



August 1, 2022

Dear Ministry Partner,

Did you ever imagine—in all your life—that God would use YOU—to impact the nation of VENEZUELA?

IT HAS NOW HAPPENED! Your prayers and your giving in support of World Link Ministries is now bringing spiritual revolution to that devastated South American nation of 28 million souls!

Even as I write these words, I am in awe of what God is doing through us. I write these words humbly, reaching out to you as my beloved, longstanding partner in our work. We've been through a lot together. Our fellowship has been, and continues to be, one of the greatest blessings in my life and work.

God has honored our faith by using us, in our small way, to do great things in so many fields. Together we have seen the mighty deeds of the Lord, like the people of Israel saw on their way to the Promised Land. We have experienced victories like Joshua and the people experienced in that great faith-campaign in their conquest of the new land!

And now, I am stunned even as I bring you this news: **We have just now launched scores of workers in Venezuela to begin the planting of 300 new churches!**

I wish you had been there as we interviewed many, many potential workers. So many were amazingly sharp, articulate, confident in their vision, and seeing clearly not only the terrible problems in their country, but also the *potential* for the work of the Lord!

Venezuela is a mission field in crisis.

- Three out of every four men, women, and children live in extreme poverty.
- Weight loss—a major industry in the U.S.—is a national crisis in Venezuela, with the very real danger of malnutrition stalking millions, and children being the most at risk.
- One out of every third child is already malnourished.

One of our new church planters, Linda, responded to the hunger crisis by renting a small space in the poor neighborhood in Carabobo state where she lives, and setting up a *comedor*, or diner, with tables and chairs. She began cooking nutritious meals for as many children as she could find. She was delighted to see the children eating heartily and laughing for joy!

Soon she discovered that international humanitarian groups were offering nutritious ingredients specifically designed for at-risk children if the mothers would attend cooking classes to learn to prepare the high-nutrition meals properly in their own homes. Linda became a distributor of fortified MannaPack Rice.



(MannaPack Rice was produced by U.S. scientists at General Mills—it’s a modern-day version of the “manna from heaven” that God gave His people!)

Seeing a great ministry opportunity, Linda began reaching out in friendship to entire families in her area *and sharing the Good News about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

- Our Venezuela director, Alexander, saw what was happening in Linda’s *comedor* and realized that God had given us a formula for church-planting in impoverished communities—starting with cooking classes and healthy meals, and winning the hearts of children and parents to the Lord!

Linda’s not alone. Others we interviewed for church-planting work were already feeding people in their communities, using whatever food they could find, simply because the need of their neighbors could not be ignored. *Now they are going to be equipped and energized for more effective church-planting . . . responding to both physical and spiritual hunger!*

Our work in Venezuela, new as it is, has already gathered so much momentum that our national director, Alexander, has been approached to lead the entire fraternity of pastoral associations to engage Evangelical churches in feeding people—building their ministries, and enhancing their ability to point people in spiritual darkness to the Light of Life!

If I stop and think for a moment about the possibility that we might have said “no” to the idea of going into Venezuela . . . that *we might have felt it was too hard, too complicated, too “impossible” . . . I am almost grief-stricken.* Thank God you stood with us to say “yes” to this “impossible” challenge!

Yes, I realize we can’t go everywhere. But Venezuela is demonstrating to us, just as we have witnessed so clearly, so many times, in so many places around the world, that **God is up to the job.**

He is showing us just how much He is willing to do—just how miraculously He is willing to work—*if we just have the faith to follow Him.* Our Lord treasures the exercise of faith!

This moment reminds me of the prophet Elijah, sent by God to visit the widow of Zarephath in the midst of an economic catastrophe. She was gathering sticks for her last meal. She would eat it with her son and then wait for death.

But God had a different plan. An extraordinary plan! He called her to first bake bread for the prophet! *To engage in the spiritual realm—and let God provide in the physical realm.*

This is exactly what we are seeing in Venezuela. Thank God we’re there. Thank you for sending us.

We interviewed some 300 potential church planters. Some had already tried to start on their own. Many had hit roadblocks. Their lack of training left them frustrated and ineffective. Some were working hard but were close to burnout for lack of the basic skills that God has revealed to us over the years. We will now have the joy of seeing *breakthroughs* in many of these ministries!

And in many of these interviews, we found deeply devoted leaders who were simply unable to have a big enough vision for our “big-enough God”! . . .

I think of Norma, the woman in Cuba who was heroically working to plant nine churches on her own. She had no transportation. She was hitchhiking everywhere, once narrowly escaping a brutal gang rape.

She needed wheels—a car, or at least a motorcycle—so I was happy we could introduce her to the CEO of Coca-Cola Consolidated. I knew this was someone who could easily provide a vehicle as a donation.

But when the question was posed—*How can we bless you and your family and your ministry?*—she thought long and hard and then finally declared what she wanted from them:

“A flashlight!”

When I recount this true story, people always laugh. But her request was sincere. A flashlight would help her continue her ministry into the nighttime hours. *Had she realized the great potential of the people asking the questions – what would she have asked for? If we realize the astounding potential of – who God is – How should we be asking? How should we be trusting? How often are we held back by thinking we only need a flashlight? When God is capable of so much more!!!*

How often are we held back by our own “flashlight mentality”?

Is my vision tethered to a “flashlight mentality”? Are my efforts constrained by “flashlight vision”?

The Lord declares that you have not because you ask not. But *what are we asking for?*

Of course, some make “lottery” requests—a list of wants, personal desires that won’t make any impact on eternity. But if we are dedicated to Christ’s Great Commission, asking God selflessly—we may still be asking God insufficiently! Asking with only “flashlight mentality”!

When I survey the GRAND opportunities being placed before me by the Almighty, El Shaddai, I shudder to think that I might only ask for flashlights!

In Venezuela today—a new beginning for an entire nation—we are faced with new opportunities to trust God . . . new opportunities to ask for the provision that will transform that country . . . new opportunities to become true and powerful ambassadors for Christ.

By trusting and believing God, we can achieve the full potential of this divine appointment . . . another great victory through the work of the unique team He has called us to be in our World Link partnership.

Already God is out ahead of us. On my way out of Venezuela, the team and I stopped in the capital city of Caracas. There, 12 major leaders—representing most of the churches in the nation’s enormous federal district. After sharing with them the testimonies of the prior week from the state of Carabobo, they reacted immediately—and intensely: They wanted to know how they could bring our ministry program to Caracas!

What could I say? Could I respond with “flashlight mentality”?

Every time I’m confronted with the same situation—Christian leaders in yet another field, asking for us to expand our ministry in order to help them expand theirs—I see myself caught between two realities: I am so small . . . yet God is so big! My ability, in and of myself, is so puny. But God is so great!

I’m just a small link in the chain. I’m standing in the gap between what *is* and what *could be*. **Will I trust God?**

It’s not a onetime question, with a onetime answer. It’s an everyday thing. Here’s more evidence: Even as we face enormous ministry opportunities in Venezuela, on the other side of the world, we have cries for help from the Philippines.

- I just received a “Macedonian call” from a leader serving with a church called Greenhills Christian Fellowship. They’ve launched 14 satellite churches since the late 1990s. But now they see the need to recruit and train pastors as church planters. They want to set up their own pastoral training institute!

It’s a fantastic vision—a fantastic opportunity! But they need our help to train church planters, raising them up with sound doctrine and proven-effective ministry strategies.

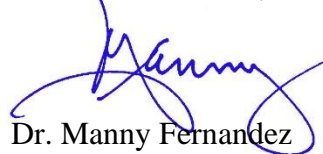
His message to me closed with seven compelling words, a heartfelt plea which I have heard over and over down through the years: “**Please let me know when this is possible.**”

Wouldn’t you agree that the fields are white unto harvest like the Lord said? We can see how the Son as our Captain is leading us from victory unto victory! The only question is, *are we tired, or are we inspired?*

I am so inspired I could *die* doing this! It would be my joy, my honor, and my privilege. I can’t think of a better use of my life.

Please don’t be overwhelmed. Just join the Lord with a sincere heart once again today through your prayers and your giving, as you have so beautifully before. Ask God to show you how generously you can participate in the work He is arranging for us today. He, in all His capacity, has a special role for you! I hope to hear from you soon! God bless you!

In the Soul Harvest,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. Of course, I can’t say how God has blessed you. I can’t determine how generously you might give today. But I know this: You and I are greatly blessed. And we are blessed in order to be a blessing. The Great Commission is the reason God has invested such an array of resources in each of us. Step up and give today, and let’s see what God will do!