



MY PRAYER FOR YOU TODAY:

I pray for you and your family that you may be fully comforted by the God of all comfort so that you may be at peace in the shelter of His wings! Amen!

February 1, 2024

Dear Ministry Partner,

It was a *beautiful ROAR!*

The takeoff of 2024 found me in front of 500-plus Tamil Indians in Chennai. We came together to finish off 2023 and start on 2024 with a clear biblical perspective.

It was sensational!

We were up all night—from December 31 until 8 a.m. on January 1. We had a full agenda, lasting us all night into the morning. No one sat around not knowing what to do! It was all about God, all about His faithfulness and victories in 2023, and all about projections for His work in 2024!

In my last message of 2023, I focused on God's gracious **second chances**, as demonstrated in the ministry of Jonah. Then we moved into 2024 and looked at the project of the True Vine—God began it in the Old Testament in Isaiah 5, but He continues to pursue it right up to today . . . and into the very end of history! That's John 15!

From Jonah to John? The people were amazed. The preachers wanted to know how I would have known to connect those two passages. Yet, this wasn't just a preaching trick. *This is about our lives today.*

At first, people felt exposed, like Jonah, for missed opportunities in the past year. But then came hope for the future. Before we were finished, we all felt **recommissioned** through John 15—recommissioned for a work that glorifies the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: the work of **bearing fruit!**

- » After all this excitement, we tried to sleep a few hours—but there was more ministry ahead! Soon we were visiting children in training programs in various districts of India.

WOW! Once again, I had the feeling of witnessing the *beautiful ROAR* of God at work. Grand developments taking place! Children and parents coming to Christ through our ministry in India—a glorious, eternal occurrence . . . the kind of outcomes God values!

In India's ancient culture, over the course of centuries, multitudes have felt predestined as lesser humans . . . underachievers . . . people hoping for "better karma" in future reincarnations. Yet now—*something new!*

Suddenly, a boy who was merely 27th in his class ranking has risen to the rank of 2nd in all of Tamil Nadu—a massive state with 72 million people. This young man, a product of our education ministry in India, is being offered scholarships to the best universities. It's becoming very obvious to all kinds of people that they are witnessing real help—real transformation.

Just last week, a high school principal came to see for herself the students we feed and train. She was astonished! This is the conclusion she arrived at on her own: This program is needed *throughout India!*

I saw deeply grateful parents. They're so thankful for the great help their kids are getting. They see their children excelling—not simply smart, but capable of becoming whatever they choose to become *if they are only taught*. These parents are coming to realize that what's happening to their children is not due to “predestination,” but to something entirely different: *Love in action—the love of a God they never knew existed.*

Parents see their children memorizing Bible passages and learning the early steps of a Christian life—not their traditional religion, by any means—but they're happy. These parents and their friends now want to help in any way they can to advance this process:

- I saw farmers asking if they could please donate fruits and vegetables to the education system.
- Some who have land have offered to donate land for the local church to build *another* church—for outreach to other districts that also need this same program!
- They see that children need this kind of education throughout the land. They need to be properly taught—so they can demonstrate *just how smart God has made them!*

But of course, when a ministry grows, logistical challenges follow. Even now—as we celebrate everything God is doing, seeing more and more of India coming out of darkness into His marvelous light—we're scrambling simply to transport meals to the schools for all the students.

If you saw it for yourself, I think you'd smile. We've been using a tiny van that quite frankly looks like a toy. It's not even our vehicle. The owner volunteered it for our use—but only on the condition that he could reclaim it whenever he needed it. Sometimes, he needs his van at a very awkward time. (What can our team say? Nothing but “Thank you very much!”)

Even when the van is available, it's an “iffy” proposition. Technical authorities in the region say this van has only two years of life left on its license.

Bottom line: We need to acquire a van with more capacity and a much longer mechanical life. Our team has identified three options, each at around \$15,000. We're believing for it! Meanwhile, we're excited that we can keep going and growing. Together, we're feeding, teaching, and leading children to Christ—as well as adults!

(Besides all of this, we're still planting churches! By God's grace, the India report is all about wonderful growth—a phenomenal version of “business as usual”!)

But in this new year, the “beautiful roar” in India is only the beginning!

» I came home from India and changed clothes to go to *Venezuela*.

Yes, you have to change focus with me . . . switch *continents* with me . . . from South *Asia* to South *America* . . . to **VENEZUELA!**

I want to make sure you have the proper context for this report: *You and I have only been ministering in Venezuela for 18 months.* And yet, we already have **615 church-plants**—and they are ***booming!***

These are *not* house churches. Many of these congregations are meeting in public spaces because there's no building nearby big enough to house them. A few have actually received land from local governments for the construction of church buildings.

Yes, you're reading it correctly. Government officials are helping the Christians not only to build schools, but *churches*—because of the tremendous positive impact in their communities. It's almost unbelievable!

In addition to ministry, our team was in Venezuela to produce a video with our friends at Media 7 so we can show everybody what's happening in that country. We found Venezuelans to be proud of their beautiful country, with their flag on display at almost every gathering.

But I was shocked to see another symbol of pride: our World Link Ministries name and logo on banners and posters! A number of people proudly wore T-shirts bearing our logo along with the motto, "Be a disciple and make disciples"!

In a way, I was alarmed. I tried to clarify to them that we never seek to promote our name. From day one, we've insisted that "all ministry is the ministry of the Lord." But our brothers and sisters in Venezuela, after these 18 months of spectacular advances in church-planting, are thrilled to identify with our ministry—and they explained why. . . .

We arrived in this country in answer to many prayers. Again and again we've heard the refrain that *no other group has come to help them in the past seven years.*

They've been praying, fervently, that the Lord would send somebody. They felt sure that after such a long wait, God would send someone with a strategy that would be valuable nationwide. An explosion of 615 churches throughout their country qualifies as "valuable"! When they display our logo, they celebrate God's answer to their prayers!

But 615 churches won't reach the entire nation . . . so when our Venezuela coordinator asked, *What's next?*, the answer was clear: *Press on to 1,000.* Gather the workers for another 100 church plants . . . and then another 100 . . . and so on until we reach 1,000!

As I write these words, we're praying and planning to launch 400 churches by the middle of this year—so by July, at our two-year mark, we can have 1,000 church plants underway!

Yes! Almost unbelievable! And yet—God is doing it . . . through you!

I can only thank the Lord . . . and thank you for the way you've prayed and participated. God is leading us together. He is clearly in the midst of the ministry of reconciliation, even in these troubled times.

Jonah, all the way back in the Old Testament, represents our 21st Century Church, riddled with global concerns, and political strife. Jonah was called to proclaim the message of salvation—but his nationalism and his political bias limited his gifts.

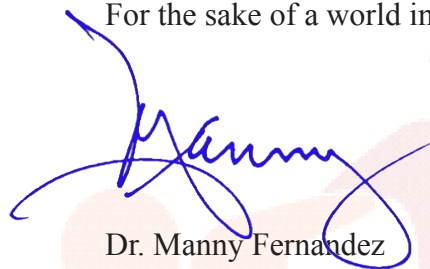
Yet God doesn't give up. Today, thousands of years later, in John 15—and in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Acts—the Church is called to *go*. Again, it's a time of nationalism, and political bias . . . plenty of opportunities to be distracted from our mission, or completely stalled.

Our calling is to press on. To shun the distractions. To devote ourselves to the harvest. “I am the true vine,” Jesus says in John 15:1,16, “and My Father is the vinedresser. . . . I chose you and appointed you *that you may bear much fruit.*”

Prophecy tells us: All our distractions will evaporate. All our political systems will cease. The only ultimate outcome will be the kingdom of our God, and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.

May the Lord guide us so that we may seek His kingdom first, and His righteousness, that all the other things may be added onto us, according to His promise. I look forward to hearing from you soon. God bless you!

For the sake of a world in need,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. I invite you to give today, with joy. Pray without ceasing. Join again in this “beautiful roar” . . . the work of the harvest. Look at what God is doing in India! *We have the privilege of participating in this miracle.* Look at what God is doing in Venezuela! *We have the privilege of sharing in this adventure.* Look at what God is doing all around the world! *It's our privilege to join in this end-time breakthrough.*