



*May the Lord bless you and your loved ones  
according to His many mercies,  
which are new EVERY morning!*

May 1, 2023

Dear Ministry Partner,

Maybe you've had this experience too . . . driving on a roadway where a crew has just put down new pavement. Smooth, pleasant—but no lane lines painted yet. No guidance for drivers.

Result: cars moving in “herds,” rather than in orderly procession. Dangerous!

And truth be told, I've been in a number of Third World countries where I've witnessed the same kind of chaos. But here in the U.S., we've come to expect a certain order. We take for granted the notion that our traffic is “sophisticated.”

Yet today, in our legal system, in our social order, and in our values, we've come to be more and more like lawless Third World countries, in a place of chaos. Court cases, it seems, can be bought and sold by way of money or politics or both. Elections and laws wind up being founded on “influence.”

*The Church must shine the Light into this darkness.* This is the role to which we are called . . . to cultivate a thirst for righteousness . . . to serve as the salt. We need to evangelize!

Which we are doing—together—you and I, along with our teams all around the world. **As you read these words, we are working with friends from an Atlanta church and a proven Spanish evangelism team to put the final touches on plans for a great outreach campaign in Spain**—in Bilbao, San Sebastian, Santander, and Pamplona—and across the border in Biarritz, France.

This is a very secular area. A region virtually *devoid* of any concept of God's love, or the importance of His Word. I don't offer this assessment simply on the basis of “polls” or surveys. We see it in the harsh facts of life in the neighborhoods. *The suicide rate here is growing every year.* (We see this in American neighborhoods too. More evidence that our ministry is urgently important . . . here AND there!)

Yes, summer is coming . . . and many folks find their thoughts turning to plans for leisure activities. Take a break, find some fun. I'm happy for this! People need rest. Some of our friends and neighbors, in the U.S., are even looking wearily for a break outside the U.S., as violence cuts across our headlines week after week, and people of good will argue endlessly about how to deter the tragedies

**But for God's people, one essential way forward is unchanged, and unchanging: We must share the truth, the hope, of the Good News.**

And what we see in times of chaos, of struggle, of pain, of confusion, is this: People's hearts are open. They want to know where is God in all this? They hope for a truly fresh perspective. Something clear. Something that will quench their desperate thirst. Something that will tell them what to do!



Over the course of recent weeks and months, I've heard newscasters talking about the Bible, about the "end times," about Bible study. Not on specialized documentaries, but during regular news programs! Why? Because so many people are trying to cope with violent crime, the chaotic noise of the news, all across America!

Today, you and I have the joy of offering real answers to the "realest" questions. And we must—because here's what's happening all around us:

- When people walk away from God . . . when the Bible is no longer the standard for truth and life . . . everything becomes relative.
- From then on, everything can be questioned. Anything can be held at arm's length—examined, with the same subjectivity as a work of art—and accepted or not accepted, based on human whim.
- Everybody can define good and evil to suit their fancy. We're back in the time of the Judges: Everyone did what was right in their own eyes.

Result: chaos. We reap the consequences of godlessness.

**Yet there is hope—because in such a moment, the door opens for the truth to shine a light.**

So as I write this letter to you, we are **NOT** merely planning one summer campaign in Spain! Your generous and prayerful support is advancing the Harvest work *all around the world!*

- You are empowering 615 church plants in Venezuela.  
But it's not just 615 churches—this means hundreds of evangelistic campaigns!

In the disasters of recent years, multitudes in Venezuela have lost everything. They've lost hope. They're hungry, spiritually. They're looking at the Gospel against a backdrop of suffering—like examining a diamond against black velvet. In a world of severe disappointments, they're finally experiencing a glimmer of hope.

Are you old enough to remember George Beverly Shea singing that great old hymn, written by Ruth Caye Jones?

*In times like these you need a Savior;  
In times like these you need an anchor;  
Be very sure, be very sure,  
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!  
This Rock is Jesus, Yes He's the One . . .*

And so, here we are. June is coming. But we're not waiting for summer! We're launching our Harvest summer activities in *May!* We're planning to shoot video of *scores* of church plants in Mexico before the end of this month.

And our work continues, thanks to you, far beyond this hemisphere. **Amazingly, even in war-ravaged Ukraine, full-size churches are springing up every month!** Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters there.



“War is hell,” growled the Union general William Tecumseh Sherman during our U.S. Civil War more than a century and a half ago. Even his emphatic words seem insufficient today, with the horrific torture and loss of loved ones inflicted by Russia on the people of Ukraine.

People there are terrorized every day by the ominous buzzing of drones and the screams of deadly rockets. Ukrainians are feeling a new, more grievous fear than during the first year of war, because an attack can come in a so-called “moment of peace.”

Russia is aiming attacks at the general population. We’re seeing images of uncontrolled fires, houses and multifamily buildings reduced to rubble. Locals fear crossing a neighborhood bridge and being attacked with escape routes blocked.

Ukrainians are struggling under their own leaders as well. The rules of daily life are more stringent than ever. If you’re found outside your immediate district of residence or work, you can be inducted directly into military service, forced to fight. My upcoming trip to Ukraine was postponed because of the increasing risk to our friends there.

There are tensions in **Africa** as well. I planned to go from Spain to Sierra Leone and Liberia, but elections are coming up there—and the streets won’t be safe during this time. Violence is so commonplace during the voting period that the ministry leaders there asked for a postponement!

Yet one door closes and another opens. I’ve been called to teach in northeast **Brazil**. Then, in July, we’re scheduled to train hundreds of church planters in the **Philippines**, deploying them to launch outreach campaigns throughout the archipelago!

And the ministry doesn’t rely exclusively on my ability to travel. As I write these words, a partnering team is flying from California to east **Asia** to look at a number of ministries: church-planting, children’s ministry, and prevention of the exploitation of women.

What a joy to see more and more partners willing to take the time and make the effort to go and see first-hand what God is doing in the “whitened harvest fields!” When people suddenly “discover” the work personally, they’re energized to be more involved than ever!

Again and again I hear people say, “We had no idea! . . .” No matter how many letters I’ve written, or how many testimonials we’ve shared, or how vivid my descriptions have been, there is no substitute for experiencing—on-site, face to face, in person—the shocking reality!

As for me, my heart is in all the “whitened harvest fields” simultaneously. For example . . .

Hearing in the news of a tropical depression that poured record-breaking amounts of rain on Florida, I immediately thought of our friends in Cuba. Humidity will interrupt the painting of a ministry van, a vehicle being prepared for mission trips. (No power-drying facilities there.) And groups coming from Venezuela to minister in Cuba will be impacted as well. The dominoes keep falling.



Still, the over-arching sentiment of my heart is gratitude. Every day, I'm reminded of what an immense privilege it is to serve in a ministry reaching out to the world and growing on every continent for the sake of people's eternal salvation! And **what an honor to serve with great people like you**, knowing that God has brought us together, with our particular strengths and contributions, to fulfill His purposes!

Paul's analogy is simple but profound: "What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed even as God gave opportunity to each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:5,6).

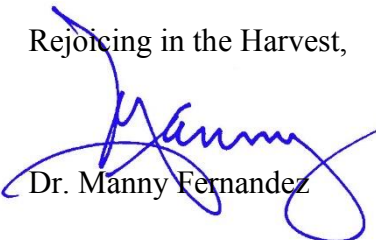
*It's exciting to realize that this is the plan that God had in mind all along—and you and I are right in the middle of it!*

- The laws of the harvest are fully operational in the work we're doing together in the Lord. God has empowered you to do your part, me to do my part, each of us to do the unique part He has designed us to do. As we say yes, as we pray and give and serve, God produces the fruit!

**As we enter the "gathering" season of summer, let's serve with even greater passion. If 2,000 years ago Jesus said the fields were already white unto harvest, how much more today?**

Please give generously again today, and join me in praying that the Lord will use our contributions to produce a hundred-fold harvest!

Rejoicing in the Harvest,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. From our first days in ministry to today, we've seen the fruit increase, and in many more locations than we ever imagined! God give us the stamina to keep working, so that more fruit can be gathered . . . more souls saved, by God's grace! Please let me hear from you quickly, with your most generous possible gift. Thank you again!

