



March 1, 2024

Dear Ministry Partner,

What we're seeing . . . what we're hearing . . . the move of God we're witnessing . . . there are hardly words in our language to describe it, or contain it!

We need a sort of "divine dictionary"!

Enthusiasm *noun*—excitement to see leaders embracing "visionary Christian views"!

Intentional *adjective*—done with a deliberate purpose, a divine purpose!

Fulfillment *noun*—happiness or satisfaction gained by fully achieving your God-given potential!

I can tell you firsthand: Your prayers and giving are powering all of this, and more, around the world!

Just yesterday I attended a meeting with our partners in **MEXICO**. The seminary there has a new president; he and the team wanted to be sure that the next era would be launched well, with the seminary as a "good and fruitful partner." I was delighted to share the broad vision God has given us for Mexico: a total of **320 churches, 10 churches strategically established in each of the country's 32 states.**

The new president suggested that the way to approach this challenge would be to establish a "Missiological Research Center." Of course we are always careful to respect the perspectives of the people in each mission field; we are serving in their homeland, and they know the culture, the "ins and outs." But to spend time, energy, and money on a research center?

Trying to be as diplomatic as possible, I suggested that we already have enough information on the dire need and the spiritual condition of Mexico's people. What we need right away is not more research: We need mobilization!

Mobilization *noun*—the action of organizing and encouraging a group of people to take collective action in pursuit of a particular objective, bringing resources into use for a particular purpose.

*Our objective, our purpose, is to reach people before they slip into a Christless eternity. We need to **mobilize** around this vision right away—because we are losing tons of people for eternity!*

By God's grace, the new seminary president caught the vision quickly. Suddenly he was a flood of eager questions: How do we identify vocational church planters? How do we get the teaching to them in the remote areas? How do we choose the areas where we plant churches? And on and on!

The more he understood the plan—a plan tried-and-true, after our decades of ministry in the fields of the world—the more **enthusiastic** he got! The better he understood the vision, the greater his **intentionality** to pursue it . . . to experience the **fulfillment** of helping make it happen!

As you read these words, our work together in Mexico is guided by a decisive set of objectives. The strategy is in place, God has given us the right people, and our partners in Mexico are pursuing the great vision the Lord has given for their country.

The president is asking us for three things: He wants lots of prayer, he wants lots of communication, and he wants us to keep pointing the way!

Now you begin to see why I'm so excited!

I've also just met with our partners 8,500 miles to the west of Mexico—in the **PHILIPPINES**. Our brothers and sisters there are fervently serious about—totally ready for—launching **another 100 church plants** in that country.

We've been working with Dr. Ty and Dr. Rex, and now we're adding Marvin Adolfo as supervisor of this dramatic expansion. Marvin (currently working on his doctorate at the Bible Seminary of the Philippines), already has a vision to reach 20,000 of the Philippines' barangays—we might call them neighborhoods; they're the smallest unit of government in Filipino cities and towns, something like wards or precincts.

So far, Marvin has simply pursued a vision of establishing cell groups throughout the various barangays, imagining groups would gather and grow serendipitously.

Serendipity *noun*—the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way.

But “by chance” doesn't jibe with intentionality! A focus on fun, food, and fellowship can be good, but . . . *if it doesn't grow and multiply, when do we get to the “bearing much fruit” part?*

I did my best to tread lightly. I asked careful questions. I wanted to be sure I clearly understood what I was hearing. But it was ultimately very clear: These home groups, comprised of church members (organized with their pastor's permission) study the Bible and enjoy fellowship—and food. They exist for one another, for support, for morale-building, for a number of mutual benefits.

In other words, we might say, these are “consumers” . . . and their gatherings are “of the consumers, by the consumers, and for the consumers.”

Finally, I offered my brother an “enhanced perspective”: *This strategy is so close to the first phase of our church-planting strategy! These home groups are so close to the teams we set up to intentionally spread the Gospel!*

I showed him photos from actual churches that are already being raised up in the *barangays* . . . groups of believers who are now **intentional** about leading people to Christ and seeing them transformed by the power of God's Word.

I also showed him pictures of your generosity in action in India—where we’re feeding, teaching, and leading children to Christ, along with their parents—and in Venezuela, where God is working in the same amazing ways!

Dr. Ty and Dr. Rex and I shared how we can take just two or three additional steps and transform all those home groups into missional, **intentional** church plants. We can double the effort already made—and produce *fruit like we never dreamed!*

In those beautiful moments, I saw Marvin grow marvelously: **enthusiastic! intentional!** You might even say **fulfilled**—as he grasped the vision of what the people can experience in all the barangays. . . .

They can feed and educate poor kids in the barrios.
They can engage the parents in seeing their kids succeed.
They can experience the joy of seeing children and families thriving by the power of the Spirit at work in their lives!

Marvin’s word to me was that he is ready to get started ASAP! (No need for a dictionary to translate that one!) He wants to attend our upcoming training conference in Cuba. He wants me to visit the barangays in his own mission field. *He wants to “pull out all the stops.”* (He may even do his doctoral thesis on the whole movement. We’ll see!)

After Mexico and the Philippines, I might have expected a brief respite. But no!

This morning, before heading to the airport, I got a letter from another fellow I met in the Philippines. This was *not* a letter from a Filipino, however. . . .

This message came from a man and his wife in NEPAL—another 2,600 miles to the west of the Philippines!

“. . . We are writing to follow up on our conversation regarding the sending of 20 church planters to plant three churches each in different parts of NEPAL. We look forward to hearing from you soon and are excited to partner together with World Link in the expansion of God’s kingdom here in Nepal and beyond!”

Do you see what my life has become? Like the prophet Jeremiah, I keep getting “tricked into” doing ministry!

Yes, I do believe this is how the prophet Jeremiah felt:

Lord, You have deceived me and I was deceived;
You have overcome me and prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long. . . . (*Jeremiah 20:7*)

God deceived Jeremiah: True, or false?

Of course not. So, what is Jeremiah saying? Jeremiah thought people would repent when they heard what God said about their disobedience—but when they did not, Jeremiah felt God called him to preach in an impossible situation.

Maybe if we knew the whole story the day we were first called . . . we would not have said yes to the call!

To be sure, there are more difficulties along the path than we could have imagined. But God knew all along He would be with us, and we could not fail if we stay **focused** on Him, and on what He is doing!

Focus *noun*—the point at which an object must be situated with respect to a lens or mirror for an image of it to be well defined.

So let's get focused.

Let's get the objective of the Great Commission clearly defined:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations . . . teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; **AND** [note this well!] I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19,20)

Bottom line: **Nepal is ON**—*this April*. One hundred and fifty unreached people groups.

I'm out of time. The plane is about to land. I don't have time to tell you about **SPAIN!** Our earliest partners! We're going into a new building, and . . . no, I have to save this for later. Tray tables up! WIFI off!

Oh, dear friend, please keep being a part of this! God's work is ***fantastic!***

Fantastic *adjective*—extraordinarily good, of an extraordinary size or degree.

We can be enthusiastic because God is in this. Jesus is about the Father's work. The Spirit is here to enable us and empower us to reach every goal! Please pray! Please give!

Rejoicing evermore,



Dr. Manny Fernandez

P.S. Everywhere I've been, you've been here in spirit. By God's grace, you are the strength of what we dare. May this year be our best year yet. God's hand will not change! The future is made up of the same victories and exploits He has shown us our whole lives long!