



WORLD LINK
MINISTRIES

March 1, 2025

Dear Ministry Partner,

Warm greetings in the Lord from the legendary city of Kathmandu, in Nepal!

Look at the picture. It's not just a young woman. It's a picture of *what God is doing through you!*

I told you, not long ago, how I often imagine a desperate woman weeping in the darkness, living a hopeless life, not knowing where to turn. Then I met the woman in the photo! Seemingly the same woman!

But then I learned more . . .

She came for a Sunday meeting in a mountain village where I had come to meet ministry workers and to preach in a service.

This woman recently came to faith! Not at all like the woman in my imagination, someone who has never heard the Gospel, someone who doesn't know she can cry out to a loving God.

I think of Hagar in Genesis 16, who in her despair discovered that God had not abandoned her. She called Him *Lahai Roi*, "the One who sees me."

Imagine someone in such a position—unspeakable sorrow, believing they're alone in the darkness, and no one knows they even exist. . . .

. . . But then suddenly they learn not only that there is a God—but He is loving—and all-powerful! Not only does He see "all things" but, as Hagar discovered, this loving, all-powerful God sees *ME!*

What an explosion of light in the darkness!

In that service in that mountain village, the young woman sat on the floor like the rest of the congregation. (The chair you see in the picture was only considered appropriate for a "formal" video interview.) It was heartening to see how carefully she followed the exposition of the Scripture passage verse by verse.

"What did God make us, according to verse 20?" I asked. She answered without hesitation: "Ambassadors."

I wish you could have heard as this woman shared her testimony. Tears rolled. As we video-



recorded her testimony, the tears choked her. She was there against her husband's wishes. He has forbidden her to go to the church.

But she knows she learns great things when she comes to the church. *She is able to live on because of the things she hears here.*

She reminds me of Simon Peter responding to Jesus in John 6:68: "Lord, to whom shall we go?" he said. "You have words of eternal life."

The woman mentioned that she walks to the church. It's a two-hour trip in each direction. The terrain is rugged beyond words. She walks up over a mountain and down the other side.

Then, as she prepared to leave, I was shocked to see her pick up a chunky toddler.

She makes the trip back and forth to church carrying a child? I was out of breath just climbing the 50 yards or so to the church!

But such is the spiritual hunger of Nepal.

The Darkness of Centuries

We witnessed the darkness of centuries on Day 1 with visits to Hindu sites. . . .

In a "temple city" at a "sacred" river, I was devastated by the stench of devout Hindus' ritual cremations.

Along the riverbank, every 10 yards or so, was a cement platform covered with wooden beams and straw soaked in fuel, bearing a dead body wrapped in bright red, yellow, and orange sheets. Family members crowded around. Priests guided them in their rituals—retrieving dirty water from the river and pouring it over the mouths of the dead.

With the rituals completed, the fire is lit, the pyre eventually totally consumed.

Above each platform was a large professionally produced banner proclaiming, A JOURNEY TO HEAVEN. There was no mention of how to know whether this was true.

But all around were "counselors" sitting with various individuals explaining what to do with their lives to achieve success. The blind leading the blind.

The smell of the burning bodies was horrible, even as I wore a Covid-style surgical mask. But my revulsion was more than a biological response; it was spiritual. I was being forced to absorb the *spiritual* reality of the scene.

It wrangled my feelings, my soul, for the rest of the day: The absolute hopelessness of this system, the sad endgame reality for all the people around us . . . 84% of the population of Nepal's 33 million people are Hindus.

It may seem that this is an overwhelming mission field—yet I also saw evidence of God's love, God's power . . . *the amazing difference that you are already making in the Hindu world through your prayers and gifts.*

Our ministry in Nepal is only eight months old, yet we have 150 church-plants under way!
After that heartbreaking first day, the entire experience became heartwarming . . . inspiring!

A Daredevil Journey

On Day 2 we drove “only” three hours (some of our church-plants are *20-plus hours away*). It was a daredevil journey rolling along narrow mountain roads with no guardrails looking over the edge into the abyss.

After crossing the top of the mountain, I thought I could see the bottom of the valley below. No, that was not the bottom! As we progressed from one switchback to another, the bottom kept getting deeper and deeper, and deeper!

I was happy to welcome Sam and Johnny from India, where they pioneered a breakthrough program called Evangelism Through Education, or ETE. They have 590 children in their program, and they minister to their families as well.

To the parents whose children were being left behind by India’s discriminatory caste system, ETE feels like an absolute miracle!

(ETE has caused so much excitement in India that there’s a waiting list 500 children long. And now the Nepal church-planters want the same program. They’re absolutely convinced ETE will be just as explosive in Nepal.)

One in the Spirit

On Day 3 we visited four church-planters gathered in a single venue. They wanted to bring along the people who had come to faith in their churches, but the venue was too small, so our field director, Dr. Kumar, instructed them to bring only the recent converts.

The leaders agreed and showed up with *70 people*. I know of megachurches in the U.S. that couldn’t come up with 70 recent converts!

And yet we see multitudes of people giving their lives to Christ through churches planted by way of your generosity. Every day I receive photos of many converts, many baptisms, many Bible studies with heartwarming testimonies and reports from all around the world.

As we ministered in Nepal, I was thrilled to hear familiar worship songs. In that moment, I realized once again . . . *We are one in the Spirit, even living half a world away from each other.* Through your prayers and your giving, you are welcoming people into the family of God.

Incalculable Potential

Then came Saturday—this is church day in Nepal. (There’s no two-day weekend in this country; the government tried to mandate it, but tradition prevailed.) We worshipped happily in a church made of tin, built eight months ago when our ministry in Nepal began.

And every church you help to plant has incalculable multiplication potential. The church attended by the woman with the toddler is already planting four daughter-churches. One has already begun holding services. Two have scheduled their launches.

All in all, I met with a dozen church-planters. On the calendar, it was only a week-long trip, but today it feels like a month's worth of experiences! I can't begin to lay out the details. Even a summary would take pages and pages!

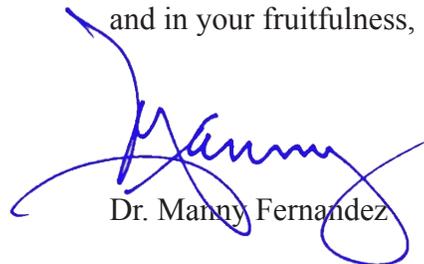
But I also departed with a sense of urgency.

- Sam and Johnny are frantic about getting things ready for receiving **the next 500 kids**. We're praying that God will speak to the hearts of 10 or 12 friends to cover the cost—a total of \$3,500 per month for all 500 new children.
- These two amazing young leaders are also developing a **church-based school program** that would educate and care for children for 12 years or more, to raise up Christians for future generations. What's holding them back? Rebar, the steel rods that reinforce concrete. If they only obtain enough rebar—about \$30,000 worth—they're confident they can finish the job by December!
- At the same time, Dr. Kumar has a burden to open seven ETE outreach centers in Nepal and allow **300 children** into a pilot program. The entire nation needs the program, but with the pilot they can prove the success of ETE so more families can more confidently entrust their children to this strategy.
- Meanwhile, workers in higher elevations need practical help. Some are doing ministry **entirely on foot**. It's brutal. We need to provide 12 motorcycles at an average of \$2,000 each.

So many opportunities! And we know that God will honor our faithfulness, as we remember the Lord's "unchangeable right hand." I love Psalm 77:10—which basically says it's crazy ever to think that His right hand would change! We can be confident of His faithfulness, and His loving provision and protection—because He never changes.

Let me urge you to give prayerfully and generously today. Thank you for serving the Lord from the place where He has planted you.

Rejoicing in His faithfulness
and in your fruitfulness,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. You are bearing fruit all the way around the world! I know, because as I write these words, I'm on the other side of the world, and I can see it firsthand!



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