, sad to report, have not found a way to do away with homelessness. Poverty has remained stuck at more or less the same rate for 40 years.

Maybe we should not be surprised that we see only a total of two percent of U.S. household income invested in all charities put together. *If there are no results, why give?*

***But if there ARE results—if the results are provable, and
lasting, and ETERNAL—then why NOT give?***

It grieves me that somehow the Church in England came to a point of believing that missions did not have a serious role to play in changing the world. They effectively abandoned the Lord's "Great Commission"—as if it were not a serious plan to change the world.

Meanwhile, many people think that business and/or politics will create progress for the great masses of humanity going forward. But the chaos in our world today renders this theory dubious.

God has always had a plan, and it is moving forward. His promises are true and investment in His Kingdom is for the wise. Just as God guided Jeremiah to invest by buying the field at Anathot (Jeremiah 32:6), we are to invest our very lives in His work.

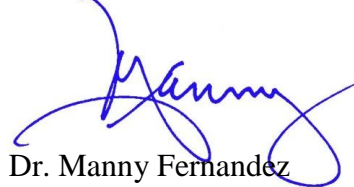
In the parables of the treasure hidden in the field and the pearl of great price (Matthew 13), Jesus clearly shows us that **we must be expert appraisers of spiritual riches—and invest like there is a sure tomorrow!**

So, let me stop. (I think you can sense that I'm still *exploding* with joy and energy after my trip to Brazil.) Here is the bottom line: Thanksgiving is coming. As we ponder the bounty God has given us, let's not keep it to ourselves. **WE ARE BLESSED.** Let's share it. Let Psalm 67 be our prayer:

*God be gracious to us and bless us,
That Your way may be known on the earth,
Your salvation among all nations. . . .
God blesses us,
That all the ends of the earth may fear Him.*

I hope to hear from you soon with your best possible Thanksgiving harvest gift for the work to which our Lord has called us together! We need you . . . because the world needs Him!

Gratefully in Christ,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. The question of Brazil still lingers. How can we say no to more conversions? . . . raising up more church-planters? . . . and discipling more believers? We can't say no. Thank you for being in ministry with me. I thank God for you! He will do great things through your gift today! And I pray your own Thanksgiving will be blessed.