



June 1, 2023

Dear Ministry Partner,

Happy greetings in the Lord at the beginning of the summer! We are off and running into soul harvest season!

*If it keeps gettin' better and better, Oh Lord  
I don't know what I'm gonna do. . . .*

I couldn't keep from hearing that old Dallas Holm song in my head over these past couple weeks as I saw what God is doing through you in Spain and beyond.

- **Thank you for your part in this race for the souls of people! My prayer is, in the next moments, the Lord will show you more clearly than ever *how He has you blooming . . . from where He has planted you!***

I was in Spain to teach homiletics—basically, “how to preach.” The students were eager! They’ve all had their own preaching experiences that didn’t go well. (I can tell you, when you’re preparing to go into ministry and you come up against a message that just won’t come together, it feels like death. And even if prep goes well, if the teacher is present as you’re delivering the sermon, it can be nerve-racking!)

But on this sojourn, I was teaching third-year students. This is a time in their seminary careers where they begin to feel more confident in preparing and delivering a message. The members of this class welcomed the opportunity to get better at this key component of their ministry.

Certainly many laypeople might imagine a “preaching class” dealing simply with matters of style. But homiletics is much more about substance. The Bible features various types of literature—poetry, narrative, symbolic, epistolary—and a preacher must first understand each type and construct the message accordingly. It’s complicated! There’s a learning curve!

But when God has called young people into a preaching ministry, it’s beautiful to see how they grasp and absorb—and joyfully apply—these practical truths.

And along the way, these students have developed into a wonderful community . . . brothers and sisters committed to a common cause: fulfillment of Christ’s Great Commission!



Years ago, I imagined that training students like these would be sort of a “youth group ministry” . . . but I’ve learned firsthand over the years that it’s so much more! Each of these young people has made a decision to focus his or her entire being into a lifelong commitment to ministry. There’s a passion here, a no-holds-barred, no-turning-back kind of feeling.

Over time, through our classes—*thanks to you*—they also become more and more skilled . . . better able to share the Gospel . . . better able to launch and build churches . . . and better able to lead people from eternal hopelessness into eternal life and hope by the grace of God!

I looked around the room and saw a room full of young people whose faith is alive and well—vibrant—productive. They were not receiving these lessons as “theoretical” but as *practical*; they were consuming material enthusiastically, knowing that they will need everything they’re receiving in order to succeed in ministry . . . and knowing that it will make a difference not only in the here and now but for eternity!

As I looked around that room, I also realized another inspiring truth: These are almost all young marrieds, or soon-to-be-marrieds, or new parents. They are basically just now beginning in life . . . and with your blessing, they are laying a firm foundation for their families that will enable and empower them to devote themselves to the work of God.

What a joy . . . what a privilege . . . to play a part in equipping them for the work to which they’ve been called! (More than once, visitors from the U.S. witnessing these classes have said, *We wish we could adopt these young couples!* But the truth is, you have already adopted them: Your generous giving “scholarshipped” them into these classes!)

Yes, I feel a heavy sense of responsibility. Knowing what’s at stake, I carry a burden. But even more so, I feel—along with the other teachers on our team—a sense of elation. It’s like we’re living a dream! Not only do we see them acquiring information and skills, but we see them making use of it all . . .

. . . because *every student is required to engage in evangelism and Bible teaching during their four years of enrollment.*

This means we witness the fruit borne of your sowing.

**You are a global impact partner, used by the Lord to make this amazing evangelistic church-planting ministry possible!** You are living the promise of Hebrews 11:39-40: the Scripture speaks of the “cloud of witnesses” who have come and gone before us, but “God had foreseen something better for us.” Dear friend, *THIS is “something better”!*

I wish you could have been there with me, to scan the faces . . . people whose lives and ministries have been beautifully shaped by your prayers and giving. . . .

✓ **Angelo and Aida** are expecting their first child, a daughter. Angelo just got back from Venezuela where we sent him to be part of the launching of 300 new church plants. *Thank you!*

- ✓ **Unai** has been pastoring in the Basque country, on the Spain-France border. Now he's joined us full-time in Madrid, coordinating new extension centers and coaching church-planters, while also teaching evangelism and mass communication ministries! *Thank you!*
- ✓ **Rebeca** Arretxe, Unai's wife, has been leading our music ministry training, doing a fabulous job in musical production and open-air evangelism as a member of the evangelistic campaign teams. *Thank you!*
- ✓ **Jose** Martin is one of our longest-tenured teachers, the "eldest brother" in the band. He planted a church in his seminary years, and continues to pastor it while now leading the seminary as chief operating officer. He also has taught in Cuba, Venezuela, and Russia. *Thank you!*
- ✓ **Carlos** and **April** Trujillo have been teaching in the extension centers as well as in the main center in Madrid. Carlos was also part of the church plant and pastoring of a Bible church in Barajas. *Thank you!*
- ✓ **Alexandra** is the seminary administrator, coordinating seminary teaching and ministry activities. She's been team leader in planting two churches. (She also leads a food distribution ministry to the poor and sponsors an orphanage in her birth country, in Guayaquil, Ecuador.) *Thank you!*
- ✓ **Andres** and **Sarah** have just welcomed their first child. (Lucas at just one month is already the *STAR* of our seminary.) Andres is technical director of social media for our seminary, overseeing the website in Spanish, posting student and professor interviews to publicize the work of the seminary on social media, and more. *Thank you!*
- ✓ Our Honduran brother **Jose Luis** and his wife are helping to pastor the Basque church planted by Unai and Rebeca, now the largest church in the region. (Jose Luis distinguished himself as a leader in the church but lacked the training to pastor. He now studies at our Madrid school and pastors on the weekends.)

History repeats itself! Jose Luis is doing exactly what Unai did as a student, keeping up the ministry in San Sebastian by commuting from there to Madrid every weekend. *Thank you!*

**You can detect a pattern here! THANK YOU!** I could fill pages with stories of young ministers shaped by your generosity, but you get the picture. The bottom line is that *this is a band of servants already BIG DOERS of the Lord's work, thanks to you.*

And these students in Spain are only a small sampling of the ministers you have helped to train and deploy over the course of decades . . . more than 2,500 graduates currently serving the Lord in many countries in many different capacities—and this is only the fruit of our seminary in Spain . . .

**You are helping to shape young ministry leaders through our entire global network, from Cuba to China and many places in between!**

I have to smile remembering a woman who worked with us a few years back. She was coming from a charitable organization with a budget of \$44 million a year. After a couple of months getting to understand our operation, she said to me—referring to the charity she'd served previously:

“We did **nothing** with \$44 million. You do **everything** with \$2 million!”

All glory to God. He gave us the secret: local leaders who make the most of their small economies.

- These are not expensive workers. (Every dollar you give goes *far*.)
- These are young leaders who know what it means to work hard. They are simply thrilled for a strategy that lets them plant and multiply churches in their own countries.
- They don't get homesick, like foreign missionaries might.
- They can drink their own water, enjoy the foods of their own people.
- They know the culture, the language, the people. They just love the chance to take the Gospel far and wide to their own people!

But it starts with you. **You are the other side of the equation.** You allow yourself to be used by the Lord as the vital root for the production of the fruit. The Lord has planted you in rich soil—here in the West, with such bounty that we have the luxury of taking it for granted. But thanks to your generous heart, your roots are being used to produce much fruit in the farthest parts of the world.

And **the fruit is fantastic**. I keep thinking about a conference in Ukraine called by a group of “healthy churches,” as the people have come to call our church plants. Our partner Anatoly was invited to speak to them. He didn't know what to expect. Maybe a sparse group? Workers in need of comfort? He more or less held his breath.

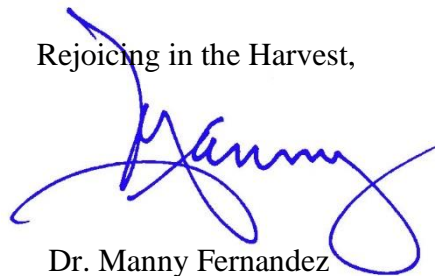
Then they started arriving . . . in buses . . . and buses . . . and more buses! He was overwhelmed by the throngs of joyous people. All he could say, over and over:

“Where did they come from? Where did they come from! *Where did so many come from?*”

**Answer: One sowed, another watered, God gave the increase! (You were the sower!)**

Please keep this beautiful, supernatural process going! We know it works. *We found the gold mine. Now let's mine it for all it's worth!* Please give generously again today!

Rejoicing in the Harvest,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. We know there are many throngs yet to be reached. “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (Galatians 6:9). May the Lord bless you . . . as you have found your life purpose, and you are devoting yourself to it! To Him! The time to the end is short. May the Lord use you in ever greater ways!