

## **Baja Christian Ministries Update and Prayer Letter 4/11/04**

**Dear Prayer Partner,**

While driving on the main highway which connects Tecate with Tijuana, it was a joy to witness patches of groups of 180 young people and adults from Mariners Church, Irvine, CA linked up with Hector Rubio, Dave Bower, Bob Allen and Cheryl Walker up upon the hill shining brightly as beacon lights of Christ's love to the surrounding community and to those driving through. It was a joy to witness some of the families of these house-recipient poor police officers give their lives to Christ and receive Spanish Bibles, Spanish copies of The Purpose Driven Life book, and Illustrated New Testaments for the children, while seeing the excitement of Jose Martinez Veneas, Captain of the Police force in that area rejoice in the Lord and the blessing being poured out upon his people.

It was a joy to witness a team from Tehachapi Nazarene Church building Captain Jose's house (who has the heart of a pastor) and his neighbor's just days before. It was a joy to witness some of the Mariners team go to El Nino and minister food and God's love to very poor, newly re-located flood victim families and witness many of them receive Jesus as Lord of their lives.

It was a joy to witness a team from Saddleback Community Church, Lake Forest, build a classroom for a Junior High/High School while witnessing the excitement of Ramon the Principal of the School watching this blessing, share his vision, and hear his excitement for the Purpose Driven Life Book in Spanish in which he just finished the 37<sup>th</sup> chapter and hear him say that everyone must read this book. It was a joy to witness part of their team do Vacation Bible Schools (VBS) daily in a local church we are working with, and others painting houses and reaching out in various ways. It was a joy to witness First Presbyterian Church of Visalia, CA networking with other neighboring churches from Visalia to hit hard to build 4 houses and to do VBS daily in 5 other churches and locations we are working with and to know they were also preaching and doing worship in some of those churches in evening services as well. It is a joy to know that all these groups to some degree were building relationships with each other and their Mexican brothers and sisters to strengthen the tie that binds and share in part in the ministry of reconciliation (2Cor 5:17-21).

It was nice to know that just across that huge city of Tijuana was King's Elementary School from Seattle Washington to again faithfully knock out houses for the poor in Mexico now for over 15 consecutive years, reflecting on their grassroots start through a teacher, Shirley Goheen, who encouraged kindergarteners and first graders to do small jobs around their houses to earn nickels, dimes and quarters to raise enough money to build their first house, which they did. It nice to know this faithful group built three houses for very poor re-located flood victim families, and stocked up hundreds of dollars of supplies for families that lost everything, while another team, St John's Lutheran of Sacramento, CA was also building a house for one of these poor families. All this was happening in just one week as God's people linked up together. And much more is in

progress now and over the next weeks and months, thanks to the grace of our God and His loving people who are aligning with Dave Bower's lifetime motto, "Saved to Serve".

Following prayer requests in my letters I usually enclose a compilation of Scriptures I compile or a devotional poem I write, but yesterday many of the family members from my huge family got together at my Mom and Dad's. After we prayed over the meal my sister read a poem she dug up, that my Mom wrote sometime in the early 70's. I had never seen this poem or realized it existed, but after hearing it felt that it fit so well in this season when we traditionally celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord. It didn't have a name so I took the liberty to name it "He Died and Rose So we Might Fully Live" Thanks so much for your faithful prayers.

**Please lift the following requests in prayer:**

The Mariners Church, Irvine, CA is still down south building 6 houses and doing various forms of ministry and outreach-- 4/8-12.

Suzanne Rothi of First Presbyterian Church of Hayward CA and team is building two houses and reaching out in Jesus love in different ways-- 4/11-16.

Tammy Glossip is bringing the second team from Saddleback Church, Lake Forest to build the second classroom and do outreach and VBS's-- 4/12-15.

Pastor Bill Staffieri and his team from First Baptist of Fountain Valley is building a house and reaching out with Christ's love in various ways-- 4/14-17.

Ayds Hanes and his team from Mt Zion Assembly of God Church of Pine Grove, CA is building a house and reaching out-- 4/14-18.

Pastor Larry Thorson and Al Day are bringing a team from Grace Presbyterian Church of Plano, Texas to build a Church and reach out-- 4/22-25.

David Gonzales of New Hope Community Church of Chino, CA is bringing a team to do projects and outreach-- 4/23-25.

Jon Hall and his teams from Canyon Hills Church of Lake Forest, CA is building 5 houses and 5 latrines and reaching out in His love-- 4/30—5/2.

Michael Coehelo is bringing a team from Yorba Linda Friends Church, Yorba Linda to build 1 or 2 houses and shine the love of Jesus—5/1-2..

Between 4/20—5/4... precious brothers, Pastor Anthony Walton, Pastor of the Rock Church in New Zealand and Paul Bowen, are flying my wife, Janet, and I to their beautiful country to be with those precious saints there, largely to be refreshed, and also to further share the vision of this ministry with them. This church, and others in New

Zealand through them, have shown an amazing commitment to share a major role in this ministry and the harvest of souls and blessing in Baja. Please pray awesome blessing upon them.

Please pray blessing, protection, and fullness of Christ love, joy and peace in the Holy Spirit upon all these groups, leaders, and families and upon all they minister to. Please pray that the multiplier would be built in and that thousands upon thousands would be saved through this ministry, disciplined, encouraged greatly, and become worshippers of the Father in Spirit and truth.

Please pray for Hector Rubio, Cheryl Walker, Pastor Alvin, Pastor Salim, Pastor Sergio, Pastor Martin, Pastor Chuy, Pastor Jesus, Pastor Daniel, Pastor Manuel, myself and their wives and families and the growing number of pastors, leaders and partners we are working with that the love of God would abound in our hearts and that our sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit would be acute and that our Lord's divine arrangements and appointments would abound and be very clear to all us. And that we would see, catch and ride God's waves as Pastor Rick Warren puts it rather than trying to make waves of our own. For Jesus is the Awesome Lord of the Net weaving together a Working Net to sweep Baja for Christ. Let us link up and sweep that wonderful Peninsula together for His glory. With Gratitude, Bob Sanders---poem follows-->

### **He Died and Rose that we Might Fully Live**

Jesus cried out to Our Father  
"They know not what they do"  
Forgive them like the good thief  
And resurrect them, too

Yet like Peter we deny Him  
in the daily life we live  
We do not stand beneath the cross  
that is too much to give

How many times do we sell our souls  
for the riches of the land?  
Those thirty pieces of silver  
clenched within our hands

How many times do we close our eyes  
to teachings in His Name?  
As we sleep with the apostles  
in Gethsemane again

When we 'share not' our good fortune  
and deny the suffering bread

Our hands place the crown of thorns  
upon His Noble Head

When we choose to judge our brothers  
By the color of their skin  
We place our hands upon the sword  
That pierced the side of Him

Can we now with penitent hearts  
In accordance with God's will  
Retrace once more the steps with Him  
That led to Calvary's hill

Can we now stand beneath the cross  
Seeking justice in His Name  
That when our hearts shall cease to beat  
Our souls will live again!

By Rita Sanders written sometime in the early 70's

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