



November 1, 2023

Dear Ministry Partner,

I'm praying you're rejoicing in the goodness of God during this season of Thanksgiving!

Psalms 136 is a thank-you song to the Lord. And after each affirmation of the great things God has done for us, there's this refrain: "**His lovingkindness is everlasting.**"

I used to think it was tedious to repeat this statement after every line! But then God helped me understand this truth: To receive His loving provision continuously is indeed a wonderful and a necessary process. *His lovingkindness, thank God, is everlasting!*

"Everlasting" happens every day. I've seen it again these past few weeks out in the field, observing the beautiful growth—both in quantity and quality—of our work across Spain. We have more extension centers open now than ever before. Now that we've established multiple extensions throughout the northern region, we're moving on to do likewise in the south.

(Thank God that for nearly 30 years He's guided us to decentralize the seminary by setting up extensions accessible to everyone, not just in a single central location!)

And what a blessing to see the quality of the teachers God has brought our way. Most have a rich spiritual heritage. Spain has relatively few Christians; most who love the Lord are third- or fourth-generation believers. Their family histories are stories of heroic Christianity lived out by faithful parents, grandparents, and even more faithful great-grandparents!

I'll give you one wonderful example: Samuel, who oversees the center in Grand Canary Island and has just begun another extension in Tenerife Island. He's a truly gifted teacher, a favorite with students throughout our system. *His family was one of the earliest Christian families in the country. . . .*

In the 1930s, Spain was on the brink of going communist. In the bloody Spanish Civil War, Samuel's grandfather was an officer on a navy ship; he fought for three years. But Franco's forces overthrew the government, Franco took over as dictator, and Samuel's grandfather was thrown into prison in Valencia. He was sure to be tried and executed.

Meanwhile, his 27-year-old wife—Samuel's grandmother—had two children, with a third on the way. The one on the way was Samuel's father.

In those days of brutality, the government literally put her and her children out on the street in front of the military housing where they had lived. Her own parents couldn't help, as they were far away in northwestern Spain, and to return could mean prison. Even her friends avoided helping her—or even speaking to her—for fear of punishment by Franco's force



She longed to be with her husband for the trial in Valencia and for whatever agonies the future might hold. But she was trapped . . . like a leper to people from both sides.

Then, out of nowhere, an English missionary couple appeared on the street. They took her and her children into their home. They helped her to make the trip to Valencia.

→ This was not a case of brilliant, confident, successful missionaries coming to the rescue. The English missionary couple had struggled during their time in Spain. They had already decided to give up. For them, this was merely one last good deed before their return to England.

Then came a twist in the story. By God's grace the doomed man was not sentenced to death, but "only" to 11 years in prison. And in fact, though they had no way of knowing it at the time, his sentence would be commuted after less than three years.

But with her husband in prison, the young mother needed a place to care for her two small children and soon, to deliver her baby. They urgently needed to join her own parents at the opposite end of Spain. A coal train was available, but the journey would take days. She would need help—financially and physically—to care for her children during such an odyssey.

→ Once again, the English missionary couple stepped up. They themselves took the little family to the northwest. This turned out to be a gift of immeasurable importance, as one of the children died along the way.

But finally, after a very long week, they arrived in her parents' hometown. Her mother and father were beside themselves with gratitude that total strangers had been willing to do something that neither friends nor relatives could risk doing.

And their compelling question was, ***Why? What could motivate such selflessness? The English couple's answer was both simple and profound: It was God's love.***

The impact of this response was mesmerizing to the family. Like most of their countrymen, they were staunch Catholics, as Spain had been so for centuries. *This family had never seen nor felt anything so real and so overwhelming.*

They were witnessing a type of Christianity they did not know existed. In fact, they had heard bad things about these "Christians." Yet now they had experienced this "strange faith" in a deeply personal way. They knew now that they had encountered the truest rendition of grace.

As a result of this experience, Samuel's great-grandparents and grandparents came to faith. The baby, Samuel's father, was soon born, and he would also come to faith—and go into ministry. In the next generation, Samuel and his siblings came to faith as well, and they too have gone into ministry. Both of Samuel's sons have now graduated from our school in Madrid!

And through the ministry of all these generations down through the years, *thousands have come to faith.*

But here is one final, amazing detail: The English missionaries moved on, never connecting with the family again. They never knew the rest of the story. They did a deed of faith



in the name of the Lord simply because of the desperate need before them—and never saw “fruit” from their time in Spain. Yet God used them in a most strategic way to set in motion a grand multiplication!

Most of us are driven by the promise of “return on investment.” But we don’t often, if ever, personally witness the return. *Eternal* return on investment is an everlasting reality that keeps producing beyond ourselves.

You and I are greatly privileged to see the fruit in our own lifetime in every country where we minister together. This is a beautiful gift and not one to be taken lightly.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, let’s be grateful not only for the fruit the Lord has allowed us to see this year, but also for the *eternal* legacy we’re privileged to be a part of. Let us treasure the heavenly treasures that are ours now and for the rest of eternity!

Today, as we celebrate what God is doing, we are also celebrating what God will do. For years, we’ve prayed that God would give us direction for World Link’s future. Now after 18 months of prayer, our son Manny III and his wife Jamie have responded to the Lord’s leading. Manny III will serve World Link Ministries as our president and chief operating officer going forward.

Manny is already working with great energy and enthusiasm to set a plan in motion that will grow our capacity with a strong strategy designed to triple our force of church-planters and countries! I am delighted to see the excitement of so many friends as we enter this new era. Friends are stepping in like a new set of engines, multiplying the power of our efforts.

Now Manny is making plans to take as many friends as possible to see the work for themselves—in Spain, Cuba, the Philippines, Nepal, and elsewhere—to understand the vision and join forces to seize it—to fulfill Christ’s promise of John 15:8: “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.” The future of our ministry together is bright and full of hope!

And what will I do as Manny is now serving in this leadership role? For the coming year, I am serving as CEO and chairman of the board. Beyond this, I intend to continue in ministry, helping in specific fields and projects that Manny and the board approve and give priority to.

Retirement? No. There is no such thing in the Bible. (The Levites did have a form of it, but all others served for the duration of their life.) I am sure the Lord will continue to make clear the various assignments to which I’ll be called.

One happy example: I was just in Madrid, teaching a group of students how to prepare sermons from biblical narrative material. Most of the Bible is narrative, so it’s important that they learn how to quickly find the main idea of any given narrative.

It was so exciting to see how passionate these students are to discover the exact nature of a scriptural passage, and how the idea of the passage applies to us in our day. They truly were not so concerned with making a “good grade” as they were with *getting it right*: understanding how to discover the main idea and apply it.

I was there for two weeks—with a weekend trip to Valdepeñas, Valley of Rocks, to teach Christian apologetics, or the defense of the Christian faith, then picking up a colleague and his wife to drive another five hours north to San Sebastian to preach on Sunday. By the end of two weeks of teaching sessions, I was thrilled to see the students’ progress.



I know if you met these serious young students, you would be so grateful for the part you play in training them and deploying them to serve the Lord with their whole lives!

Jose Luis, the coordinator in Valdepeñas, was also once a student with us; he graduated more than 20 years ago. He now gathers and shepherds groups of students through the program to graduation. Your investment in one student *exponentially multiplies* to touch hundreds and even thousands of lives over the course of their career.

In fact, Jose Luis not only leads that extension center but also distributes more than 10 tons of foods to needy people in his community. Furthermore, he produces a weekly radio program proclaiming the Gospel and offering biblical teaching to the entire region.

→ *Out of everything we entrust to the Lord, He develops its full potential.* The old song says, “Little is much when God is in it.” This is what Israel learned when Saul, a man head and shoulders above all other Israelites, would not confront the tallest Philistine, Goliath. But a small youth named David, in the hands of His God, was much too much for the giant to take on!

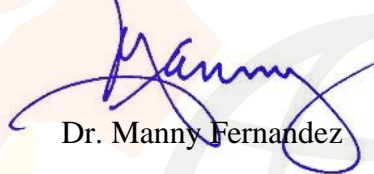
Your heartfelt, God-focused giving today, and every day, will be used greatly by our great God. If God is in it, it will spell great victory every time.

The English missionaries didn’t know what they had done by helping a helpless mom with two children and one on the way. But God used their sacrifice of love to bring about resounding victories . . . down through generations.

And He does this all the time. All He wants is our sincere, heartfelt effort. He will turn that to eternal gold! Please join Him and His Son yet again this month, by giving as generously as possible, as His Spirit prompts you. “Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due time we shall reap a great reward.”

Let us rejoice in His great faithfulness: **His lovingkindness is everlasting.**

Rejoicing with you,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. I don’t know how you will celebrate this Thanksgiving, but on that day you can add this to the blessings you thank God for: You have the privilege of participating in the Harvest . . . and everything you’ve given is bearing fruit—beyond what you can see or even imagine! Thank you! God bless you!



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