

Baja Christian Ministries Update and Prayer Letter 9/24/04

Dear Prayer Partner,

For almost 25 years now a favorite scripture verse of mine has been Hebrews 10:24—“let us **consider how to** stir up one another into love and good deeds”. The “consider how to” has continually intrigued me. It suggests the seeking out of creative means **to** and innovative ways **of** stimulating, inspiring, motivating, and mobilizing us and fellow Holy Spirit-filled saints into- “Devotion to our King, acts of love, and compassionate deeds”- flowing to, from, and through our King. It seems that we all need that encouraging stir and motivating spur to help us unclog and clear our spiritual pipes; otherwise we tend to atrophy like algae and stagnate like the dead sea, having inflow, but little or no outflow! The New Living Translation states it this way--“Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds.” In a time of great victory over his enemies, King David saw God move powerfully through him. According to 1 Chronicles 14:11, David named that place of victory Baal-Perazim—which means “The Lord Who Bursts Through” or “Lord of the Breakthrough”. I believe God longs for His people to be as rushing rivers of love and good deeds that flow from the overflow of His Presence and His resources to burst through us and water the heart deserts of the poor and lost so that they may grow and flourish to His glory (Isaiah 41:17-20, 32:1-20, 32:7-8, 35:6-10).

Creative Streams of Love and Good Deeds: Two weeks ago The Grove Church of Riverside, CA led by Russ Martin built a house and ministered in some creative ways. Previously they had built many houses over the years with our ministry. Now they invite the families they have built for (over the years) together (perhaps 12 families in all) and cook a nice dinner for them and enjoy a meal together with intent to build growing relationships with these families. This group also comes down on a few Saturdays a year with a team and some professional photographers from their church to take family portraits and single portraits. They develop the shots at home, frame them, then come back to give them to the families via the local churches. Many of these families have nothing on their wall. What a welcome it is to now have a nice family portrait on their wall. These deeds, no doubt, further the relationship building.

Orange County Churches Opening Irrigation Valves to the Deserts of Baja---Group leaders Scott Davis, Linda Frank, Rick Hilts, and Scott Vestal of the Crossing Church, coupled with Pastor Jeff Keith of Newport Mesa Christian Center and Pastor Mike Kenyon of Rock Harbor Church are networking together a few hundred people this weekend Sept 24-26 to bring the water of blessing south of the border to hundreds of people. They will be building 9 houses, 5 in Upper El Nino for families who lost their homes in the last floods, and 4 in Vista Hermosa, and also they will finish the Church Building for Pastor Chuy Gomez. There will be much going on and much blessing. 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.

Great Opportunity to Water: Proverbs 11:25 states that he who waters others shall be watered himself. I want to share with you a great opportunity to bring the water of blessing to some needy ones. A number of police officers have been killed in the line of duty leaving grieving police widows and their families. They need help! There are no safety nets for these families. No government programs. They are poor and they are falling through the cracks. Perhaps you or a group from your Church might be willing to sponsor some of these 80 families by providing backpacks with school supplies, and/or tuition for a child at \$150 a piece which provides new shoes, uniforms, and tuition for an entire year. If so, please contact me @ bajachrist@aol.com or Cheryl @ bcmcheryl@earthlink or Steve Skolos @ sskolos@cox.net. Also we are making great headway in the planting and watering (1Cor 3:6) that is reaching and leading a number of police officers to Christ. If you or your congregation would like to help get nourishing food, Bibles, Purpose Driven Life Books, or to build houses for some of the 350 police families in TJ who receive no salaries, please contact us. Also please continue to pray for Capt Venegas, Capt Ybarra, and Chief Licona who are helping to open doors to bringing blessing and Jesus to the TJ Police Dept...a vital mission field! Please pray that these dreams and blessings come to pass!

Grace from Seal Beach, House-Build, Mariachi Band, Evangelism, and Banquet: Don Klein is leading a team from Grace Community Church, Seal Beach, CA to build two houses for families whose shacks had burnt down months before, on the weekend of Oct 1-3. They are also going all out to fund a Mariachi Band, have a great banquet for about 300 people with the choicest foods. They have a number of professional cooks in their congregation who take great pleasure in putting together an all out feast. They will also be doing various forms of evangelism both house to house and in the local church.

Teams from Ventura and Sacramento: Also, on the same weekend of Oct 1-4, just blocks away, Matt Shifflet is leading a team from Haven House Foursquare Church of Ventura, CA and Pastor Greg Svalstad and Sandra Griffith of Southside Comm. Church, Sacramento, CA, are each building a house and reaching out to give the Living Water of Christ's Love in Word and Deed. Please lift all these groups and team members in your prayers for God's protection, blessing, fullness of joy, and that many will be turned to Christ.

G12- Groups of 12 Cell Division: G12 is a very effective discipleship vision and ministry to evangelize and disciple new souls for the Kingdom, originated in Bogota, Columbia, where it has grown hundreds of thousands of disciples through the (G12) Government of 12, or Groups of 12 that are designed to reproduce disciples by first discipling, then those 12 discipling another 12 -building in the multiplier. Several of our churches are using this ministry strategy. There is a conference in Bogota mid Oct. that Pastor Alvin Morales has gone to in the past. Pastor Luis Barraza has funding to go this year. Pastor Salim Barraza now also has funding to go. We still seek to get funding for Pastor Chuy Gomez to go. \$1000 for airfare and expenses is needed in all. If you or your church can help fund his way please contact me @ bajachrist@aol.com. More info about G12 can be obtained at the following website addresses:

<http://www.thevinechurch.com/thevaluesofg12vision-1.html> or
<http://www.cellgrouppeople.com/how-to-g12.asp>

Pipeline to Baja: Steve Skolos, Capt Venegas, Mark and Susie Parker, Pastor Ramon, two influential Mexican Government leaders with great integrity, myself and others are working on a channeled system to bring semi-loads of nourishing food (primarily from the San Joaquin Valley) to a warehouse in TJ (made available free of charge) from where it would be distributed. This food will be a great blessing to many poor families. This project is just now in the beginning stages but momentum is gaining and it's looking quite promising. This needs lots of prayer, especially for Steve and Capt Venegas who will be taking the lion-share of the nuts and bolts.

Dreams, Substance of Things Hoped For and Answered Prayer: We all have dreams, desires and prayers we long to see answered. One dream I have is to see 1 million + people come into relationship with Jesus Christ and 10,000 houses built over the next 20 years in Baja. How that will happen is yet to be seen. Another dream I have is to see a devotional book of my poetic prayers and scriptural compilations published, mass-produced and distributed. How that is going to happen I don't know. I do however believe that dreams are the fabric of life and we need to hold on to them. I believe God longs to answer our prayers and substantiate our dreams that align with His will. I believe both answered prayer and dreams fulfilled happen through God ordained cycles and seasons. I wrote a poetic prayer entitled, "Seasons and Cycles of Prayer". I hope that it might encourage you a bit as you read through. All that has been accomplished through this ministry is by result of prayer. Thank you for faithfully standing in the gap for this ministry; its success in Jesus, and for covering our team and our families in prayer. God bless you! With gratitude, Bob Sanders—poetic prayer follows→

Seasons and Cycles of Prayer

(Dan 10:12-13, Pro 21:13, MK 11:24-25, Rom 4:17, Heb 11:1, 1Jo 5:14-15, James 4:3, Jude 20)

Heavenly Father You are Always There
With Arms Outstretched in Loving Care
To help us understand Your Kingdom Plan
You delight in answering our prayers
You rejoice when joy is made full in man
in grateful response to an answered prayer
You hold out to us Your Kingdom Keys
To turn on the light to unlock key insights
Into the simplicity of prayer and it's mysteries
To enable us to pray effectually with great victory
And to overcome our enemy triumphantly
Never wanting us to be in the dark
or to miss the mark
Yet we don't see clearly as we long to see...
Sweet Holy Spirit Anointing Who teaches us all things

Enlighten our inner eyes to see
Please teach us these vital things
for we long to understand...
How to pray effectively

Listening Intently to the Words of Jesus our King--
Is certainly the most important thing!
Yet...we also see...it's imperative to ask!
Have we received the desires we have sought?
The substance of things hoped for-
the evidence of things not seen?
If not, we ask humbly-Why not?
For even though we don't know how pray as we ought
Please bring success in this life of prayer we have sought
Align us with Your higher ways and thoughts
Please help us clear roadblocks from the way
So we may successfully pray

Have we opened our ears to the cries of the poor?
Are we doing all we can to forgive our fellow man?
If so, what else might be blocking the door?
What does the heart of scripture say?
We have not, because we ask not!

Therefore, as you have commanded me...
I shall fervently and persistently pray!
I shall joyfully bask in my privilege to ask!
I will ask with faith and persistence and not cease
As I seek and pursue Your Strengthening Peace

Diligently seeking You reaps abundant reward
I will therefore...
gratefully encourage myself in the Lord
to press on, and not lose heart--
seeking that rich supply of courage You impart
While learning to pray and not ask amiss
According to Your Will and Promise
Moving me to more fully immerse
in Your faith-filled scripture verse
to internally sink my roots
into Your Unseen Streams
of Heavenly Virtue
Tapping Your invisible reserves of faith and desire
which are Holy Spirit acquired and spiritually required
to bear the good fruit
of God-given dreams
As faith is activated

So hope can be substantiated
Holy Spirit help me—
Awaken new discipline and passion in me
To pray fervently
In this Heavenly Anchored Way
Help me to Successfully Pray
Holy Faith and Unfailing Love that won't quit
Inspire in me this holy habit
Of joyfully praying in the Holy Spirit

In Your Kindness prepare me
to gladly submit my plea
In my weakness intercede for me
Holy Spirit Helper...help me
to ask in humility
with child-like simplicity
from a heart of bended knee
believing and desiring
without doubting
In Your Glorious Name
Without fear, guilt, or shame
In an attitude of gratitude
of praise and thanksgiving
Delightfully worshipping my King

Rather than through anxious toil
May we together plant my prayer
like a mustard seed
into the fertile soil
of faith-filled rest and unwavering belief
with tender care
As You cause it to conceive
In the womb of heavenly substance
Germinated by Your creative glance
As You open wide my spiritual eyes to see
The Reality-
That I had already received
The moment I asked and believed!
Spiritually, though, not yet materially
In the unseen womb of delivery--
Calling forth the seen from the unseen
from behind the veil of eternity

You gave the command...
Then...
By way of Divine Circumstance—

through the shaping of Your Loving Hands
Unseen development went into process
Cultivating growth and maturity
that special preparation every soul needs...
taking place behind the scenes
to bring forth the Heavenly delivery
of answered prayer
the materialized dream
By Your Tender Loving Care
Through the cycles and seasons it took to prepare
to bring forth the glorious birth
of this hoped-for dream materialized upon this earth
Joyfully anticipated and fully substantiated
Enjoying the foretaste of the eternal inheritance
developed within the cycle of faith and patience
Even when the hope was deferred and the answer tarried
Faith, hope and love stayed aligned and held the line
so the dream would not be miscarried
As You, the Author and Finisher of my Faith
Showed that You were happy to impart
The faith-filled desire of my heart
The Heavenly Reward
of Delighting in the Lord

Sweet Holy Spirit Anointing
Who teaches us all things
Teach me today to effectively pray
Train me to pray according to Your Will and Promise--
So I won't ask amiss
Create in me desirability to gladly pray without ceasing
Cultivate within me a faith that's unwavering
Holy Spirit, shower upon me Your Heavenly Streams
of Faith, Hope, and Love from Your Abundance Above
to substantiate in this earth many God-given dreams

It's now time to mend and strengthen this vital lifeline
and flow in the Stream of God-Given Dreams
Help me to effectively pray and gladly obey
As I joyfully run this race
in Your mantle of grace
Great God of Exuberant Release
Cause the faith within to greatly increase
Majestic Prince of Peace
cause anxiety to dry up and cease
continually infill me with Your perfect peace
Help me to freely tap into this heavenly sap

Mighty God of the Breakthrough
I look to You
for the mightiest breakthrough...
Cause me to Interlink-
-With Your "More Abundantly-
-Than I Can Ask or Think"-
(Eph 3:20, Mic 2:13, 1Chr14:11)

By Bob Sanders 9/22/04