



WORLD LINK
MINISTRIES

December 1, 2024

Dear Ministry Partner,

Warmest greetings in this happy season, and a blissful Christmas to you!

We're celebrating a combination Thanksgiving-Christmas on our new campus in Madrid, thanks to generous partners like you! This amazing place is the highest achievement of a *physical* goal that will have *spiritual* ramifications—for eternity!

Already, the campus is a magnet for believers in the greater Madrid area and beyond . . .

Manny III reports from his recent teaching trip there that parents were happy studying in a conference on Biblical Counseling while their children were playing outdoors in our kids' camp . . .

Professors and graduates came to the mountain campus to enjoy the day of fellowship and learning, gathering as a family in God's beautiful creation . . .

And everyone was looking forward to sharing a great paella being cooked in our new kitchen!

It was like a dream . . . *a dream come true!* **Thank you** from a multitude of grateful hearts!

And clearly, this is only the beginning of what God has in store for this extraordinary campus. More and more groups are reaching out to us, inquiring about using the facilities to stage spiritual retreats and launch evangelistic activities.

At the moment, we have to say, "Not so fast!"—the campus still needs a number of improvements in order to survive and serve well under such a crush of activities. But what a joy to see so many people already wanting to put this superb teaching environment to use in the work of the Lord!

This campus is a gift of unspeakable value for Spain, for Europe, and for "the ends of the earth." By giving generously, you've inspired a Thanksgiving and Christmas celebration all wrapped into one!

To base our work on this new campus represents one of the biggest ministry milestones in our history. It will bolster our work in countries like Spain and Cuba and empower expansion into other countries—where countless millions will be blessed by the news that "unto *them* was born a Savior"!

Look where God is leading us in the coming New Year! . . .

IRAN

The situation is desperate. The people have been under Islamic rule for decades, ever since the revolution took down the Shah of Iran (Jimmy Carter was our President at the time; that's how long it's been!). Oppression is so severe now that people are hoping—some even *asking*—for other countries to *attack* Iran, just so they might have some chance of ousting the despotic Islamic administration.

Yet even in the midst of such tyranny, a sister ministry has been boldly proclaiming the gospel in Iran for decades through various media outreaches.

Now, one of our own partner churches with a connection there is asking us to help the Iranian believers.

The leader of the work, advancing in years, sees an urgent need, not only for someone to succeed him, but also for some strategy to raise up disciples to multiply the work. The aim is not only to replace him as his energies may wane, but to multiply the work he has been doing for decades, sharing the gospel inside the country.

I think of legendary ministry leaders like Billy Graham, Luis Palau, Bill Bright, and others. We miss them. They did so much in their lifetimes! But the work does not die with the leader *if other leaders have been raised up*.

A simple mathematical calculation reveals the stakes—and the potential:

Imagine an evangelist able to preach the gospel to 100,000 people every single day. A very good number! Let's say 20% of the audience comes to faith in Christ. Another good number!

Yet it would take that evangelist *a thousand years* to reach the 8 billion people on the planet!

Now switch to a disciple-making model. Start with just two disciples. A very small number! And each disciple, each year, trains just one other disciple. Another small number. But here's the key: *each disciple is trained to train others*. This is not about addition. This is about multiplication.

With this disciple-making model, starting with only two disciples, it would take only 34 years to reach the entire world.

Exponential multiplication is God's plan.

We must multiply rather than merely add. All who come to us for teaching must be trained to multiply!

MUMBAI, INDIA

A ministry partner in Mumbai asked us to teach our Bible, doctrine, and ministry skill courses. I told him we'd be happy to teach all his members.

No, he quickly replied. *Not all*.

I was shocked. Why not all?

“There are too many who just learn simply to *know* more,” he said. “We will waste resources. We need to include only those who will truly multiply!”

In such a place of poverty, he did not have the luxury of carelessness. He had to steward every ounce of energy, every penny of expenditure, every moment of time.

“If they won’t multiply, we should not teach them!” he insisted. “We will waste too many resources . . . too many books!”

This conversation marked me. I still can’t “un-hear” it.

God used that encounter to emblazon on my heart a commitment to multiplication, not just addition. I began to realize that we must compel our trainees *from the very beginning of their training* to understand the covenant they are entering into: *they will be multiplying.*

If they won’t commit to multiplying, we cannot squander our precious God-given resources—including your own heartfelt donations—training them.

I toured a vineyard. I found the vinedresser on the job, pruning shears in his hand. I asked him about his work, and he gladly responded. (To me it seemed a lonely and monotonous exercise, but he assured me it was the best job he’d ever had. At one time, he had held a better paying job, but he gave it up to get back to vine dressing!)

His proven, effective strategy: allow only the fruitful branches to remain, so they wouldn’t take the resources—water and sap—from the productive branches.

Strangely, though, the branches he clipped looked just as green and healthy as the ones that didn’t get clipped. So how did he decide to clip some and leave others? He explained his simple but crucial criteria:

- Some branches bend down. They *look down at the soil*, concentrating on fruit-production. They are the ones contributing to the growth of the fruit. They are keepers.
- The others, looking up at the sky, basking in the glory of the sunshine, are only producing more leaves. They get clipped!

Iowa State University professor Randall Vos has written:

“If left to its own devices, a grapevine would grow into a thick, tangled mass of leaves and branches, spreading widely and aggressively, searching for something to climb on . . .” In its own nature, it will have “a tendency to prioritize vegetative growth (producing leaves and shoots) over producing fruit, essentially becoming a *wild vine rather than a productive grape-bearing plant.*”

In other words, it will do what’s easy, instead of what’s important!

A grapevine, then, requires “intervention through pruning to manage its growth and encourage fruit production.”

Wow! Lots of lessons for us branches! No wonder Jesus used this analogy: “I am the vine, you are the branches” (John 15:5). We need the pruning of “support disciplines” in order to be fruitful. Amazingly, if we pursue growth without guidance, the result is an obstruction of sunlight. The plant becomes a tangled mess with no fruit.

This is the laser-like focus of the ministry to which God has called you and me together: to joyfully enter into the discipline of pruning—to give ourselves fully to the work of producing fruit—*the part of the plant which reproduces*. Our work is the work of **MULTIPLICATION**.

I rejoice in your partnership in this work! Thank you for joining the Father’s productive work . . . a “work in progress,” but a work that is advancing supernaturally around the world!

KENYA

We have new challenges ahead in Africa!

PERU

I have so much to tell you about the doors God is opening in South America!

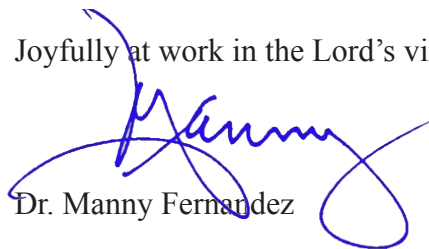
THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!

If I share everything here and now, this letter will be too heavy for the post office!

So let me simply close with this message: We are blessed to multiply fruit according to the specific calling of Christ, as He said in John 15:16, “. . . **I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain . . .**”

That’s our calling. Let’s keep at it. Please let me hear from you. Your Christmas gift today will be a blessing to countless lost multitudes. Thank you in advance for being as generous as you can, according to the blessings God has bestowed upon you, the resources He has entrusted to you. And may God continue to bless you, according to His promises!

Joyfully at work in the Lord’s vineyard,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. Annuals live a year, biennials live two. *Perennials can live hundreds of years*. An Israeli grape farmer told me that the stumps of some grapevines in Israel today are from the time of Abraham—some 4,000 years ago! **The work you empower today will change eternity**. Please do whatever you can today to be part of it! Thank you again!

