



January 1, 2022

Dear Ministry Partner,

Warm greetings in the early days of a brand-new year!

I am excited for the potential of the year ahead. Our ministry calendar is already filling up into *June!*

As I begin writing this letter, I'm in ministry in Spain—still rejoicing in the mighty victories God has given us this past year in spite of COVID! I think of what God did in Sierra Leone, West Africa—700 Muslims receiving Jesus as their Savior! *Seven hundred people walking with God today who were walking in darkness just one year ago.*

In a year of frustration, pain, confusion, and fear for much of the world, God was still at work! And He still is! **What does our Leader have in store for us this year?**

Already He is calling us to Venezuela; I'll travel there. I'll go to Brazil. I'll go to Cuba. I'll return to Spain. I'll be going to places where we've never ministered before. Members of our team are booked for India and other countries. We're finalizing plans to launch evangelism, church planting, and leadership training in the Philippines. And the list goes on!

Our great celebration of Christmas was a launching pad for the sharing of Christmas all the year through . . . reaching out to the masses who live in darkness, that they may see the great light!

The oft-repeated Christmastime story of the Wise Men demonstrates how God is undaunted by geography.

- The Wise Men, led by their great guiding light, were far away from Jesus geographically, but embraced Jesus spiritually, coming not only to pay Him homage, but to “worship” Him.
- Those who were closest geographically were so far from him spiritually, they were capable of crucifying Him . . . *their own King*. They missed all the prophetic clues—and rejected their one greatest potential source of hope!

The biblical record is a study in contrasts between the spiritually sensitive and the spiritually insensitive. The book of Matthew spotlights the Ninevites—spiritually sensitive enough to repent at the preaching of Jonah. In the very next verse, Jesus says,

“The Queen of the South will rise up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.” (Matthew 12:42 NASB) *Greater wisdom than Solomon's . . . yet those who are spiritually insensitive miss it—and miss out.*



**My heart cries out to keep people from missing out.**

**And my heart feels an urgency as we see time slipping away.**

I think of the Christian song that speaks of how time flies, and how we need to make every moment count before we come to the end of our days: “I so fear being called without having in my records something worthy of my life this side of heaven.” Time “rushes and then dashes in a craze without description,” the song goes on to say. “*I regret all wasted moments now extinguished.*”

But God does not call us to fear or despair. Moses’ prayer in Psalm 90 puts our fleeting lifespan in perspective: “Teach us to number our days, that we may present to you a heart of wisdom.” As we turn to God for guidance every day, He can work in us and through us. Our comfort is that in Christ, our life and legacy are eternal!

Moses saw clearly how urgently this transient life needed to count for something of eternal value. He was quite aware of the numbers of his people, members of the “Exodus generation,” dying in the desert—by some estimates, some 270 a month—having failed to claim the Promised Land on God’s generous offer.

- COVID has given us our own Exodus generation. The pandemic has been a sobering backdrop to our work. I am so grateful for the way God has protected us. But let’s see clearly why we’ve been spared. God by His grace is empowering us to live on for the purposes to which He has called us.

*We can be like Caleb and Joshua*, the two spies who urged their countrymen to *go, go, go* . . . calling on Israel to waste no time in joining God’s purpose, in conquering mountains, in marching into the Promised Land. This is our purpose too. God still has work for us to do!

I remember, shortly before COVID struck, that we were inspired to launch **Vision 2020**—a commitment to launch ministry on every inhabited continent in the world in response to the Great Commission, our calling to “go into *all* the world and make disciples.” Our dream was to establish a beachhead on each continent and grow from these launch points to reach the world for Christ!

We focused quickly on Viet Nam in order to reach the Far East of Asia. We looked to the Philippine Islands to reach Oceania. We turned to Mexico, representing North America. We turned toward Sierra Leone to reach Africa.

The enemy tried to thwart us by way of the pandemic—yet we still went into Sierra Leone and Mexico. We’ve been able to identify 17 Filipino pastors ready to take on their island nation and the South Pacific. Viet Nam is online, as we’re beginning a partnership with a North Texas church that has been ministering in North Viet Nam.

Still, launching ministry in new countries is not an exact science. For example: Do you remember how Phillip the evangelist was called into service in the book of Acts? . . .

He was at a revival when God told him to go to the desert and meet up with the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8). No sooner had he finished with the eunuch when the Spirit “snatched” him from there (literally *harpazo*, the same word used for “rapture”!).

Phillip “found himself” at Azotus, also called Ashdod, a Philistine city just north of the Gaza strip. From there, he kept preaching all the way north to Caesarea Maritime. I was just there myself a couple of weeks ago!

We are *commissioned*. Jesus is the One with the mission. So—we’re happy to be “snatched” here or there! The places where He takes us are always the “happening places”!

- Look at Russia. It’s one of those “snatched unto” places. We are set, already on the calendar, to start evangelism, church-planting, and leadership training there in the second quarter of 2022.
- Venezuela is another “happening” place. People are on their knees after the dire events that have wracked their country. I had an online meeting with 50 pastors and witnessed firsthand how eager they are for us to get started there—in January, if at all possible, they said!

Like the Israelites in the wilderness, the pastors of Venezuela are looking for the cloud of guidance from the Lord. They want marching orders to move forward after such perilous times in their country! They can’t wait to move on!

When the Lord’s cloud moves, we **ALL** move!

“Throughout all their journeys whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the sons of Israel would set out,” Exodus 40 states. It also states if the cloud didn’t move, *nobody* moved!

We are so grateful that *the cloud is moving!*

**I think of Mission Control announcing from Houston: “Liftoff! We have liftoff!” Another year is on its way, the march is on, and orders remain unchanged! Many people are about to get saved! It’s thrilling to be together in this journey . . . thrilling that the Lord has us serving Him together in this adventure! I can’t wait to report the victories!**

*This is an optimism born of God’s wonderful promises.* “But thanks be to God,” 2 Corinthians 2:14 states, “who **always leads us in triumph in Christ**, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.” I love having such divine assurance! We’re being led to triumph!

I’m grateful that ours is a spiritual journey, not dependent on our physical or mental abilities. We can all make the journey by joining Him as He leads us.

“Come to Me,” He says, “all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. . . . My yoke is easy and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30). The journey is not hard, not burdensome. God promises to go before us.

Yes, I know that in our bodies, the challenges can seem to be beyond us. But the conquering of new ground is a spiritual journey. It is Spirit-inspired and Spirit-led and Spirit-enabled!

My mother-in-law lives by a daily discipline at age 96. She puts it this way: **“I get up, I dress up, and I show up!”** That’s all that is required! That is victorious living at 96. She is engaged with her favorite ministries, and she is faithful in her prayers and support, all for the cause of Christ. My family and friends and I have all learned and benefitted from her insight and her courage.

Let us do likewise, as we ready ourselves for the road ahead. Let us be inspired by the promises of the Captain of our faith. He gives us more grace. And He promises—for the sake of the Great Commission—His own “Great Commitment”: “Lo, I am with you **ALWAYS**, even unto the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

That term *always* is literally *all the days*—meaning *every single day, until the very end!* No days excluded!

I welcome you into this new year under the cloud of His protection. Get up, dress up, and show up! Faithfulness is the victory. He will always do all that is necessary to lead us into triumph. Sure, the times can be frightening. Things can sometimes seem so out of control that we may be tempted to enclose ourselves in our own world, focusing on our own personal peace and comfort.

But Jesus offers us a beautiful alternative: **Go on into the Promised Land!** Experience a vibrant life of faith, the joy of conquering new ground by His Spirit!

Please give as generously as possible today, and throughout this year. I look forward to seeing you as you show up! And I thank God for calling us together to serve Him in the journey.

Joyfully in His strength,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. I urge you not to miss out. Time is short. Let’s reach every soul we can. Remain faithful to the One who calls us. “Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.” (1 Thessalonians 5:24) Thank you in advance for your gift of love for the Lord . . . and for your spiritual support as you follow your gift with prayer!