

## **Baja Christian Ministries Update and Prayer Letter 8/27/04**

Dear Prayer Partner,

It's been awhile since I've written to update you. Your care and your prayers have been so vital in covering, cutting and forging the way the Lord has for this ministry. We have a lot going on this week and weekend as we did over the past two months that I will briefly update you on.

**Houses, Food, and the Gospel:** Last weekend 8/20-22 we had Senior Pastors John and Marty Harris along with board member Howard Hahn and their team from Orange County Evangelical Free Chinese Church, Irvine, CA, join us to build a beautiful house in San Bernardo with the excellent coaching and skill of Hector Rubio. Mark and Susie Parker joined in with their wonderful food ministry. Together with our teams they sorted and distributed thousands of pounds of food open air. It was exciting to see how the Lord had provided hundreds of pounds of delicious, ripe, juicy plums that were being given out to each family by the hundreds. Some of our pastors and team members, Pastor Chuy, Pastor Salim, Captain Jose Venegas, and Captain Daniel linked up with them and preached the gospel and ministered open air. Many gave their lives to Jesus Christ. The group also did VBS's in San Bernardo and in Pastor Salim's new church in Vista De Valle and Pastor Chuy's Church the next day.

**Irvine Pres Pressing In the Blessing:** Curtis and Michelle Drever have a large team from Irvine Presbyterian Church, Irvine, CA, in Mexico now 8/25-28, building three houses in Vista De Valle. Also, this church through the leadership of Laura and David Boyd and Terry Crane and many others are sponsoring 265 kids in the adjacent communities of Vista De Valle/El Nino to go to school. The sponsorship is \$150 a year. They are bringing hundreds of new backpacks filled with school supplies this Saturday to give to the kids in this program along with a fun fiesta to celebrate the occasion tomorrow, Saturday 8/28. Please pray for the success of all these outreaches and that many will turn to our Lord.

**VCC Tending God's Vineyard in Baja:** A team of 100 people from Vineyard Community Church of Laguna Niguel, CA led by Steve and Teri Skolos and Eric Yourshaw are with us now in Baja 8/27-29, building two houses this weekend and tending many other aspects of ministry in Vista Hermosa along with team members Hector Rubio, Captain Venegas, Cheryl Walker, myself and some of our other team members. Please pray for them as they build, evangelize, pray for, and minister to hundreds of folks this weekend.

**New Teams this Weekend:** Don Bower, Dave's brother, is bringing a team from his church, Phelan Community Church of Phelan, Ca, to build their first house with us. Also Veena Bunyan of St Wilfreds Church of Huntington Beach, CA, whose group built their first house this summer, is

bringing a team tomorrow to build a retaining wall for the house they built in San Bernardo. Please pray for protection and blessing on these groups.

Exciting Newboys-TeenMania partnership Baja connection: Since our initial introduction to Peter Furler and Wes Campbell, owners of the Newsboys and members of their Management team via our New Zealand friends Anthony Walton and Paul Bowen, there has been a number of exciting things that have transpired. Let me share the most recent: Peter Furler was speaking with Ron Luce, founder of Teenmania, Garden Valley, Texas, after a concert. Peter spoke about the possibility of Teenmania connecting up with us to build houses and do evangelism. Ron liked the idea. Days later Wes Campbell, Ron Luce, and Jonathan Hasz, (executive director of their Global Expedition division) were on a conference call with me and things began rolling. Teenmania has touched more than one million teenagers for our Lord through their ministries, Acquire the Fire, in the States and Global Expeditions worldwide, that send thousands of youth out every summer around the world. They are talking of possibly sending up to 500 youth with us next summer to build up to 25 houses and do massive outreach along with the Newsboys joining us and also doing a concert in Mexico with us. Very exciting stuff! You might check out Teenmania's website at:

<http://www.teenmania.org/> The Newsboys have a new website. This fall they are releasing their new CD entitled "Devotion". You can pre-order this CD in advance for \$11.97. You might visit their website at: <http://www.newsboys.com/> Please pray for these two wonderful ministries and pray for their ongoing success and blessing and also for the growth of our relationship with them. There are other possibilities here that I'm not at liberty to share. But if they transpire...some exciting things are on the way for Baja and for us.

An Outstanding Commitment From Down Under: A precious New Zealand Team led by Senior Pastor Anthony Walton and Pastor Andrea Routhewaite of the Rock Church, Wellington, (that beautiful country where Lord of the Rings was filmed) graced us with their presence. The commitment, sacrifice, zeal, spontaneity, joy, child-like fun, and generosity of this group impacted us all. And boy did they make an impact. They flew about 12 hours to be with us. Anthony brought two of his children, Peter and Rebekah. Andrea brought her daughter Susan. Anthony's brother Greg (who is also a pastor at the church) joined us. Also, two other pastors of the Rock Church, Worship leader Greg Simnor and Youth Pastor Keryn Martin and his wife Marisa joined us. Pastor Brent Liezeit sent a team from his church in Nelson, NZ—south Island, including a whole family, Joshua, Karen, Amos, Hope and Virgil. Amos didn't have the money to go, but he prayed, yet didn't tell anyone. God arranged for someone to put an envelop on his porch at home with \$2000 which enabled him to be with us. It was exciting to see the commit of this team from NZ. They built a Community Center, (which serves as a Café Church to mostly Police Officers and Security Guards in that community) and ministered very spontaneously and joyfully in different ways and settings through the week.

Fiesta, Police Escort, and Professional Wrestling: While the New Zealand team was with us building the Community Center, Ray Fecteau and his children, Pasquale and Daniel Russo and their children and other friends were building a house for Captain Daniel Ybarra who does the training

for the TJ Police Dept. He is also a professional wrestler in Mexico though still very poor. That day and the next day Dave Bower and his team from Sierra Madre Congregational Church built 2 latrines and one for Daniel and his family the next day. Like Capt Jose Venegas, Daniel is also a committed Christian. The two of them arranged for 8 professional wrestlers to do an open air wrestling match for the whole community. We also had a fiesta with an abundance of delicious food. Steve and Teri Skolos of VCC, Laguna Niguel and Teri Awad and Pastor Russell Wilson of Inland Vineyard, brought large amounts of food, in a many car caravan with a police escort involving many officers, from the border to the community, to give away especially to very poor police officers and their families.

Purpose Driven Life Ministry: Jim Edwards—the Latin America Director of Purpose Driven Ministries and his wife Maggie, who translated the Purpose Driven Life book into Spanish were with us at this fiesta. Also Joaquin Cruz, the Baja director, was with us. Martin Brower brought 100 books and so did Steve Skolos. Jim also brought a large quantity. So a lot of these books were given away along with Spanish Bibles to police officers, along with food on that day and in the days to follow through Capt Venegas.

Peace Officers for Christ Training in Baja: I was introduced to Terry Hart the director of Peace (Police) Officers for Christ International. Our team Member Captain Jose Venegas, arranged a meeting with the Chief of Police and Assistant Chief of Police over all of TJ and it's 3500 officers, and later that day with the Director of the Police Academy of TJ. Terry, Capt Venegas, Capt Daniel Ybarra and myself were welcomed graciously by all. Terry and other Christian Police Officers from the United States travel to foreign countries to do a two-day training including the sharing of the gospel, character building, and giving a Bible each officer. Training is scheduled this coming Sept 2-3 in TJ. Please pray for it's success and that many TJ police officers would be turned to our Lord to love and serve Him. Terry's website is:  
<http://www.pofci.org/contact.htm>

Other Good News: Jake Hamilton, Jimmy Benitez, Larry Murdock, Jason and a large team from Flipside Church Alta Loma built a house and did other projects and much open air and house-to-house evangelism and ministry over the week of 7/12-23. Many came to Lord and were built up. They also ministered much to pastor Salim and his family. Tom Dunn brought a new team from Covina Vineyard to build a house and minister in Terrazza. Dan Headman brought a team from Woodenville, WA to do outreach. Laura Wexler brought a team from Grace Community Church of Seal Beach to build a house and outreach. Jeremy Thompson brought his first team from Waupun, Wisconsin. There is much more news but, I'll leave off here on this last note along with two poetic prayers that follow.

The Prayers of Many are Vital: Your prayers have been so vital. The spiritual warfare in a ministry like this is intense. When the Apostle Paul pressed into Asia with the gospel he hit the demonic heavily. 2Cor 1:8 says of Paul and those with him, "...We were under great pressure, far beyond

our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed in our hearts we felt that sentence of death.” Then in verse 10 it goes on to say, “He has delivered us ... He will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.” I haven’t sent a prayer letter out for a few weeks and have noticed a big difference as far a spiritual pressure and resistance against pressing on. Your prayers have made such a big difference. Please continue to lift all of our families and us in prayer. Along with all trials come blessing the Lord imparts. The Lord has strongly put on my heart the importance of having the heart of a child. He’s the only One that can heal the brokenness of our hearts. I’ve enclosed two poetic prayers I recently wrote entitled, “Please Heal my Broken Heart” and “To Be a Child of the Heart Before You” I hope they might be of some encouragement to you. Thanks so very much for your faithful prayers!

With Gratitude, Bob Sanders---poems follow

## **Father, Please Heal My Broken Heart**

Through the slashes of many trials  
My heart embraced the way of survival  
My mind had been beguiled  
From entering child-like simplicity  
For it was to scary for me  
To laced in vulnerability  
For I couldn’t bear anyone to tear apart  
what was left of my broken heart  
as a youth devoid of vital grace and truth  
My heart had been defiled  
by darts of accusation and anxiety

The work of our enemy  
and his desired result—  
another precious trophy  
an additional hardened adult  
trapped in denial  
That simple, fun-loving heart of a child—

I forgot how to be  
my nerves grew old quickly  
my heart thrashed severely  
to grow cold and hard gradually

Father, help me  
I need You desperately  
Please rescue me  
I need a new start  
Please heal my broken heart

By Bob Sanders 8/27/04

## **To Be a Child of the Heart Before You**

(Isa 30:15, Ps 131:1-2, 2Cor 11:3, 1Pet 3:11. Matt 18:3)

Lord, I'm here before You  
Yet, I barely know what to do?  
I'm here...  
to love, pursue, and be renewed by You  
Yet, I don't know how to pray as I ought  
Or consistently take captive my thoughts  
I come to You as a child that needs to be taught  
With a cup that is empty but a hope that is not  
I come to pursue intimate relationship with You  
That hoped-for transforming, healing devotion  
that fully renews my mind, will, and emotions  
A complete remake for Your Names sake

Oh...to be fully renewed!  
To intimately know and love You!  
To wholly give myself to One So Faithful and True

Forever enthusiastic and love sick  
Holy Spirit fire ignite in me fresh desire  
that impassions me to lift You higher  
and consumes me to hunger for You

Being powerfully attracted and undistracted—  
In the faith-filled, magnetic quest  
of returning and rest...  
Set the magnet of my heart in full pursuit  
To be madly in love with You  
Passionately allure me  
into Your Sweet Presence  
to be anchored securely  
in the mindset of quietness and confidence  
Within that Haven of child-like simplicity and purity  
which immerses in Your Waters of Refreshing Rest  
that rescues from the quagmire of weariness and distress  
And weans from concerns and matters too great for me  
Like a child at peace, comforted and secure on Your Knee

Shield of Faith...Shield me  
Holy Spirit, bind up the wicked thief  
strengthen within me child-like belief  
to humbly unload unto Your strong shoulders of responsibility  
all burdens, concerns, perplexities, and anxieties  
leaving them there to Your faithful care  
knowing You will perfect that which concerns me

Mighty King  
You are my Fortress and the Shield around me...  
Shield me from the demonic lies and accusations that are shot at me

intended to cripple me spiritually, emotionally, and mentally  
to knock me to the ground and keep me down  
and steal from me...

Your promised joy, liberty and victory  
Expose this satan who beguiles...  
who steals the precious heart of a child  
Who tramples innocence  
And shames the joy of seeking Your Presence

...But You are with me  
You will secure my victory  
You are the Great God of Peace  
Who will soon crush satan under my feet!

My faithful Father and King...  
since I'm assured by Your Righteous Word  
and promised these precious things  
Rescue me...  
Please save my heart and gladly impart  
I need You desperately  
Focus my heart and mind in alignment with You  
Overcome the resistance that seeks to break us apart  
Fully empower me to will and to do  
Impart the desire and power to follow through  
Grow in me child-like purity, simplicity, and humility  
And when I'm afraid, please, quickly come to my aid  
Sweet Holy Spirit Comforter and Helper...  
Please revive and renew  
my deep love and passion for You

By Bob Sanders 8/24/04

<http://www.bajachristian.org/>