

Baja Christian Ministries Update and Prayer Letter 9/12/03

Dear Prayer Partner,

Since the middle of August to the end of that month many encouraging things substantiated in Word and in Deed in Baja, Mexico by God's Grace through His people.

Curtis and Michelle Drever, David and Laura Boyd, David and Don Bower, Don Pearce, Hector Rubio, Cheryl Walker and a huge team from Irvine Pres. Church of Irvine, CA built a beautiful library for the public school in Vista De Valle and along with 2 other houses.

Howard Hahn and Pastor John led a team from Orange County Chinese Evangelical Church of Irvine, CA to build 2 houses and 2 latrines and to reach out in evangelism efforts both house to house and in two churches.

Pastor Matt Doan and Pastor Tim Nellis led a team from Calvary Church of Santa Ana to build 2 houses and also to reach out in evangelism efforts house to house and did several services in the churches as well. It is always a joy seeing people come to the Lord and be touched by Him.

Steve Perry and Martin Brower and their team provided funds to buy a police car for the Vista de Valle and El Nino. Pastor Chuy will be painting it black and white. We are hoping to put two of our houses together in a project to provide a police station and the government will provide the officers. Poor communities like these have few services like those that we often take for granted. Please pray that God would raise up the group and funds to take on this project.

I met with 4 pastors, 2 from El Nino and 2 from Vista De Valle in a lunch meeting. We plan on getting together on a regular bases and to add more pastors and leaders from these communities to encourage unity, cross pollination, and to help each others churches rather than compete. The first meeting went very well. Now is the time! Please pray for the success of this venture.

The Word of God in many places tells us to minister in Word and Deed, and not in word only but in deed and truth (1Jo 3:18-20) Hebrews 10:24-25 exhorts us-"to consider how to spur one another into love and good deeds" Yet we know we are saved by grace and not by works of righteousness, so why good deeds? I have enclosed a compilation of scripture verses entitled "Why Good Deeds?" It follows the prayer requests of this document. Please consider reading through these verses for they are definitely important in our Christian walk with Jesus.

Please lift the following requests in prayer:

1) This weekend Sept. 12-14 David Bower, Bob Allen and Dr. Michael Budincich and their teams from Team Casa, Sierra Madre Congregational Church and Budinich Chiropractic of Pasadena are building 3 houses, 3 latrines and showing the Jesus Film in the community followed by an invitation to receive Jesus. Pray that this venture goes well and that the buildings go up smoothly and that the teams are refreshed by the Lord. Please pray for many salvation's, and blessings and protection on each group member.

Teri Awad and a team from Inland Vineyard of Corona are doing an outreach at the El Nino Church with Pastor Chuy. Rob and Carolyn Covell, Lisa Viveros, Raquel Alvarado along with some others from the community will be working with Pastor Salim and Pastor Chuy in outreach efforts to lead many to Christ and to pray with them and minister to them. Please pray that the refreshing power of the Holy Spirit would move with great love, joy, peace and power through us and that many would be saved and encouraged.

2) Over the next two weeks Dave McClellan and his team from Grove Community Church,

Riverside, CA is building a house. Also Pastor Larry Thorson, Al Day, Rich Berger, Mary Webber, Rodney Scott and their team from Grace Presbyterian Church of Plano, TX is bringing a team to build 2 of our houses combined to make a Sunday School addition on a church in a community we call "the moon" just outside Rosarito. Pray that all their logistics come together.

3) Please continue to lift Pastor Alvin and Patty Morales, Melissa Morales and their neighbors who experienced the tragedy a couple of weeks ago. Please pray for healing and renewed encouragement.

4) Brandon Dickerson just sent me an e-mail that the video is now finished that he and Mike Coehelo are providing for this ministry. Pray that we'll find a source to have it mass produced and distributed to bring forth much fruit for Jesus.

Thank you very much for your precious prayer support. The document "Why Good Deeds" follows. If you're able, please take time to read through these verses. God bless you! With Gratitude, Bob Sanders

Why Good Deeds?

Because ... We are His Workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good deeds that He prepared for us in advance to do. (Eph 2:10-NIV) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. (Matt 5:16-KJV) ...insist on these things, ...those who have come to believe in God...be careful to devote (yourselves) to good works; (which) are excellent and profitable to everyone. (Titus 3:8-NRSV) Show yourself in all respects a model of good works, ...and sound speech that cannot be censured; then any opponent will be put to shame, having nothing evil to say of us. (Titus:2:7-8-NRSV)

Because ...You did not choose Me (Jesus), but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask Him in My Name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. (Jo. 15:16-17-NRS) For in Christ Jesus...the only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. (Gal 5:6-NIV) ...do good, ...be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for (yourselves) a good foundation against the time to come, that (you) may lay hold on eternal life. (1Tim. 6:18-19-KJV)

Because ...What good is it, brothers ...if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. ...Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. ... faith without deeds is useless ? Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous...his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. ...he was called God's friend. You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone. ...As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Because ...God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever. "Now He...will supply and increase... and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service...is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ...men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with

everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (2Cor. 9:9-15-NIV)

Because ...God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which (you) have (shown) toward His Name, in that (you) have ministered to the saints, and do minister. ...show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: (Heb 6:10-12-KJV) Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. (1Cor 15:58-NASV)

Because ...I (Jesus) am the Vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.(John 15:16--NASV) Come to Me.. and I will give you rest. (NASV) ...anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from His. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest...(Heb 4:10-11-NKJV) ...labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me. (Col. 1:29-NASV)

Because ... He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches...`I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing; not knowing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Therefore I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may be rich, and white garments to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and chasten; so be zealous and repent. (Rev. 3:14-19-NRSV)

Because ... the fire will test the quality of each man's work. ...our Savior Jesus Christ, ...gave himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee. (Titus 2:13-15---KJV) ... hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds....and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (Heb 10:23-25-NIV)

Scripture Verses Compiled by Bob Sanders 9/2003

All verses are in the King James version unless noted as NIV-New International Version, NKJV---New King James Version, NASV-New American Standard Version, NRSV-New Revised Standard Version. Some words were changed from archaic English by italics and some were put in the first person by parenthesis.