

Baja Christian Ministries Update and Prayer Letter 3/26/04

Dear Prayer Partner,

With a thankful heart, I come to express my gratitude for your faithful partnership and precious prayers that are helping to vanguard and forge the highway of this ministry (Isa 35:8-10) that is being cut through the desert of this world to harvest multitudes for our God through the orchestration and onward leading of Jesus our King (Micah 2:13). Our Great Jesus Who is also the Lord of the Net is fortifying relationships and tying in new ones like cords tied and weaved together as an effective Net in His Hands to sweep a huge harvest of souls for His glory and pleasure in Baja, Mexico and from those participating. I perceive it like this... As He chooses, He is orchestrating, arranging, and connecting in his soldiers and churches into shared relationship and vision according to His Plan for this purpose. This is a purpose driven work according to His Plan by His Grace. I'm awed to witness the wonderful things He is doing in our midst, witnessing divine arrangements, as He is connecting in re-enforcements, passionate ones with greater commitment than I ever remember before, while at the same time also witnessing the enemy's displeasure through obstacles, roadblocks, and resistance. Yet, I rejoice in this great opportunity to serve our great God Who always brings the victory in His time and way.

This week 3/22-26, Pastor Bob and Robin Fossom of Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Aloha, Oregon built a beautiful house and latrine for a pastor and his family in Ejido Lazaro Cardenas. Meantime Carey and Lana Crowson and their team from Hope Lutheran of Des Moines, Iowa are building 2 houses and 2 latrines just up the road. I was with a scouting team from Mariners Church, Irvine as we visited them and some of us witnessed the 2 mothers of those houses come into a new relationship with Jesus our Lord. It was nice to know that there was a pastor just up the street from them. Grace Presbyterian of Plano, Texas built a large church building extension in that community last spring and will be building another church building this spring not far from these houses. Please pray blessing on these groups and upon the recipients and that the new believers and the many others who will be brought into our Great Shepherds flock in this area of Mexico.

Wednesday 3/24-29 a team from Bethel, Redding led by Dale Chesney and Mark Brook are ministering in some of our churches. Steve and Teri Skolos and a team from Vineyard Community Church of Laguna Niguel are coming in today to do the same. I will join them a few hours after I send this letter. Please pray that the Holy Spirit moves powerfully to save, refresh, comfort, and bring healing to many precious lives.

Saturday morning 3/27-28, Ray Fectau, Pasquale Russo, and Sanjesh Sharma are bringing a small team in to build a house in a new community we are starting in, for a family that were victims of the recent floods and lost their home. I will join them on Saturday. Please pray for Hector Rubio and this smaller team that God would joyfully refresh and energize them to complete this house and be fully blessed.

I have three meetings in churches this Sunday. Please pray that God would move in our midst to mightily stir vision and passion in many lives for His glory, for the poor, the lost and for His precious people in Baja, Mexico and worldwide.

Please pray for our dear administrator Cheryl Walker as she has been overcoming borderline pneumonia.

Please pray for the team Ian Stevenson of the Crossing Church is sending to further the progress of the church building for Pastor Chuy Gomez in El Nino.

Rob Covell, Jeff Logsdon and Larry Murdock and the team of Flipside Church, Alta Loma are coming tomorrow 3/27 to do house to house evangelism, food distribution and ministry with Pastor Salim. Please pray for many salvations and great encouragement for many.

We are starting to get a small flow of the Purpose Driven Life book and Purpose Driven Church book in Spanish by Pastor Rick Warren. Our pastors are pleading for these books which are badly needed to help lay a solid foundation for thousands, which will bring tremendous fruit in these communities if we can continue to access them. Our donor base is not that extensive at this time. Please pray that God would open new doors which will enable us to bring thousands of these needed books and Bibles into these communities of spiritually hungry saints.

We have many groups coming in over the next two months. Pray for us all as we participate in the mobilization and facilitation of these many soldiers of our Lord to help bring blessing and liberation to thousands.

Please keep all of us and our families in prayer for His blessing, wisdom, love, health, provision and protection.

As we move forward in this battle we readily perceive how vital are your prayers and ours and also the effective use of the armor God gives us via His protection through His Holy Spirit and angels. I've enclosed a poetic prayer entitled: Fortify my Shield of Faith. Please, if you have opportunity, read through this poetic prayer and pray these contents over our lives and our families. This is deeply appreciated! When in Asia, Paul the Apostle stated that he received the needed deliverance through his rough trials there... "through the prayers of many...(2Cor 1:9-11)" Thank you for your precious prayers and partnership.

With gratitude, Bob Sanders---Poetic Prayer follows-->

Fortify my Shield of Faith

(Isa 42:14-16, Psalm 4, Deut 33:27, Rom 16:20, Eph 3:20)

Majestic God, You are my Mighty Fortress...
Amidst the pounding storms of distress
You are pleased to shield, protect, and immerse us in Your loving rest
Armor us fully in the Resilience of Your Presence
Encase us in Your Impenetrable Vanguard Spirit Hedge
Sharpen us with Your Holy Spirit Zeal and Persistence
To triumphantly, effectively and tenaciously cut a God pleasing edge
To press through all fleshly and demonic resistance
fully insulated in Your Tender Loving Care
To joyfully weather the long seasons of wear and tear
Re-insulate our spiritual wires that have been frayed
Gracious Heavenly Father... don't delay!

Fortify our Shield of Faith to deflect every fiery dart
Garrison completely our mind and heart
Vanquish every ploy schemed to bring our defeat
Valiant God of Peace swiftly crush satan under our feet
Mighty Holy Spirit Power from Above
Pour hot coals of shame on this devouring thief
For he accuses and torments precious souls that You Love
he steals, kills, and destroys and inflicts his venomous grief
Route him, bind him, show him no relief
Mighty Lion of Judah Arise, bind up this father of lies
And Forge in us a new courageous, unwavering, well-anchored belief
Eternal King Jesus drive out this enemy before us!
Everlasting Arms, Raise us up from underneath
to ride high on Your glorious wave of victory

Baptism of Fire, Enflame Exuberant Faith within
Ignite Holy Spirit love, power and self-discipline
Consuming Fire ...that burns ever clear, bright and pure
Purify all congestion, confusion, anxieties and fear
Pour Fresh Holy Spirit Oil to fuel Hot fiery Flames
to refine out all fear, doubt, apathy and shame
Fire of God, Enkindle New Zeal and Fervent Passion to proclaim
the Greatness of Your Name
with Fresh Enthusiasm and First Love that overcomes shame

Sweet Holy Spirit You have consecrated us and set us apart
Anoint us afresh with Your Glory and deeply impart
Your Ointment of Love to lavishly spread abroad in our hearts
Dry up all bitter springs ingrown
Tap new sweet springs
Not yet fully known
to an effusive flow
Rivers of Living Water in our innermost being
Profusely flow
That Your Love and Life in us may abundantly grow

Comforting Lover of my soul, I long for and pant hard after You
Torrents of Life dissolve all blockages and break on through

Rise Up Mighty Waters within like an Artesian Well
Quench every flaming arrow from hell
Rivers of Delight, burst forth and abundantly flow!
Abound in us so the world might know
that You are more precious than we could ever ask or think.
Rise up Exuberantly, so we may lavishly drink!
Ocean of Love swell our hearts in joyous waves of rippling peace
To taste and see Your Infinite Goodness that will never cease.
Sweet Arms of Unbroken Fellowship embrace us to Sweetly Abide
In the Secret Place
Your Sanctuary of Unfailing Love, Deep Inside

By Bob Sanders 3/24/04