

## Baja Christian Ministries Prayer Letter 10/31/03

**Dear Prayer Partner,**

As the news has revealed and those in southern California have witnessed, (some to a much greater, personal, and tragic degree than most) how these fires have brought such devastating destruction and loss. Some of our partners have homes in these danger zones. None that I have spoken to have lost their home. May God's protection remain upon them. Let us pray to ... the Lord our God that giveth rain...(Jer 5:24) that He pour out His abundant rain to extinguish these overwhelming flames and His great mercy to aid thousands that have suffered such great loss.

Scripture states, "...just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving (2 Cor 8:7-NIV). As you know, the grace of giving brings great blessing, encouragement, vital help and multiplied advancement of the gospel and God's Kingdom in a suffering world. I have enclosed a compilation of scripture verses entitled "Why Excel in the Grace of Giving" that hones some key verses and points us to the great importance of cultivating this special grace and excelling in this vital practice.

As you know, our ministry is structured to help the poor and to reconcile the lost to Jesus. Giving houses and serving the poor in various ways is foundational to the existence, mission, and practice of BCM. Yet, what must go hand in hand with this vital aid, is to do all we can to facilitate our alignment with James 2:5--"...Has not God chosen the poor in this world to be **rich in faith** and to be heirs of the Kingdom that He has promised to those who love Him." Equally vital with our role of providing houses, food and other blessing is our role to help to provide the tools, training and administration to help see these precious souls become rich in faith. Our ministry is committed to excellence in this important role as well.

Scott Sepanek, a retired marine of 22 years, has just joined our team. My plan is to have him help us mold greater unity amongst our pastors and leaders that we are aligned with; to channel more effective evangelism, tools, cell groups, bible studies, study materials, etc., and to reach each family shanty by shanty, reaching whole communities with the accountability that insures that everyone in each jurisdiction has had a chance to hear the gospel and respond. Please pray for the wisdom, strategy, prayer covering, and provisions to carry this through to completion. Please lift these other requests in prayer. Thank you.

1) Pastor Ralph Villa of Echo's of Faith Church, Ontario, CA is bringing a team tomorrow November 2-3 to do an evangelism campaign, along with music, preaching, testimonies, food preparation and distribution. Please pray for Holy Spirit empowerment, many conversions to Jesus, and greater unity amongst the pastors and leaders. Pray for traveling mercy and blessing.

2) 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.

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. Joe and Laura Watson are leading a group from Lake Arrowhead Rotary and Lake Arrowhead school to build a house-size library in the local public school in El Nino Nov 8-9. However this may be rescheduled due to the fires in the Lake Arrowhead area. Rob Covell is leading a team from Flipside Church of Alta Loma to do evangelism and outreach that Saturday Nov 8. Please pray that God would bless these groups, raise all the funds to be sent to us on time, strengthen each team member and prepare them for this time of ministry.

3) Please pray for Pastor Hector Rubio, Cheryl Walker, Pastor Alvin Morales, Pastor Salim Barraza, Pastor Chuy Gomez, Pastor Manuel Jimenez, Pastor Martin Alcaraz, Pastor Luis Barraza, myself and our families and our board members for abundance of joy, empowerment of the Holy Spirit, good health and abundance in finances needed for our families and ministries.

Thanks for your precious prayers! With Gratitude, Bob Sanders--Scripture compilation follows--->

## Why Excel in the Grace of Giving?

**Because...** just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving. (2 Cor 8:7-NIV) ...making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. (Eph 5:16-NIV)

**Because...** God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work...(2Cor 9:8) ... fruit that may abound to your account. (Phil 4:17)

**Because...** God loves a cheerful giver. (2Cor 9:7) ...so let...every man...give... not grudgingly, or of necessity... (2Cor 9:7) ...according as he purposed in his heart...(2Cor 9:7) As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. (Gal 6:10)

**Because...**It is more blessed to give than to receive. (Acts 20:35) Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. (Luke 6:38)

**Because...** One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, And He will repay him for his good deed. (Pro 19:17-NASB)...thou shall not harden thy heart, nor shut thy hand

to thy brother in need. (Deut 15:7) ... labor...that (you) may have something to give to him that has need. (Eph 4:28) Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me.(Matt 25:40)

**Because**... he that waters (others) shall be watered also himself. (Pro 11:25) The Lord will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. (Isa 58:11—NIV)

**Because**... He who increases his wealth by interest and usury, Gathers it for him who is gracious to the poor. (Pro 28:8-NASB)...And the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous. (Pro 13:22-NASB)

**Because**...to whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required...(Luke 12:48) ...for to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. (Luke 19:26—NASB)

**Because**...he that sows sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he that sows in the spirit of blessing shall reap also in blessing. (2Cor 9:6—Darby) And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. (Gal 6:9) ...For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. (Luke 6:38)...excel in this grace of giving. (2 Co 8:7—NIV)

Scripture verses compiled by Bob Sanders 10/30/03

Scripture Verses are from the King James Bible, Darby, American Standard (Public Domain) unless otherwise noted NIV—New International Version or NASB—New American Standard Bible