



Psalm 20 to you! . .

May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble!
May He send you help from the sanctuary. . . .
May He grant you your heart's desire. . . .

Dear Ministry Partner,

In a tight spot?

✓ *God sees lots of room!*

Foul circumstances?

✓ *God has sweet-smelling plans!*

No options? Feeling desperate?

✓ *God is shaping OPPORTUNITIES!*

We've seen it all firsthand in just the past few weeks!

A friend in Sierra Leone, West Africa, was wallowing in despair. The pandemic has brought life to such an impasse that he felt almost frantic about the need to move forward in ministry. He phoned us pleading for us to meet with him.

The timing was minute-perfect. My wife and I had just been praying—less than an hour before—about taking our successful God-given Brazilian training strategy and adapting it for our Africa initiatives as well.

Then came the phone call! He asked us to train “multiplying disciples” for Africa in virtual classrooms, just like we’re doing in Brazil! When I told him my wife and I had just been praying about this, he answered: “That is scary!” (Scary? Well, as I remember, God used to do this in the ‘70s quite a bit—but lately, I haven’t often heard of such divine coincidences. *God* is the same as ever; what happened to us?)

Soon I was meeting with Joseph, our field director in Sierra Leone, setting up a schedule of coaching and evaluation. We’ll start training in the next few weeks! Joseph’s relief and joy were palpable. Pray with us that God will give us huge victories in this new field!

Just as with any new field, we had to do “due diligence,” making sure that all the necessary ingredients were in place and in abundance. We actually work through a checklist of seven factors that must be present and “ripe” before we can launch our ministry in a new area. As I write you today, I can say with confidence that this new African initiative promises to be an exciting field. . . .

After the pandemic, we could take American groups to help minister in churches and campaigns. English is the de facto language, so American church groups will be greatly appreciated (once we’re all properly vaccinated against Covid!).

This Sierra Leone development is thrilling because it takes us to *Africa*—one of the target continents for our 2020 vision!

Yes, pandemic travel limitations have been frustrating—but as God has provided “strength multipliers” like the internet and virtual communications, *we’re “going in”!* Amazingly, even in countries whose governments have vowed to eradicate Christianity within their borders by the end of 2020 . . . we’re now reaching people millions of times over online!

- **God is connecting the dots in wonderful new ways to accomplish His purposes around the world! For example, there’s an incredible Cuba-Mexico connection now. . . .**

In the not too distant past—before Covid—I was invited to preach outside Havana in a town called Reboredo. The meeting was in what might be called a “house-church”—except that the house was impossibly tiny with a living room only 10 by 11 feet and more than 50 people trying to get in! People were jamming their faces into every window and door to get a look inside.

The pulpit in the minuscule living room was literally against my chest. On the other side of the pulpit, people were pressed up against the pulpit. We were literally “in a tight spot”!

After the service, I couldn’t help but ask Rafael, the pastor, “How are you going to grow this church?” He answered by walking me next door to an empty lot—where I was overwhelmed by an unbelievable stench. It was being used as a pigsty! But Rafael had a vision of building a church here which could hold 150 people!

A group from the American Northwest was traveling with me that day. When they learned that the price of the field was a mere \$1500, they pooled their resources and bought in for Rafael’s congregation on the spot! They even gave additional funds to begin construction.

The next time I visited Rafael, a perfectly white church building stood in the field—with not even a *hint* of the smell of pigs!

But the church was full beyond capacity again! When I went up to preach, I found myself in another tight squeeze. Afterward, I asked Rafael, “*Now* what are you going to do?” His answer was thrilling.

We’re not going to grow anymore, he declared. Instead, they would grow “daughter churches” in other locations. In fact, they were already underway with this strategy.

I imagined they might have one, or even two church-plantings underway. I was wrong. *They already had 14 new churches operating!*

This work alone would be cause for celebration, but God wasn’t finished. Rafael left Cuba some three years later, and moved to serve as a missionary in Mexico. The Cuban church network continued to thrive—it is still going strong. When we produce major evangelistic events in Cuba, groups from these churches participate.

- **But what about Rafael? Ah, God connects the dots! As the Lord led us to begin an outreach into Mexico, our Cuba coordinator began conferring with Rafael every week. We’re mapping out a church-planting movement in the Mexican state of Guerrero.**

Even the concept of “Cuban missionaries” seems like an impossibility right now in view of the desperate situation in the country. This isolated nation is suffering through a time of scarcity like they have never known before. The most basic of foods are very scarce.

Yet as so often happens, when we’re in a tight spot, God sees plenty of room for operations! Thanks to the generosity of friends like you, we’ve been able to send thousands of pounds of rice, beans, and pork to meet the most urgent needs of hungry people in Cuba. As I write, our third wave of relief is being distributed.

And here’s the most beautiful part: In these strange, hard times, the people of Cuba—in a fog of seemingly endless confusion—are warmly welcoming the Good News! The Gospel has a magnetic appeal as people realize they don’t have the strength or the resources to outlast the complex symptoms of the virus. They suddenly realize: *We need God!* The churches are becoming the places of comfort and refuge.

- **For God, desperate times create opportunities! *At this moment, we are delighted to be grappling with a brand-new, utterly unforeseen pandemic-generated opportunity. . . .***

In the interior of Cuba, a retiree sits in a predicament. She has inherited a 32-acre farm—a river runs through it, and there are fruit trees. She has 20 cows and a number of egg-laying chickens. She has water pumps. It’s quite an operation.

But she has no money in the pandemic economy. She can’t buy seed. She can’t afford to fix anything that breaks. She can’t even slaughter a cow for food (it’s illegal—you can go to jail for ten years).

She wants out! And the Lord has led her to *us*.

She has offered the farm to our workers in the region—and the price is *less* than the cost of a *single acre* in many parts of the U.S. If we work the farm, we can produce food and goods to help people. If we turn it into a Christian camp after the pandemic, we can produce even more than a farm produces—with an eternal impact!

Is this a God moment? We see an opportunity for a God-honoring ministry. When the first flights to Cuba resume in early August, I’ll visit to verify all the facts. My hope and prayer is that this will become a win-win situation . . . and someday soon, we’ll be able to take work teams to make improvements—to use this property for good purposes that God will show us!

Please pray with me that this will help us turn this farm into a “grace gateway” . . . to reach multitudes with God’s love!

- **Brazil to Africa . . . Cuba to Mexico . . . *but then there’s India!***

As I write, the longest lockdown ever known is still ongoing. Our national coordinator and his family have been confined to their apartment for months!

Yet even in these conditions, the work in India is going on—reaching more souls than ever. We have literally hundreds of pictures of people receiving food supplies and the message of the Gospel. Our teams have mounted four major campaigns to distribute food and aid and to preach the Gospel. Thousands have come to faith!

And our workers are delighted to report that people are eager to interact—something that Christians have rarely experienced there! Instead of having to “warm people up” to a conversation about spiritual matters, workers are being received with open arms and open hearts!

The good will of the people is instant and long-lasting. Ministry workers are being received like heroes. There is little of the usual doubt and suspicion which have been sown for years against the Gospel. For years, people imagined ulterior motives—Christians gaining at their expense. But now, with our aid distributions, people are astonished—positively impressed. Because no one else is doing anything like it!

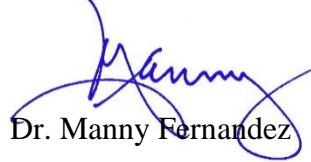
God is turning trouble into triumphs! Even the interference of Covid is advancing the Gospel. God’s truth is marching on! Your faith investment in the Lord’s kingdom is yielding exciting results that will be with us for eternity.

I can only ask that you keep up the good work. *What fantastic things will God do in the weeks ahead through your generous giving today?*

In the next 30 days, we will need a total of \$32,000 to keep pace with every God-given opportunity. Any gift you can give today will make a very real impact through our proven-powerful, God-given ministry strategies!

We have such amazing momentum in so many places around the world. God has blessed us so that we might be a blessing. We must continue with Him in His work! Thank you so much for standing with us in this astounding global endeavor. May God richly bless you and provide for you according to His riches in glory.

Gratefully in Christ,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. Covid has turned the world upside down. You know how the Good Shepherd left the 99 sheep to find just one who was lost. Today, in the world of Covid, it’s as if we have one sheep in the fold—and 99 scattered across the globe! But God has given us the tools to reach them, to claim them . . . to train, to equip, to send, to plant, to build, *to seek and to save*. Please be a part of it today by giving as generously as possible. Thank you again!