



October 1, 2022

Dear Ministry Partner,

The cloud is moving!

For the Israelite pilgrims in the desert in Exodus 13, this one guideline was absolutely clear: *When the cloud moves, we move. If the cloud stays, we stay—but when it moves, we move!* It's our guideline today as well. The cloud is moving—God is leading us into amazing new territory—and we've got to keep up! Just a quick glance at our ministry calendar reveals a dazzling array of ministry opportunities! . . .

- **Madrid**—We start classes in a couple of weeks.
- **Venezuela**—We've launched 315 churches, and we're starting classes there too.
- Plus, we are getting underway with an additional 300 church plants!
- **Ukraine**—We're starting the school year but also resuming emergency aid as cold weather has already set (with cold rain forecast all this week).
- **Philippines**—We're ramping up for the planting of 450 churches in the next few months.
- And the list goes on, with fall season ministry underway in nation after nation!

It's thrilling to see how God is moving as we partner together in His work! And what a joy that each of us can "bloom where we're planted." *You are making a harvest impact all around the world, from right there in your own home as you pray and give.* God bless you for playing a leadership role in World Link Ministries!

The cloud is moving. I saw it clear just days ago in Spain where I officiated at the wedding of our Venezuela supervisor, Angelo. This month is his birthday—he's just now turning 25—yet he has already established an astounding ministry, establishing *seven churches* in the Canary Islands in just the last *two years!* Clearly, God has gifted and equipped Angelo for a life of achievement for the kingdom.

For months we've been working with Angelo in preparation for our trip to Venezuela, where we would be interviewing potential church planters. When the pastors of that country learned what Angelo had accomplished, they were astounded by the bearing of so much fruit for the Lord's work in the life of someone at just the age of 24.

And much of this work has happened while Angelo went through seminary! His wife, Aida, has been working as a registered nurse while Angelo finished his studies—and now that he's graduated, it's her turn. She's entering our four-year program!

Meanwhile, Angelo has been laying out to the pastors of Venezuela our proven ministry strategies and our step-by-step model for church-planting. The church leaders of that country are inspired! Pray with us for them, that God will use them powerfully to bring revival to all of Venezuela. And as Aida begins her seminary studies, she and Angelo will take leadership among the churches of Ciudad Real, two hours south of Madrid.

Where is the cloud moving next?



By the time you read this, I'll be traveling with a crew to produce a video inside Ukraine. As I write, the war is still going strong.

Even as news outlets give less coverage to the conflict, atrocities have continued. Days ago, mass graves were found in a city which the Ukrainians have taken back from the Russians. Ghastly, mutilated bodies have prompted leaders around the world to denounce the Russians for war crimes, yet the perpetrators may never see the inside of a courtroom.

We, however, are focused on the immediate needs of the Ukrainian people. The war first came when winter was upon them; people have already suffered from the harsh elements. Now, with the approach of another winter, and especially with waves of frigid rain falling, there's an urgent need to restore roofs and walls in myriads of houses.

Our video, produced by crews from Modesto, CA, and Ukraine, with both American and Ukrainian pastors and leaders, will demonstrate the tremendous impact of the help that Christians have already provided—and will challenge God's people to step up again to help those who cannot help themselves as the cold returns. Together, we can make a BIG difference for our brothers and sisters in that tragic war zone . . .

. . . and an ETERNAL difference for multitudes who still need to know Christ. **We are seeing *thousands* come to faith in the midst of the chaos, as people begin to realize that God does hear and answer prayers!**

People, once desperate, receiving such lifesaving help are recognizing that it could only have come from God. They are witnessing the calm of the Christians in the face of the storm, people who don't look out for themselves but rather care for others, offering not just loving words but practical provisions in the name of Jesus Christ.

The impact is dramatic! People who have cried out in despair, people who had nowhere to run, have found that the best destination is not physical or geographical. The best destination is close to God. They are discovering the truth that He is "our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." In the Hebrew, a "very present help" is actually *abundantly available help!*

And in this same psalm, we find a beautiful promise: "He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth." To find this transcendent reality in the face of the horrible realities of war is sublime . . . and liberating! I say "sublime" because this term especially refers to a greatness beyond all possibility of calculation, measurement, or imitation!

The cloud is moving in Cuba, too. . . .

We've been at work diligently in this island nation. During Covid, the country was pretty much frozen, as the government didn't have the resources to fight the pandemic like many other countries did. Tourism dried up because of the rules in place. Things got so extreme that people were left with only two simple, horrible options: *get well or die.*

Hospitals ran out of room. Some people went to the hospital simply to find a place on the floor where they could die in the company of others in the same sad predicament. It has been—and continues to be—nightmarish.

Because of the drought in tourism, the economy has collapsed. Food and medicines are not available. Fuel was rationed severely, and eventually only government vehicles had access to it. When we visited with a church group, we found not only that everything we'd heard was true—things were even worse. And they continue to worsen. Relatives of people in Cuba have been flying in with food supplies, medicines, and other essentials to minister to their needy families.

Yet the church has again become God's agency for distribution of food and medication. Christians in the U.S., giving generously, have made it possible. The Church of Jesus Christ is the only agency of divine redemption—yet now also the main source of help for those who cannot help themselves.

We are living out the promise of James 1:27: "Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress . . ."

What a joy to be on the Lord's side! What a wonder it is to be chosen by God to serve on the helping end of the equation. It actually makes our problems shrink—to practically disappear—to see how God has blessed us, how God has provided for us, how God has empowered us to provide for those whose needs are far greater than our own!

I remember the preacher David Ring, born with cerebral palsy—unable even to pronounce the name of Jesus—telling audiences how he had lost both his parents, his brothers, and his sister. And then Ring would ask a stark, straightforward question: "**What is your problem? What is troubling you?**"

Thank God for His kindness and His provision for us. Thank God that He has so blessed the U.S. Thank God that we have not been invaded, that our country has not been forced to endure devastation like so many others . . . yet *we now have a responsibility*. We must not "sit tight" clinging to our blessings. We are blessed in order to be a blessing. We must share what God has entrusted to us. This is our calling!

The cloud is moving—and we must move.

As a blessed people, we are being led into three major ministry adventures: specific, enormous opportunities to plant hundreds of churches in short order, ministering to the spiritual and physical needs of multitudes in three vast regions:

- 1. In Venezuela:** We are clearing obstacles to launch 300 new church plants in the Caracas area in the next couple of months. We hope that soon we will be rejoicing in a total of more than 615 new churches in that country!
- 2. In the Philippines:** We are partnering with a ministry called "Accompanying the Poor." By merely matching the number of workers already serving and equipping them to plant churches, we can launch 450 churches. A third partnering church in Manila may be able to join us to raise the number by another 30 percent. Please pray with us for these wonderful possibilities to become a reality!
- 3. In mainland China:** We're eager to discuss the planting of thousands of churches through a partnership with a Chinese seminary in Manila, Philippines. A Chinese businessman there, realizing that money doesn't bring ultimate fulfillment, wants to kickstart the accomplishment of this vision through his investment in things that will echo in eternity!

THE CLOUD IS MOVING!

Thousands of years after the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness, the Father is at work still, and Jesus is at work, giving us guidance, protection, and encouragement in this new season of ministry and it is our time to join them!

The cloud was crucial for God's people in the book of Exodus not only because they needed guidance. Certainly they needed guidance! But the cloud also demonstrated that God was near. The cloud meant supernatural *care and protection*.

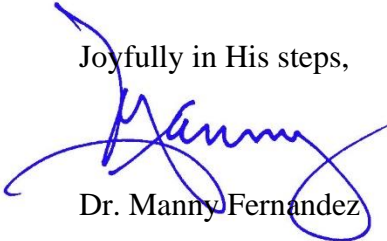
When the people were threatened by the hostile Egyptian army, the cloud offered protection. The cloud also offered protection from the heat of the day—and provided light at night! Powerful motivations for staying with the cloud and moving with the cloud! *As long as the people stayed close to the cloud, God stayed close to the people.*

- Today, the cloud is leading us into 2023, another year of ministry. It's comforting—and exciting—to know that we don't merely wander in a wilderness, aimlessly chasing strategies of our own choosing. We have the guidance, comfort, and protection of God's presence with us. The cloud can lead us, in the train of Christ's glory, away from the doom and gloom. He wants to lead us from victory unto victory.

All we must do is follow the cloud and stay close. God will take care of the rest. This is what we are here in the world to do. He prepared good works before the foundation of the world that we may walk in them (Ephesians 2:10).

I pray that we will stay in step day to day, week to week, month to month. We have amazing, unprecedented opportunities to take great treasures into eternity. God doesn't ask us to do things He hasn't equipped us to do. He takes our sincere efforts, our childlike obedience, and turns them into eternal gains. Let's go joyfully with the cloud until at last we see glory!

Joyfully in His steps,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Manny Fernandez', with a large flourish at the end.

Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. As you move with the cloud today, your gift of love will make an impact around the world. Please let me hear from you quickly. Be as generous as you can. Share the bounty that God has entrusted to you. Someone needs Jesus today. You can share Him. Thank you in advance. God bless you for your response of compassion for a lost and dying world!