



## “Jesus Christ is the same **yesterday** and **today**, and **forever!**”

June 1, 2021

Dear Ministry Partner,

Surprise!

Here’s something new: our new “look”!

But it’s not just new stationery with a new logo, but a brand-new website, which we are in last stages of developing. It should be a far more effective way for us to share our ministry with a world in need.

A friend paid for a trusted consultant to invest hundreds of hours working out these new ministry tools. The work was done in secret; then they showed it to our board of directors—and they approved it. There is still work to be done, but we look forward to great results.

(I’m sending you this letter in the “normal” envelope rather than our new envelope to make sure you didn’t mistake it for “junk mail” and toss it out! Next time I write you, I’ll mail my letter in an envelope with our new logo.)

Yes, many things in life change—but some things never change. As far as our ministry is concerned, for example, . . . “Orders remain unchanged!” The Great Commission is still our mission. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever!

*And today I bring you evidence of our unchanging mission—the work of Christ in our world . . . first looking back at the past (“yesterday”), then celebrating what God is doing now (“today”), and then eagerly looking ahead at what God has in store for us together (“forever”)!*

### **YESTERDAY**

#### **Ukraine, 20 Years Later**

We just received a thank you commemorative plaque from our partner seminary in Ukraine. It’s really for you, because your faithful giving drives our ministry there—and everywhere! Here’s the beautiful inscription celebrating your generosity:

***“Thank you, World Link Ministries, for your commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for serving the church in Ukraine, and for partnering with Kyiv Theological Seminary in providing theological education to followers of Christ locally, so they might effectively fulfill the Great Commission Globally.”***

***On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of  
Kyiv Theological Seminary • Kyiv, Ukraine • April 16, 2021***



What a sweet memento for you and for all of us after 20 years of joint ministry. (If you'd like a photo of the plaque, please request it using the enclosed response form.) In these two decades, we've seen some 1,000 churches born in Ukraine. But the work isn't finished! As you read these words, *twice this many churches are being planted!* To God be the glory, and glory to the Lamb!

It's great to get a pat on the back once in a while, to hear that we're on the right path. I hope you feel the affirmation and the love! To be sure, we each may feel that our part is very small. But in God's hands, as we act in faith, in obedience, in sincerity of heart, He blesses it and multiplies our investment.

***TODAY***

## **In Spain, a New Beginning**

I am charged up! I've just finished a course in Homiletics—the art of preaching—with students in Spain. It's always a delight to see students eager to learn how to share the Word of God effectively. They want to do well!

I wish you could have been there to experience the wonderful process, watching our students in Spain begin their journey as preachers of God's Word. I thank God for these “doers of the Word,” becoming the actual fulfillment of the mandate to make disciples. You too are a “doer”!

Some have good intentions but, in the end, do not do what they said they “intended.” It's like the two sons in Jesus' parable (Matthew 21:28): The first told his father he wouldn't go work in the vineyard. The second said he would go—but then didn't. Meanwhile, the one who said no changed his mind and went! **Who did the will of the Father?** Jesus asks. **Answer: *the doer of the deed.***

Many apparently disobedient and unlikely people are getting into the kingdom ahead of those who merely dressed for the part!

Thank you for being a *doer*. The doers are the ones who will hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant . . . enter into the joy of your Master.”

These were first- and second-year seminary students, so for most, it was their first time at the pulpit. Of course every one of us has an “illusion of goodness” about ourselves. We carry around an idea about what we look like, how we come across, or what other people see in us. But then, when we see ourselves on video, it's a rude awakening!

Seminary students too. You think your preaching will be something pretty close to Billy Graham—but then you have to evaluate yourself, and all those illusions are dashed!

But it's gratifying to see how students respond when faced with the reality. They quickly understand why we have to implement the disciplines in the preparation process. (Thinking up Bible verses while you're preaching doesn't necessarily strengthen the idea you're trying to get across! Sometimes ad-libbing, even if your ad-libs are scriptural, can derail the idea you wanted to develop!)

Sure, it's a humbling process, but our students are happy to discover that we've all gone through this same disorienting experience. Students are also encouraged by the fact that if you truly implement the disciplines we teach, you can consistently and correctly communicate the exact content of a Bible passage. This is the high standard we have always set, and always will!

I see our students coming to recognize that they are joining the family of *spokespersons for God* . . . beginning to understand the awesome responsibility of saying accurately what the Holy Spirit has written—not giving an interpretation merely guided by opinion.

Our motto is this: “You cannot say “Thus says the Lord” if the Lord did not say thus!” The rules of interpretation must be carefully applied.

I'd love for you to join me in person, seeing firsthand how these students are developing. You could learn about them, hear their testimonies, share their dreams about what they long to accomplish in the Lord's work, and all the exciting and inspiring components of their lives!

But I can tell you this, even from a distance: They are grateful to you for giving them the opportunity to learn, to be trained and equipped, and to launch out into ministry. I can't count the number of times a student has come to me with this heartfelt message: *Somebody is paying for all this. Please let them know that we are very grateful.*

Okay, I've let you know!

### **AND FOREVER**

## **In Africa, Time for Maturing**

Next week I begin work in Sierra Leone, West Africa, with 120 students, teaching the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. Their excitement is building! Why? Because their first course focused on Bible study methods and rules of interpretation—but now, they begin the real work of studying the Bible itself.

This course will feed into our partnership with a nationwide association that has scores of church plants underway across the nation. All they know so far is the saving Gospel—the basic steps to peace with God. They've never received teaching on doctrine or the Christian life.

The people of Sierra Leone are excited to learn more about the Bible, theology, and the Christian life. I'm delighted that the Gospel of salvation is being preached there, and people are turning to the Lord. But now the need is to lead them to maturity through the renewing of their minds through the Word of God!

### **And what's next? “Into all the world! . . .”**

A senior student at Dallas Seminary, who is about to graduate, just asked to meet with me. He's dreaming a mile a minute! He longs to teach and participate in a church startup—starting with teaching virtually in various countries—and ultimately working with us in Spain, teaching in our residential program. But beyond Spain, he wants to help *anywhere . . . everywhere!*

Plus, his wife hails from the Philippines, a country we've been exploring as a new venue for ministry. He and his wife have a burden for her country as well!

What a wonderful meeting! It was a thrill to witness such a desire to serve the Lord and to see lots and lots of spiritual fruit. I loved this young man's ability to discern a "gold mine" of spiritual dimensions!

***It's what I see in you too.* I thank God for your kindred heart, your kindred spirit in this spiritual enterprise. I rejoice that God has seen fit to make you and me fellow participants on His team in the ministry of redemption. Like this exuberant student, you are committed to finding out *where the Lord is at work and eagerly joining Him in it!***

You and I, following this ever sure counsel, can praise God that He has sent us on errands from one place to another—and shown us victory after victory, grace upon grace. It's not about you and me! It's about Him! When Dr. Charles Ryrie autographed my Bible, he jotted me a gentle reminder from 2 Corinthians 3—that we are not adequate in and of ourselves; rather, our adequacy is from God.

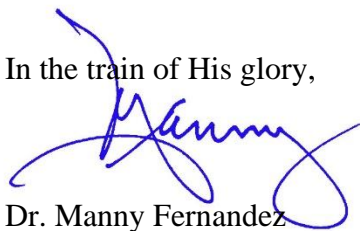
Our grace relationship with Him is a joy. It means we need not hide our faces behind a veil as Moses did. We, with unveiled faces, can march from glory to *greater* glory!

We've been to 17 countries and counting. It's exciting to look back and see where the Lord has led us—to look around at where we stand now and see that our Lord has not changed—and to look forward, celebrating by faith what He has in store for us! Wherever He leads, we can be confident that the One who said, "I will build my church" is leading us in wonderful, victorious ways.

You and I together can confidently say with Paul, ***"Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place"*** (2 Corinthians 2:14).

I pray that you will be encouraged in all of this to press onward in the journey. Please give generously again today—celebrating what God has done, and what God is doing, and what God will do, through us together!

In the train of His glory,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. The glory Moses experienced faded. But the glory of the Spirit grows greater and greater, as we move forward in our faith journey. *The choice is ours.* Let's march on with the Captain, the Author of our faith! Let us join Him every day, that we may see glory every day. Let's join Him with our energies, our resources, our all. Let me hear from you soon. Thank you! God bless you!