

Baja Christian Ministries Update and Prayer Letter 5/28/04

Dear Prayer Partner,

Thanks to our Loving God, your faithful prayers, financial support and compassionate service the month of May multiplied out to be an incredible blessing to many! Since my last update, Bruce Beardswood led a team from Gateway Community Church of Chino, CA to build a beautiful house in San Bernardo for a family of flood victims.

Quen Cheng led a team of Chinese-American Christians from UC Berkley (also members of the Crossroad Christian Church of El Cerrito, CA) to build a house and to do house to house evangelism and ministry. Some of our Mexico team and myself worked with this encouraging group and led and/or prayed for about 50 people in this village to come to the Lord and be greatly encouraged. The harvest is certainly ripe there. Pray that a number of Churches will be raised up and loving pastors to care for the large harvest to come from this region.

This weekend the dear brother Phil Dunn, his wife, Rose and children along with Pastor Karen Greschel, and Melissa Meyers have mobilized a team from Malibu Presbyterian Church, Malibu CA to build two houses in San Bernardo through Hector Rubio's leadership this Memorial weekend 5/29-31. Meanwhile, Pastor Salim and Luis Barraza, Captain Jose Venegas, Pastor Alvin Morales, Pastor Chuy Gomez, Jorge Timothy, Cheryl Walker and myself will do some house to house ministry with some of their team members. Please pray God's blessing, protection and fullness of joy on the entire team and all whom we minister to. Pray to our Lord for many divine arrangements and many more saved souls this weekend.

June is now upon us. A full month of house-building, church building and various ministry groups are scheduled. An equivalent of 25 houses and/or church building or extensions are scheduled to be built in less than a 2 weeks time period between June 16-29. Please pray for logistic and preparations. Preceding that time, we have another 7 houses and 1 latrine scheduled to be built.

Please lift the following prayer requests:

- 1) Pastor Doug Kuhlman of Lutheran High School of St Peters, MO is leading a team to build a house and do some outreach and Bible distribution on 6/1-6.

Rick Hilts and Pastor Ian Stevenson is leading a team from the Crossing Church, Costa Mesa to work on the center section on the El Nino Church on 6/4-5.

Mike Frabotta is leading a team of employees and friends from his company Steel Unlimited, Rialto to build 2 houses on 6/4-5

Daniel Young and Joe Watson are leading a team from the Upland Rotary Club to build 2 houses on 6/5-6.

Dave Bower and Bob Allen are leading a team from Sierra Madre Congregational Church, Sierra Madre, CA to build 1 house and 1 latrine.

Please pray for protection, blessing, and fullness of joy upon these groups as they serve in word and deed, blessing, encouraging and often leading families and individuals into relationship with Jesus Christ. Please pray for Hector Rubio, Cheryl Walker, our other team members and myself and our families as we facilitate and mobilize over this next busy month.

Enclosed is a poem I just wrote entitled "It Makes a Difference to This One!" based upon the true starfish story which actually happened in Mexico. To me, this story, as much as any, has had significant impact on my life, worldview and perspective of what we hope to beacon through this ministry and see multiplied. Please read through and share this poetically enhanced and expanded version of this story with me. Your prayers are much appreciated! Thank you! With Gratitude, Bob Sanders—Poem follows→

It Makes a Difference to This One!

(Poem by Bob Sanders—based upon the Starfish Story which has been further enhanced)

A young man was strolling along the beach
Suddenly he caught view and even envisioned beyond that view
farther than his eye could reach
helpless starfish washed upon the beach
endless scores spewed upon the shore
desperate lives, left behind, once the tide receded
Craving that helping hand that was so badly needed
What could the young man do--
but go for the rescue?
No more out of sight, out of mind
for this man, not this time...
Without regret or remorse
He passionately pursued
that compassionate course
To pursue good...
and save as many as he could
as his heart declared that he should
he held that line
to save one at a time
till building in the multiplier was spiritually defined

Meanwhile with unbelief and ridicule

an old man watched from a distance
He judged the young man and saw him as a fool
for this man also took a stance
The way that sought his own self-gain
but ignored another's need or pain

Walking over that scorching sand
with a sneering glance
He crossed the gulf of indifference
And approached the young man and said--
Young man are you an air head?
Why do you go?
Don't you know...
there are never ending miles, and countless thousands-
starfish innumerable on these endless coastlands?
--just throw aways--
Don't you know that this dream of yours is a waste?
You are charged with the crime of wasting time--
You're making a futile mistake!
Return from this vanity to the world's reality!
Reset your priorities!
It's time to awake!
Logic like your's should be burned at the stake!
Back... to the way of status quo you should go!
Young man... defend yourself, what is your take...
"What Difference Can You Possibly Make?"

**The young man picked up a starfish and said,
It Makes A Difference To This One!
And cast It into the sea...**

As another starfish left the sands of obscurity
The young man imagined that starfish to be...
You or me,
a member of our family
A loved one in captivity
a faceless one unknown to you and me
even the least of these...
Now living in the Beauty and Safety of the Sea--
the Sweet Holy Spirit Presence of Jesus our King--
In the Refreshing Oceans of Eternity

By Bob Sanders 5/27/04

www.bajachristian.org

Baja Christian Ministries -- (909) 627-4339
