

Baja Christian Ministries Update and Prayer Letter 5/10/03

Dear Prayer Partners,

I asked you to pray the Sweet Refreshment of God's Presence upon all of us this past weekend. Your prayers on our behalf were definitely answered, at least according to those I heard from, in a personal and special way. Thank you! Michael Coehelo and Pasquale and Danelle Russo shared that they were "still riding the high" of the experience in the afterglow days later. Jon Hall who has built many houses with us said it was his best group trip ever. Yet the appearance at first sight, due to circumstances, would not have necessarily warranted this report, as rain was pouring down, house foundations were muddy and wet, in fact, mud everywhere-- in our cars, on our clothes and two and half inches of it stuck to the bottom of our shoes just minutes after arriving on the jobsite. At the site where Mike Coehelo and Mike Frabotta were getting started, these dedicated groups along with Dave Bower, Bob Allen, Cheryl Walker, and Hector Rubio pulled 2x4 studs out of water and mud and slapped them together to build two beautiful houses. Ian Stevenson, Dan Steward and their group from the Crossing, Jon Hall, and group from Mission Hills, Michael McDonald, and group from New Harvest, and Bruce Beardswood and group from Gateway, Chino, had to pack some of their things and walk up the slippery grade without vehicles on Saturday, because muddy slopes wouldn't allow some of the vehicles to arrive. Not all houses got finished. But 75% did, as around 350 dedicated people built 15 houses. Dave Smith and his group were building two houses on the other side of TJ. That weekend many people were invited into relationship with Jesus, and accepted him, at the same time as many others were greatly encouraged and blessed through gifts scattered abroad to the poor as many gave of themselves and their resources in His love. It was also great working with Brandon Dickerson to shoot 5 hours of film to produce a 3 minute video of our ministry that will probably be available shortly after he gets back from a month in Belgium.

The week before, Pastor Billy Ford and his group from Ist Baptist Arcata built two houses and reached out in Christ's love to the neighborhood. Pastor Larry Thorson, Al Day, Richard Berger, Rodney Scott and Mary Weber and their team from Grace Presbyterian, Plano, Texas, built a beautiful house. They textured and painted the inside walls, put in beautiful curtains, cabinets, and one of their members, a landscaper by trade, went to Home Depot and purchased plants and other materials and did a beautiful landscaping job around the house. They put out like it was their own family, even setting a fruit bowl full of beautiful fruit on the table they purchased. When finished it was like a quaint little country cottage. Pastor Larry, Pedro Bertran and myself engaged in evangelism there and in another community where Daniel Young and his group from the Rotary Club of La Verne were building a house. Also Mellissa Daly and team from New Hope Church in Chino were drywalling the inside of Pastor Manuels church along with another house and reaching out in VBS and food distribution.

Paul Stariha and his team from Shorewood Christian School, Seattle, WA are just leaving today after building a house and reaching out. Nick Reid, and Sigma--Chi from his college group from Harrisburg, Miss. will be coming in Monday to build a house. Teri Awad, Russell Wilson and their team from Inland Vineyard of Corona are there today, Saturday 5/10, along with Rob and Carolyn Covell, to distribute large amounts of food, worship together with Pastor Chuy and Ana and members of their congregation, and going house to house to pray for the sick and for personal needs of these families. Please keep them in your prayers. Pray for protection, fruitfulness, and blessing on all that minister and are being ministered to. This is really just a slim bones report. Each one of these hundreds and sometimes thousands of God's people that come to serve the poor in Jesus Name have their own major contribution of the over all tapestry being weaved to His glory. We are all servants, sons and daughters and soldiers of our Great King, Jesus. The spiritual war we fight is largely the battle of the mind or what some call the war between our ears. I have enclosed a devotional poem I wrote entitled "Our Awesome King Mighty at the Door" that I wanted to share with you. Please read through it and pray with us and for us in the continued

victory of the contents therein. Thanks for your precious prayers!
With Gratitude, Bob Sanders--Poem Follows--->

Our Awesome King Mighty at the Door

(Rev. 12:10, Psalm 13, Isa 28:6, 2Cor 10:3-6, Eph. 3:16-19)

When... the accuser of the brethren comes to accuse
Seeking to stir distress and unrest through mental abuse
Spewing out poison of fear, discouragement, and shame like a flood
havocking like a roaring lion seeking to devour
...I Shall Seize the Opportunity
Through Your Mighty Power
in Your God-Given Authority--
To Appropriate Your Saving Blood,
To Garrison my mind within Your Strong Tower,
As I Trust Your Saving Power--
To Live Continually in Your Fully Secure Victory
Through Your Almighty Spirit of Liberty
That Faithfully Sets Captives Free.
I Shall look to You, my Mighty King
At the Mental Door
For Continuous Victory in this Spiritual War
I will Trust You to Guard my mind with Grace and Truth,
As You Come to my Rescue
And Triumphantly Pull me through
As You Fortify my Faith to Deflect every Fiery Dart
That's been Aimed to Discourage Your Soldiers in Heart
Together we shall bind this devouring thief
As Your Comforting Holy Spirit Looses Mental Relief
In Waves of Perfect Peace
...But when a fiery dart does break through
Penetrating the Armor through the Mental Door
With it's deceptive sting that leaves a fear-filled residue
that gets trapped in the mind as a anxious compunction;
Mighty King, at that time, Quickly Break Though
With Comforting Holy Spirit Unction
Captain of the Host, Save to the Uttermost
Soothe, Comfort and Renew...
Also Ignite this poisonous residue
Turn it into Fuel to Glorify You
Deep Work of the Cross Purify this Dross
Burn this anxious venom as fuel for the fire
To Enflame Exceeding Joy and Enthusiasm to Inspire
A Deeper Love and Passionate Desire
To Magnify and Lift You Higher
Awesome God, Majestic King
Sacrificial Lamb, Man of Suffering
Who Suffered, Died and Rose for me
To Set me Free
Open in me Your Living Springs
Satisfy me with Your Majestic Glory
At the Mental Door slay the lying enemy
Guard my Mind Gate with Your Joyous Love and Holy Jealousy

When I'm tempted to take an offense
Rather than entering into carnal defense
Help me to quickly immerse in Your Peaceful, Loving Presence
Quicken me to Yield immediately to Your Cleansing Blood
That washes away sin, infinitely better than water does mud
And secures for us a conscience clear
Help me to release into Your Furnace my cares and fears
to Purify in me Everlasting Faith Unfeigned and Love that's Pure
Through the fog of perplexity and uncertainty
Shine Forth Gloriously in Holy Spirit Clarity
To Establish Confident Certainty in my Times of Obscurity
I Love You my King!
I Kneel in Your Hands
You are the Only One that can make me Stand!
Why? ... With all my flaws, selfishness, hardness, and frailties
are You so good to me?
I Ask Two Things--Please...
Never for a minute let me fall out of Love for Thee
And Please, Allow my Love for You to grow exponentially
The length, depth, breadth and height of Your Love-- let me see
Open my Heart to You Completely
Pour into me Abundantly
Love of God Expand in me Infinitely
For My hope is in You, my King, Who Guards my door
To Manifest Your Love in me So Much More...!

By Bob Sanders