



November 1, 2021

Dear Ministry Partner,

A heartfelt, happy Thanksgiving to you! May you have blissful moments with your loved ones, and opportunities to rejoice in Him in a special way in this season of celebration!

“You have crowned the year with Your bounty,
and Your paths drip *with fatness*.” —*Psalm 65:11*

What is God doing through you? It’s exciting! We’re seeing wonderful breakthroughs on a number of fronts! It’s clear that God is using you and us together, as part of His team! . . .

- **Brazil online:** As I write these words, we’re finishing an online course on Luke with students from several regions in Brazil. These hardworking students have already done a “deep dive” into the Old Testament this year, and now they’re starting on the New Testament. We have covered about half of Luke on this session and will have yet a second half to go.
- **Brazil in person:** By the time you read this, Matthew Peterson and I will have gone over and come back from a new extension in Natal, Brazil, to launch the training of workers who will go out to 30 new towns and cities that greatly need the Gospel. This must be an in-person class: We need to meet and get to know the workers and answer many questions about how we do ministry.
- **Spain underway:** After a slow start due to COVID, our training and ministry year is underway in Spain, with some 130 students in an array of programs!
- **Canary Islands:** Explosive ministry! A group of young churches there need instruction to organize and govern themselves. (It reminds me of Paul’s instruction to Timothy and Titus in the pastoral epistles!) There are lots of big plans for leading these churches to grow and multiply in this spiritually ripe archipelago. We have a great new team there eager to see the vision become reality!

I could fill pages! But you get the idea. *God is doing marvelous things out in the fields—through your prayers and giving!*

Glenda and I saw some of it firsthand this month, as we had the distinct privilege of visiting Togo, West Africa. **We were amazed, like a couple of newcomers to missions, to see the living vision of a fully functioning hospital in such a remote place—with a staff of U.S. board-certified physicians.**

The appreciation of the local people to have such an amazing health center in their region is hard to put into words. People are coming to seek help from all over Togo as well as neighboring countries. This one hospital is treating literally tens of thousands of patients every year!

Our daughter is working there, happy to help as a physician and an active member of the outreach team. There is a team of chaplains devoted to the very important task of sharing the Gospel with those who come in search of help.



I was asked to teach morning and afternoon sessions for the chaplains each day. I wasn't surprised to find they didn't have much biblical or theological training. . . .

- In an outing to a village, I shared a message from the Book of Revelation. One chaplain said he hadn't heard a message from Revelation in nearly 20 years!
- In Sierra Leone some time ago, a leading pastor told me in the first session that he has *never* been taught—nor has he ever preached from—the Book of Revelation. “I have been to many training seminars and many courses,” he said, “my request is if you could kindly teach us the Book of Revelation as a crowning achievement to the teaching you are going to give to us.”

I am so grateful for the training I was blessed with and can share! And these days, I'm amazed to find that things that are now “second nature” to me qualify as *major breaking news* to dear men and women who are trying to minister with very limited tools! I can't help but compare it to a story of a logging truck mechanic in Oregon who had to face scores of broken-down trucks—armed with only a crescent wrench and a hammer!

We witnessed God's hand guiding events very specifically. . . .

In a preliminary lesson, I covered Isaiah's panoramic view of what God had in mind with “Project Israel” as a beloved vineyard. We studied Isaiah 5 to understand a song of disappointment, God sharing His sadness at the response of Israel—after He had poured so much love and hard work into what He dreamed of as a perfect vineyard!

I followed this with the happy song of a fruitful vineyard in Chapter 27. Here God envisions a time when His fruitful vineyard will produce wonderful fruit and fill the earth with its boughs! Then I finished up with John 15, Jesus revealing the identity of the fruitful vine:

“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. . . . My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”

Two days after this study, a chaplain came to show me the calendar on his phone. He pointed to an imminent date: a large denomination had asked him to address 1,000 pastors—on the subject of John 15! The very topic I had just covered! “How did God arrange to have you come from so far away to share this great lesson with *me*?” he asked joyfully, “and then He gave me marching orders to go share it with a thousand pastors!”

But my heart broke, as the chaplains of Togo brought me a humble request: *Would we please give them the gift of training for just one week per year?* I could see the need—what they truly need is years of seminary training—but they are so hungry, and in a way helpless . . . they are only asking for one week.

Another time in Sierra Leone, the chaplains brought us a similar heartfelt plea: *We will do our evangelism and church-planting. You don't have to be responsible for anything else. Just teach us the Bible—the doctrines of the faith—and pastoral skills.* They are crying out for the basics . . . the tools that will make them effective in reaching their people with the Good News!

I have seen their passion. No one misses a single session. Even when government authorities threaten the arrest of anyone caught on the streets during lockdown, these tenacious brothers find a way to slip through the dragnet and arrive at the meeting place!

What we are seeing is people driven by the calling of John 15. This chapter declares that bearing much fruit, we may “prove to be His disciples” (John 15:8). Where we are “teaching them to obey all that He has commanded us,” **they are bearing fruit. People are coming to Christ. Churches are being planted.**

I am thrilled to see the joy of discovery in the faces of these “disciples” as they literally blurt out their surprise as they hear the truths of God’s Word and their eyes are opened!

God is moving!

In Togo, we went to a marketplace where our daughter frequently shops. All the hospital personnel shop in the market; they’re welcome customers for the vendors. Our daughter has many friends there that she and her fellow workers are trying to reach.

➤ Everywhere we went, we were graciously welcomed as “Madame Doctor’s parents.” One woman asked if we could be her dinner guests. Our daughter did not hesitate to take her up on the offer. *This wasn’t about food.* It was a great opportunity. . . .

We arrived at the woman’s house, a very humble house that Westerners might call a shanty. The woman was very nervous. Her children were sitting on the floor. We were invited to sit on the floor as well. Our host began filling a bowl for each of us with rice and pasta. From another container she grabbed dry pieces of meat—like jerky, very chewy!

Having served our plates and her plate, she turned her back to us to face the television. Her favorite soap opera was playing. We sat in silence for a good while, staring at her back and at her television. In this culture, it seems, television takes precedence over conversation.

In the soap opera, there was a violent scene. Our daughter asked if it would be possible to change the channel. The woman politely agreed. We ended up playing two or three hands of Uno!

The children had to leave; it was time for them to go learn the Quran. We stayed behind, and our daughter took the opportunity to lovingly share the way of salvation with the woman. At first the conversation seemed awkward . . . but then there was a breakthrough! The woman seemed to catch a glimpse of the truth!

After a couple of rounds of Q&A to clarify what she was hearing, she was ready. **She wanted to ask for salvation in Jesus’ name!** We had the joy of witnessing it all. In the moments that followed, I had the privilege of sharing with her some reassurances from the Scriptures.

Our daughter was very happy to report the experience to friends back at the hospital—several of them had been praying for her and investing time with this lady merchant—hoping she would come to know the Lord!

To follow up, our daughter went back to offer a Bible. The woman had already shared her decision with her father. He was unhappy and urged her to discard these foreign beliefs. With such conflict in the family, the woman suggested that instead of a Bible, she might prefer a flash-drive loaded with the Scriptures, so she could read God’s Word more discreetly.

The lessons of the week are many. Some of them cannot be shared for serious security reasons. We are blessed to have a part with truly heroic people who are operating at personal risk and loss in order to reach the region with the gospel.

At the other end of the spectrum, I was able to preach freely on radio, broadcasting to two countries, openly sharing the Gospel and inviting people to be saved. I praise God for the many means being employed by obedient friends and American believers like you so that we may please the One who has called us!

Thank you for the vital part you play in the work of the harvest!

Every one of us out there in the field has been SENT. How could we go unless we were sent? How will any of our workers go unless they are *sent*? **Thank you for sending us.**

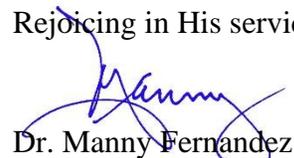
The strategic nature of sending started with the One who “so loved the world” that He *sent* His Son. Today, I ask you to continue in this calling. Please, please, please keep up the sending! It is sorely needed. But as we’ve seen yet again, God is using your faithfulness and your generosity. He is using YOU to reach a world in need!

And I know you will be blessed as you give again today. As Hebrews 6:10 declares:

For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.

I hope to hear from you quickly. I invite you to give today as generously as possible, according to the blessings God has bestowed upon you, even in these difficult days. Thank you in advance for doing whatever you can in the service of the Lord. I thank Him for calling us together into ministry, for His work around the world!

Rejoicing in His service,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. We can't predict how God will use your gift today. But we know He will use it. You can give with confidence, reviewing the panorama of everything God has done so far through your generosity and knowing that He will work through you by the power of His love in the days ahead. Thank you again!