

Baja Update & Prayer Letter & Heart Perspective 9/23/04

Dear Prayer Partners,

The saints of old are sometimes called the Heroes of Faith and even Spiritual Giants... and rightly so! These were men and women of great courage, faith, and nobility doing great exploits for our God through His love and power, noble warriors and ambassadors pressing against the great dangers of the wicked unseen spirit world to do a great work for Jesus Christ, the mightiest King of all Kings and Greatest Hero of all Heroes.

I believe our God is a Truly Heroic God and since we are created in His Image we also have that same desire for the heroic inbuilt into us. As we look at our media and our publications, excluding our newspapers, we see them filled with stories of heroic men and women (some true and some fabricated) -- firemen, police men, soldiers, athletes, musicians, actors, humanitarians, over-comers, and active saints making that rescue, saving lives, saving the day, winning the game, singing away our blues, laying down their lives, throwing that lifeline, and connecting the un-rescued to the truest Hero of all—and the only one who can save to the uttermost (Heb 7:25-KJV) Jesus Christ.

Heroes are courageous champions who sacrificially lay down their lives and take a risk for the sake of others. For some just going across the street or driving on the freeway takes courage and risk. For others crossing an international border is pressing the limits. Heroes press the limits of mediocrity and status quo. They abhor injustice and oppression and want to do something about it. I believe that all of us have this desire. For some it's active, for others it's dormant, for others still, it's smothered by overwhelm or fear.

As Christians I believe we all long to learn and be taught the scriptures and grow in true fellowship and worship of our Lord. But I don't think there are any of us that really just want to get stuck in the pews, as pew potatoes, and have it all stop there. We all want to set sail and make a difference! As the saying goes, "A harbor is a safe place for ships, but that is not what ships were built for." Another saying states, "You got to go out on the limb because that's where the fruit is!" Going outside the walls of the fort onto the frontier to fight on the frontlines is certainly risky, but worth it! To pray for a ministry like this or another that is on the cutting edge could be risky... because like firefighters you fight the fiery darts of the devil to cover the backs of the warriors on the frontlines. To give money to a ministry like this takes courage and is risky also because you are under girding something the devil hates, but the King loves and protects. Whenever you have heroes and heroines you always have villains, enemies, opposition or resistance. We speak a lot about terrorist these days. Surely satan is the terrorist of all terrorists. The prince of horror who came to kill, steal, and destroy. Building houses for the poor, evangelizing the lost, feeding the hungry, and bringing encouragement and hope to the needy in His Name is risky because as you do you're taking ground from this villain to glorify the true King.

I wanted to update you regarding some of the recent exploits of the many groups of God's people that have served with us in Baja, whom I believe are true heroes-- rescuing

the needy from poverty and oppression, bringing compassion to the forgotten, educating the ignorant with God's Precious Word, bringing that Word of Reconciliation to the unsaved, water to spiritually dying in the desert, and various other things in His Name, which build up and bring hope. These are heroic things. These groups and individuals are unsung heroes.

Steve Perry, coupled with Mark and Susie Parker, and Steve and Terry Skolos, brought a huge amount of food to give large dispenses to approximately 45 widows and their families whose husbands were killed in the line of duty by way of Captain Venegas (a 200% believer in Jesus Christ) and the Chief of Police of 3500 officers in TJ. Food dispenses also went to about 85 of the 350 police families in TJ who receive no salary. We will be reaching out to these with the Gospel, Bibles, Purpose Driven Life books and follow-up to the best of our ability.

Meantime, Steve and Terry Skolos, Erik Yourshaw, Tom Johnson and a team of 100 saints built two houses in that community, one for a woman named Martha, who Steve led to the Lord who was homeless with her son on the street. She was being battered by her husband. Now she lives in a safe home with her son and lives next door to two born-again Police Captains which our groups have also built houses for, who will do all in their ability to make sure that Martha is not beaten again by her husband.

Meantime, Curtis and Michelle Drever of Irvine Presbyterian Church are building 3 houses for needy families in that community and in Vista de Valle, while Laura and David Boyd of Irvine Pres, Scott Davis, Linda Frank, and Scott Vestal from the Crossing Church and Jeff Keith from Newport Christian Center and their large team came to give out sponsorships to 285 needy kids in El Nino to cover new uniforms, tuition, new shoes so that these kids can go to school. Meantime, I was at the border where Capt Venegas arranged for us to pass 400 brand new backpacks filled with school supplies. He also arranged a police escort from the border to the El Nino Community Center—a block building with a dirt floor where these groups brought a great fiesta and blessed many. You haven't fully lived yet till have gone in one of these police escorts.

Sponsorship Program for Widowed Police Families: What this group did for 285 kids and families we would also like to do for a number of these grieving police widows and their families. There are no safety nets for these families. No government programs. They are poor and they are falling through the cracks. If a group from your Church is willing to take on the sponsorship of some of these 80 families to provide backpacks with school supplies, tuition, shoes, uniforms or part of all of the above, please contact me@ bajachrist@aol.com or Cheryl@ bcmcheryl@earthlink or Steve Skolos@ sskolos@cox.net .

Unified Orange County Churches Working their Nets Together---Some of the above group leaders—Scott Davis, Linda Frank, and Scott Vestal of the Crossing Church, coupled with Pastor Jeff Keith of Newport Christian Center and Pastor Mike Kenyon of Rock Harbor Church are networking together to bring a few hundred people next weekend (Sept 24-26) to build 8 houses and finish the Church Building for Pastor Chuy Gomez. There will be much going on with the building and besides the building. Please

keep Hector Rubio, Cheryl Walker, Capt Venegas, Chuy Gomez, Salim Barraza, Jorge Timothy, all their group leaders and team members and myself in your prayers.

A Great Story—In a couple of weeks one of our groups will be involved in a heroic rescue of a family from substandard housing. They will be building a house for a very poor, praying Grandma who has the responsibility of raising 4 grandchildren. Here is a woman whose face wrinkles like a road map yet the love of Christ cracks through and shines when she smiles. Now that is a good story! To bring joy to that woman will make heaven smile as well. We exist for reasons like this!

More Than The Greatest Hero To Me! There is so much more to share but I have already written so much already. I have spoken about the heroic, yet I want to close by saying that much of our world looks for the heroic in rock stars, movie stars, sports stars etc which are all basically all temporal acts. Acts that won't last into eternity. I wrote a poem two days ago about the greatest hero of all and I'd like to share it with you!

With Gratitude, Bob Sanders---Poem Follows-->

More Than The Greatest Hero To Me!

I'm Deeply Lovesick for the True Heroic
How Could I be Ashamed of the Greatest Name
In all Eternity?

How could I withhold my highest praise--
From the Glorious Creator of the Entire Universe
Who willingly suffered to break the evil curse
that is enslaving and suffocating the entire earth
including me personally?

Infinite Pearl of Great Price
Majestic King and Lord of Everything--
You made the Ultimate Sacrifice
to unlock that otherwise impossible door...
to open to us...Heroic King Jesus--
Undeserved Vast Reservoirs
Glorious Treasures that You have in store

As Mediator and Savior
You stood in the gap and took the entire rap
The ransom for the whole world fell upon You
You made that crucial life or death rescue
No one could even come close to heroism so true

You set me free from my captivity
You exposed my wicked enemy

Reached down and rescued me
You're cutting my chains,
mending my injuries,
and healing my pain
From the horrible mire
You pulled me
Now through the unseen raging fire
You are carrying me unto victory
Though You are the Infinite Source and Will to all Good
Wholly Pure, Fully Excellent, and Completely Innocent...
Still You are terribly misunderstood
You gave selflessly and never quit
so that we could benefit
You didn't hesitate to suffer for ingrates
You endured such disgrace as they spit in Your Face
You suffered and sacrificed
Infinitely more--
than our imaginations could possibly endure
You paid a debt the entire world couldn't pay
Yet...by this same ungrateful world You were betrayed
With Your Own Precious Blood You Dearly Paid--
Infinitely and incomparably more
than all the combined earthly pearls of great price
to bring to us Endless Happiness and so much more
Even Your Greatest Reward
To behold forever...
Your Glorious Presence Sweet Lord

Beautiful Love, You Prevailed
You Couldn't Fail
And You Saved the Very Best for Last
Hidden Behind the Veil
We now anticipate this treasure so great
Radiant glory shrouded for a time in pale subtlety
The heavenly concealed temporally by the earthly
as we prepare for the glory You long to share
While learning to pursue Your rest
through various trials and tests
While reaching out for the unsaved harvest

Glorious King Jesus...
You are the Majestic Door to all Eternity
You are Never-Ending Joy and Ecstasy
The Prince of Peace
Heavenly Euphoria and Endless Tranquility
How Precious is Your Love for me

Even in my weakness and frailty
You still cherish me
To You...
I gladly bow my knee.
To You...
I give my heart unreservedly
To You...
My Compassionate Father and Loving King
Who says to me, "My beloved son, no longer roam
Come be with Me forever in my Loving Home
No need to be self-conscious...
Just focus on Jesus...
He Deeply Cares and will safely bring You There
By My Hands you were made...
so don't be afraid
I intimately know you and accept you
And love you through and through
Believe it or not...I'm even excited about you"

My King You are Better than the Best
You Love me...You even look out for my best interests
You even care about my happiness and success
You are more than the Greatest Hero to me
Continue to rescue me
Continue to break my chains of captivity
Help me to see You more clearly
Enlighten my spiritual eyes to see--
Your Radiant Glory and Unveiled Beauty
Bring me into Your Intimacy
Cause Your Presence to captivate me!

By Bob Sanders 9/14/04