



PHONE EVANGELISM? ¡Si!

August 1, 2023

Dear ministry partner,

“He who gathers in summer is a wise son” . . . that’s what Proverbs 10:5 states. So we’ve been gathering this summer—in the fields of northern Spain!

Spain is so caught in the grip of a post-Christian mindset that the gathering can often be “slim pickings.” But not this time! In just five days we saw 435 people turn to Christ!

Our outreach team was a mini-United Nations, a wonderful tapestry of people groups: some were from our longtime partner, Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Atlanta, and some were from Spanish-language countries beyond Spain. . . .

And YOU were there! The only way we can continue gathering out in the fields is through the faithful support of global impact partners like you. You see the value of this work around the world, and you take action to participate in it. Thank you for setting miracles in motion!

→ I wish you could have seen these workers in action. One faithful, passionate worker named Alexandra led many, many people to faith in Christ during this campaign.

At a festival in San Sebastian, she approached a woman who had been talking on her smartphone. As Alexandra approached, the woman lowered the phone. Alexandra introduced herself and explained what our group was doing at the festival. Then she began sharing the Gospel.

After a few moments, garbled sounds began coming from the woman’s phone. Her mother was still on the call! The woman apologized to her mom and explained that she was listening to a woman—but her mother already knew that, as she could hear Alexandra and wanted to join in the conversation!

The woman held up the phone—it was a video call—and introduced her mother to Alexandra. Soon *both mother and daughter prayed to receive the Lord!*

→ The very next day, God used even more technology. Alexandra approached a woman who turned out to be Ukrainian; she had arrived in Spain so recently, she hadn’t had time to learn the language yet. Alexandra only speaks Spanish!

But the woman opened a translation app on her phone. She spoke into the phone in Ukrainian and it spelled out her statement in Spanish.



Alexandra promptly downloaded the app into her own phone—and “the fun game was on!” They were both delighted to surmount the language barrier to get to know each other. Soon Alexandra was sharing the Gospel—and the woman prayed to receive the Lord! Alexandra is following up on her and getting her connected to a church in her area.

→ **I could fill pages with stories like these . . . the Gospel presented to more than 1,000 people, and an amazing 435 saved!**

This campaign was living proof that God can and will use any willing soul to advance His kingdom. The Americans on our team came from ordinary middle-class lives and jobs. Some had grown-up children and grandchildren; others were just starting out in parenthood and brought their young children along.

None were professional ministers. Most simply presented themselves with the attitude of “Just as I am!” But they were all perfect for the part!

For maximum attention, the Americans wore jeans and T-shirts, bandanas and hats (cowboy boots were also encouraged) and danced to the tune of “Cotton-Eyed Joe,” “God Bless Texas,” and “The Chicken Dance.” The workers were delighted to see people rushing to tell their friends.

Different groups have done “Achy Breaky Heart,” etc. When we have gone into certain places to distribute flyers for the festival, we have gone with cowboy hats and boots to distribute them in the morning. The American group gets a kick out of the fact that the people rush around to tell their friends:

“¡Americanos de verdad! Caminando en las calles! ¡Invitar a la gente a un espectáculo!” **“Real Americans! Walking in the streets! Inviting people to a show!”**

Then the Spaniards went to work with their language expertise and boldness in the Gospel. They could talk to people in a way that would make sense to them, avoiding cross-cultural pitfalls.

A young man named Unai shared with two teenage boys; they followed the conversation very attentively. When he invited them to receive the Lord, they both agreed to pray. Then they asked how long the team would be there. They were grateful to learn that there was still time—they wanted a girlfriend to hear the Good News too!

When they came back with the girlfriend, they knew that the best way for her to hear the Gospel would be from an American. They couldn’t find Unai, but they found a grandfatherly American—and specifically asked him to share the Gospel in English. Why? Because the girl loves English and wants to converse in it as much as possible.

So the man shared the Gospel . . . she hung on every word . . . and she was delighted to pray the prayer of salvation!

That same gentleman shared the Gospel with five Basque young people. He knew no Spanish, but one of the young people knew English. So the American shared the Gospel in



English, the translator relayed it to the group in Basque—they all prayed to receive Christ in Basque, the translator relaying it back to the American in English!

Americans acting American, Spaniards acting Spanish, Basque acting Basque—
all God’s children!

And you were the unseen root, vital for the bearing of fruit.

Behind every one of us on that team there were committed Christian brothers and sisters back home, people like you, making each and every transaction possible!

God beautifully provided for this campaign right down to miraculous weather. Weather in the Basque region is a lot like the Pacific Northwest: Rain is a constant. But from Pamplona to San Sebastian to the French Basque country to Portugalete to Santander, we had beautiful sunny weather—it always seemed to rain the day before we arrived and the day after we left.

Friends across the Basque region couldn’t believe it. They sent us videos to show how they’d been bombarded with downpours and even hail.

Then, in Bilbao, the weather turned on us. It rained all day. Our festival was scheduled to start at 7 p.m.—and the rain stopped at 6:15! Each step of the way, God gave us every advantage for the sake of sharing the Gospel!

After Spain, I returned home—for a little under 72 hours. **By the time you read this, I’ll be in the Philippines, where we plan to launch the first 100 of several hundred churches.** I’ll teach at a church-planting convention, training enough workers for the first phase.

We had to make this event “by invitation only” because we simply don’t have the capacity to sponsor as many churches as people are asking to plant. The Filipino believers are ready to launch 1,000 new churches right now! How is that possible!?

→ Our beloved friend! We need to pray for the Lord of the Harvest to send workers—because the fields of the Philippines are SO READY for the Harvest!

This is not just a well-worn Christian slogan; I truly believe God does actually want us to pray. We can learn so much more from Him if we pray! In prayer, He can show us *ways we do not already know*.

This moment in the Philippines reminds me of Jesus’ disciples looking at the vast crowd of hungry souls and imagining Israeli bakeries as the only possible source of bread.

The disciples were already stressed, and then Jesus made matters even more tense by telling them, “YOU give them something to eat”! (Note what He did not say: “You pray to ME and I will give you something to give them.”)

If we pray, I wonder what God will show us? I wonder how we can launch 1,000 churches or more?

Will the Filipinos match funds with us? Is that the solution? Or does God have something even better in mind?



I remember when we were preparing to launch churches in Cuba. A church in an affluent part of Birmingham, Alabama, decided they would give only enough money for 100 churches because, as they said, “You don’t know how complicated it will be to plant 100 churches!”

But the elders of one particular church in poverty-stricken Cuba met—and *prayed*—and they determined that the Bible made them directly responsible to God, directly linked to Him as their source. They had enough personnel to plant 200 churches, so they decided to trust the Lord for 200 church plants—no matter what the Birmingham church would or would not give.

That ONE Cuban church surpassed their goal. **As I write these words, they are on their way to 500 church plants.**

What does this say to me? It tells me *I want to be on the Lord’s side!* That is all.

I know you want the same. So let’s commit ourselves once again today, simply to do our best at every step of the journey. I invite you to give generously today.

→ The summer has been leaner than others. I know that there are fears out there. I want to answer with faith. Faith is the antidote to fear. In the storm, we must choose faith in the provision and the protection of the Father. Jesus incarnates total faith and total tranquility, peaceful sleep in the middle of the storm!


The apostles incarnate “deiloi”—cowardice. They’re convinced they’re moments away from death. Jesus reproved them for caving in to fear . . . for letting fear dominate them instead of mastering their fear through faith in the promises of provision from the Father.

Let their lesson be our guide. To paraphrase Psalm 77:10: It’s psychotic to think that the arm of the Lord could change! The future will be comprised of the same faithfulness and provision and protection as the past. He is the same yesterday and today and forever. From Him comes every good and perfect gift. In Him there is no change nor shifting shadow.

Let’s aspire to be like Jehoshaphat: When he heard the promises of the Lord, He marched to war—with a choir leading the march to victory, winding up in the Valley of Berakah, which means *praise*.

We know God wins! Let’s make August and the autumn our own Valley of Praise!

Rejoicing in the Harvest,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. In my spirit, I am still rejoicing over what God did in Spain. And I am anticipating with joy *what He will do in the Philippines*, as we pray and give and stand together! I hope to hear from you soon. Thank you! God bless you!

