



February 1, 2022

Dear Ministry Partner,

Warm greetings in the Savior's name!

"How's the ministry going?" a friend asked me at church. "It's going so well, I can't stop it!" I laughed.

Of course . . . why would I want to? **God is doing amazing things through you all around the world!**

Just days ago I received a collection of photos from one of our most heartwarming ministries—our care for children who are literally *outcasts*. Through your support of this ministry, they are enjoying a hot meal every day, and they're learning to read and write. They have found a family. And most important of all, they are getting saved. They can now truly hope in God as their Father!

It's so touching to see it with our physical eyes. Yes, certainly, as God's Word shows us, an even greater vision is informed by faith, not by sight. This is why Hebrews 11:6 declares that "without faith it is impossible to please God." If we couldn't see with the eyes of faith, we would never be aware of Him! Only through faith are we aware of the transcending spiritual realities which the human eye does not see or understand.

But what God is allowing us to see these days—both spiritually and physically—is THRILLING!

As I write these words I'm in Spain, in the middle of an intensive series of in-person teaching events, in the early stages of an entire year of scheduled teaching . . . a revival of the training and ministering that God originally called us to. There is value in face-to-face teaching and ministry. When we're together, *life on life*, the purpose of our calling begins to burn brightly again. It's exactly what Paul said to Timothy:

"For this reason, I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through *the laying on of my hands*" (2 Timothy 1:6)—he's talking about *a physical, in-person encounter*.

Yes, Covid interrupted in-person ministry for a time. But I am actually grateful for the "Covid consciousness" which this pandemic has brought to the world: a recognition that life is not guaranteed . . . as evidenced by the countless masses who have passed on to eternity. This global tragedy has nonetheless created an awareness in all of us, in every country on earth, that life is precious—and fleeting.

Our students are being reminded, like Timothy, that there is a task at hand, and it is critically important—because people's eternal destiny is at stake.



In Spain, in India, in nation after nation, they are keenly aware of this truth, especially because they must wear masks everywhere and show their “Covid passport.”

Yet I don’t see our students and workers shrinking from the task at hand. On the contrary, the ministry is mobilizing in spite of the ongoing threat here in Spain. Meanwhile, in India outreach to the children is ongoing, even though the majority of the workers are sick, many complaining of fever even in the last week. They are receiving medical attention—please keep praying for them—but *they will not be deterred!*

At the same time, I have word from our home office in the U.S. that our entire team, including my wife Glenda, are sick with Covid as well. Still, they’re striving to keep the work on schedule! When I head back home, I’ll take special measures to stay healthy.

Even so, in every detail, we know this: **God is in control. His truth is marching on!**

- I taught apologetics, or defense of the faith, in Madrid this past week.
- Our dear brother Matthew Peterson was teaching Christology at the same time to another group at the seminary.
- Over the weekend, we went up to San Sebastian to teach a gathering from three extension centers in the north of the country.
- Saturday evening, there was another session for a group of men of the church. What a blessing to see guys being trained to become the backbone of the ministry of that church!
- Now, back in Madrid, I’m finishing the second week of this module. . . .
- Already preparing to head down to the Canary Islands to teach in their program on doctrinal studies.

It’s a busy, happy start to the year! And it’s only the beginning. As you read these words, plans are underway for our start-ups in both Venezuela and the Philippines. (We’re coordinating with our partner ministry, Media 7, to produce video so you can see—in the natural—what’s happening in these fields in the spiritual realm!)

And there’s just as much excitement behind the scenes. We’re heavily engaged in all the preparatory work necessary for the purchase of a building which will be our campus for many years to come.

This is hugely exciting—and vitally important—because we’ve been operating for so long in small, inadequate rented spaces, shared with a church. . . .

- We’ve been unable to use our library; the books have been in storage.
- We’ve never had enough room nor equipment to provide a computer lab for the students, nor freedom to install any permanent equipment.
- We’ve had no office space, instead setting up makeshift temporary work areas.

In ways it’s been more of an old-fashioned “mission field,” more so than even some of today’s Third World ministry sites!

But we are in motion! The cloud that Israel followed in the desert *moved*, and the cloud is moving for us now too. We trust that our destination will be a home of our own, a facility that will house the seminary for years to come, and a great launching pad for innumerable activities and ministries that will advance the Great Commission!

How will it happen? PRAYER is essential. Prayer is not merely a “biblical handle,” a Christian watchword. Prayer is actually needed—it is the vehicle for bringing this spiritual undertaking to pass.

Buying a building is an everyday occurrence for millions of organizations around the world, but achieving a spiritual reality only happens as we pray, and as God makes it happen. For every spiritual achievement, there is spiritual opposition, and prayer must lead the way. “Everything **we** have done **the Lord** has done for us” (Isaiah 26:12).

And we can *see*—in the natural *and* the spiritual—what the establishment of this campus will accomplish. From our ministry hub in Spain, fueled by your prayers and your giving, we’ve seen ministry extended throughout the Spanish speaking world—starting with Cuba and all the way to South America.

In surprising ways, God has used our base in Spain even more effectively than our base in the U.S. One beautiful example: Venezuela. While pastors there are happy to receive help from the American church, *receiving help via* the “Spanish approach” avoids anti-American opposition in the current political climate, enabling workers to more effectively reach their own country.

It’s a modern-day reenactment of what God did in the days of Samuel and David. When God directed Samuel to anoint David to replace King Saul, Samuel objected: Saul, he knew, would kill him! So God added a strategic detail to the plan: Samuel would take a cow with him, and announce that he was coming to sacrifice to the Lord.

God set up a bona fide alternative in order to get the same purpose accomplished without incident.

God can use us all, but He uses us in different ways. He can distract those who might be in opposition in order to allow us free passage, so that His purposes will be achieved! This isn’t a “second best” approach. This is, in fact, the great privilege of being chosen by God to be used *in exactly the most effective way*.

And look what can come of it! . . .

It may shock you to learn that there are more than 30,000 Indian, Nepalese, and Pakistani people living in Spain, of all places. How could these people, hailing from South Asia, be reached in Western Europe? God decided to use one of our seminary students whom you are supporting!

I’ll call him Umesh. He’s a soft-spoken third-year student who has been ministering through evangelism and church-planting among the Indians, the Nepalis, and the Pakistanis of Spain.

Through his years with us so far, he had been carrying a regular academic load while pastoring a church he planted among these people groups. Not long ago, due to Covid and the pandemic economy, he was compelled to make a change: He told us he would have to scale back his studies, attending classes only part-time and online, so he could provide for his family.

But Umesh struggled with deriving scriptural themes through our preaching course online. His learning curve declined. He wasn't making the grade. "Online" simply wasn't working for him. I commended him for his efforts, but suggested that he delay his studies until he could attend in person.

Two hours later, Umesh called back with a request: Could he please join us full-time and on-site? God's priority for His life, he declared, was training. If he would devote himself to proper training, God would provide for everything else.

I was thrilled. And in that preaching class, after his first sermon was fully prepared, Umesh was astonished to see how far he had been from the true meaning of the scriptural passage. He was seeing for himself why God had placed a passion in his heart for proper training!

Today, Umesh and I spent part of the afternoon together to help him develop a more effective strategy for ministering to the three people groups to whom he is called. He is already energized by the power of synergy—as opposed to how he would have proceeded if he were “going it alone”! (He has also invited our brother Matthew Peterson—who has a love for India—to bring a message on Matthew's upcoming trip to Spain.)

- Umesh has a vision for revival—and now he has a strategy for it as well. *Thanks to your support for this ministry, Umesh is realistically planning a full outreach to all 30,000 people in his mission field!*

The vectors of God's work are incredible! You and the U.S. church are being leveraged *by way of Spain* to reach people of India, Nepal, and Pakistan! Who could have predicted such a combination?

God has unlikely methods. He uses cows (as with Samuel), and talking donkeys (in the case of Balaam), and widows (in the case of Elijah), and little boys (with nothing but bread and fishes), and the list goes on. And He uses us! Not necessarily in the way we expect — but if we are willing, He will use us in His perfect plan, to achieve His purposes.

Together—Americans, Europeans, Asians—God uses us all to compose a symphony of heavenly harmony! Please play your part in His symphony again today, by giving as generously as possible. I hope to hear from you soon. Thank you! God bless you!

Joyful in His service,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. Let God use you in your unique way—as part of His perfect plan! “Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary” (Galatians 6:9). Amen!