

Baja Christian Ministries Update and Prayer Letter 10/24/03

Dear Prayer Partners,

Since my last letter much fruitful ministry has advanced forward God's Kingdom in the dusty communities of Baja, Mexico. Pastor David Ricketts and his team of 50 people built a house, two latrines and a house-size church for Pastor Salim and Isabel Barraza in Colonia Vista Del Valle. Meantime, on that same weekend Mike Rice led the building of a house and another house-size church in the community Colonia Taturuguay in the upper region of the Terrazza Valley. The small world situation of God's orchestration was that these two guys (David and Mike), who were building these two house-size church buildings, graduated from Westmont College together and are very close friends, yet they didn't know that each other was linked in these projects with us. Steve and Terri Skolos, who led the evangelism and outreach arm of this large team from Vineyard Community Church of Laguna Niguel, fully equipped the other house with complete furnishing, refrigerator, bunk beds, drapes, everything. Their senior Pastor Mike Hudgins joined them Saturday in an extensive outreach of evangelism and prayer and food preparation and distribution through open air preaching and house to house ministry (Acts 20:20). Steve gave a glowing report of all that the Lord did on that hill to bless many through His people.

That same weekend Steve Thorne, Michael Coelho, and friends (made up entirely of fathers and sons) from Calvary Chapel, Laguna, Lake Hills Church of Laguna, and Yorba Linda Friends Church of Yorba Linda, and Steve's business to build a knock-out house that was a bit larger than our normal house for the family that lost their child in that tragic accident. Both families, the Galvan Ramirez family and the Morales family, were extremely blessed and greatly encouraged.

In answer to prayer, a brother stepped up to the plate and purchased 750 of the Illustrated New Testaments in Spanish for us. They will be such a blessing to many kids. We are still anticipating a source of supply of complete Bibles for our evangelism outreach.

This weekend Oct 24-26 we have 2 groups coming in: Christian Love Fellowship of Mentone, CA led by Pastor George Everett is building 1 house, and Teri Awad of Inland Vineyard of Corona will be there with group for the day to do evangelism, outreach, prayer, and food distribution. Please pray that God would powerfully move through them to touch lives through His Spirit.

November, a big month of ministry for BCM.

Pastor Ralph Villa of Echo's of Faith Church, Ontario, CA is bringing a team on November 2-3 to do an evangelism campaign, along with music, preaching, testimonies, food preparation and distribution.

Jon Hall is leading a huge team from Canyon Hills Church, Lake Forest to build 5 houses and 5 latrines and much outreach in various ways on the weekend of Nov 7-9

Same weekend Phil Dunn and Kelly Gerhart from Malibu Presbyterian Church, Malibu are leading a team to build 2 houses and reach out in Christ's love on Nov 8-9.

Also that weekend Joe and Laura Watson leading are group from Lake Arrowhead Rotary and Lake Arrowhead school will be building a house-size library in the local public school in El Nino Nov 8-9.

Also Rob Covell is leading a team from Flipside Church of Alta Loma to do evangelism and outreach that Saturday Nov 8th.

Weekend of Nov 14-15 Glen Allen is leading a team from St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach to build a house and reach out.

Also on Nov 14-15 Tim Doyle is leading a team from his congregation in Alpine, CA to build a house-size church building.

On the week of Nov 19-25 we are honored by our blessed brothers and sisters that are coming all the way from New Zealand led by Senior Pastor of "The Rock Church"- Anthony Walton. What an inspiration this is to us. Anthony is bringing a team of 13 to build 2 houses and to do many meetings in the churches that we are associated with in the Baja communities.

During that week our brother Mike Frabotta is leading a team from the company he owns to build a house and reach out.

On Nov 24-28 Valerie Vanderbrink is leading a team from Woodenville Alliance Church of Woodenville, WA to build a house and extend Christ's love in many ways.

Please lift up all these groups along with Hector Rubio, Cheryl Walker, myself and other the others as they pull the details, logistics, heart preparations etc.

We all need God's Wisdom so desperately. I've enclosed a scripture compilation I entitled, "Why Seek Wisdom From Above". Also God is wooing us and drawing us into a richer and deeper relationship with Him. I enclosed a poetic prayer I recently wrote entitled, "My Hearts Treasure". I hope these writings are an encouragement to you. Thanks so very much for your vital prayers. With Gratitude, Bob Sanders—writings follow-->

My Heart's Treasure

Where I am double-minded and blinded
Enlighten, cure, and align me to be single-minded

And cause me to continually be Holy Spirit Reminded
That You alone are the Author and Finisher of my Faith
That Your Spirit that Abounds Forever Without Measure
Is continually working in me to both will and do Your Good Pleasure
Remind me... that I am not my own...I am Yours
And that You delight in opening to me new doors
To the Rich Treasures You have in store

Length, breath, depth, height
Only in Your Light do we see light
which creates a vacuum
And makes room for us to intimately commune
So that Your Love will bloom and grow and our hearts be consumed

As an Arrow, Straight and Narrow
Aimed and Set at the Supreme Target
Focus my eye to be fixed on You
With an anchored, unwavering hope
Honed into a crystallized scope
To cultivate a life-long enthusiastic, preserving habit
To pray Fervently in the Holy Spirit with a heart that will not quit
Under girded with a joyful, rock-solid discipline to gladly enter in
With passionate hunger for Your Love from Above
And an intense Thirst for Your Kingdom First
Consuming me with a desire to be at Your feet
To be lovesick for You, My heart's Treasure
To drink continually from Your River of Pleasure
That abounds from Holy Spirit without Measure

Fountain of Life Break down the dikes
Remove all obstacles blocking Your River of Delight
Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation enlighten my inner eyes
For it's only in Your Light that we see Light
Which forever heals, comforts and satisfies

By Bob Sanders 10/24/03

Why Seek Wisdom From Above?

Because... Wisdom is supreme... (Pro 4:7—NIV) Wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without variance, without hypocrisy. (Ja 3:17) ... therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. (Pro 4:7—NIV)

Because... the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God... (1Cor 3:19) This wisdom descends not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. (Ja 3:15) For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. (Isa 55:9) Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seems to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. (1Cor 3:18) Be not wise in your own eyes, fear the Lord... (Pro 3:7)

Because... The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all (His) Words... (Deut 29:29) I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not... Seek ye Me in vain: I the Lord speak right eousness, I declare things that are right. (Isa 45:19)

Because... He reveals the deep and secret things: He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him. (Dan 2:21) But where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell? (Job 28:12—NIV) Man does not comprehend its worth; ...It can not be bought with the finest gold...Where then does wisdom come from? Where does understanding dwell? ...(Job 28:12-28)

Because... Wisdom cries out, and understanding puts forth Her voice? On the top of the high places by the way, Where the paths meet, She stands; Beside the gates, at the entry of the city, At the coming in at the doors, she cries aloud: Unto you, O men, I call; And my voice is to the sons of men. (Pro 8:1-4) Wisdom cries aloud in the streets; She utters her voice in the public places; She cries in the chief place of concourse; At the entrance of the gates, In the city, She utters her words: How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? And scoffers delight in scoffing, And fools hate knowledge? Turn at My reproof: Behold, I will pour out My Spirit upon you; I will make known My Words unto you. (Pro 1:21-23)

Because... the Lord gives wisdom: out of His mouth comes knowledge and understanding. (Pro 2:6) ... ask of God, Who gives to all men liberally...(Ja 1:5) ...incline your ear unto wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; ... cry after knowledge, and lift up your voice for understanding; ...seek her as silver, and search for her as for hid treasures; Then shall you understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. (Pro 2:2-5) ...the things which God has prepared for them that love Him...revealed...by His Spirit: ...for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God. (1Cor 2:9-11)

Because... Wisdom is supreme therefore get Wisdom (Pro 4:7—NIV) She will protect you; love Her, and She will watch over you. Esteem Her, and She will exalt you; embrace Her, and She will honor you. (Pro 4:6-8---NIV) Do not forsake Wisdom...(Pro 4:6) Happy is the man that finds wisdom, and the man that gets understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things you can desire are not to be compared to Her. Length of days is in Her right hand; and in Her left hand riches and

honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retains Her. (Pro 3:13-18)

Because...Through wisdom is a house built; and by understanding it is established: And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches. (Pro 24:3-4) You desire truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part You shall make me to know wisdom. (Ps 51:6) So teach (me) to number (my) days, that (I) may apply (my) heart unto wisdom. (Ps. 90:12) And I gave my heart to know wisdom...(Eccl 1:17)

Because... this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches, wealth, or honor, nor the life of your enemies, neither yet have asked long life; but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself...Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto you, and I will give you riches, and wealth and honor... (2Chron. 1:11-12)

Because... All the Promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. (1Cor 1:20) God gives to a man that is good in His sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy (Eccl 2:26) ...those that seek the Lord shall lack no good thing. (Ps 34:10-NIV) ... He has filled (us) with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship...(Ex 35:31) ...and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spoke concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing has failed thereof. (Josh 23:14) You have granted him the desire of his heart and have not withheld the request of his lips. (Ps 21:2-NIV)

Because... With You is the Fountain of Life; in Your Light we see light (Ps 36:9-NIV) ...God of our Lord Jesus Christ, ... Father of Glory, ... give unto (us) the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation in the knowledge of (You); having the eyes of (our) heart enlightened, that (we) may know what is the hope of (Your) calling,... the riches of the glory of (Your) inheritance in the saints and ... the exceeding greatness of (Your) power to us-ward who believe, according to that working of the strength of (Your) might that (You) wrought in Christ, when (You) raised Him from the dead, and made Him to sit at (Your) right hand in the heavenly places... (Eph 1:17-19)

Because...God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound... (2Cor 9:8)

Scripture verses compiled by Bob Sanders 10/24/03

All verses are from the King James Version or American Standard Version (both public domain) unless otherwise noted as NIV—New International Version. Words in parenthesis are a word change or to bring that word into a different tense. Also archaic words like “giveth” were changed to the word “gives”