

Baja Christian Ministries Update and Prayer Letter 11/19/03

Dear Prayer Partner,

During this time of Thanksgiving there are so many good reasons and blessings, kindnesses and personal interventions by our Great God in our lives to express thanks to Him for now, forever, and in this wonderful season. He has been so good to us! I thank Him! I also thank God for you and how you have stood in partnership with us in prayer, service, giving and encouragement. This year has been our best year of house-building ever. 130 houses and small church buildings as well as many latrines have been built and/or are scheduled to be built by year-end through the many dedicated groups and generous people, which has surpassed the 118 houses we built last year, which was our previous best year. And with much joy I report that thousands have been helped spiritually, many saved, many reconciled to our Lord, many received printed helps like Bibles and Christian Literature and made richer in their faith in Jesus Christ. Together we as a body by way of Jesus our Head have pressed forward and forged ahead to advance His Kingdom by His precious grace. We thank God for you and also for the opportunity to serve Him and with Him. **Please lift following requests:**

1) Pastor Anthony Walton from the Rock Church in New Zealand is arriving at LAX this morning—Wed 11/19/03, with his team of 13 pastors and leaders from his congregation and other congregations in New Zealand. I will be joining them for 6 days of ministry in house building and in the ministry of evangelism and prayer in some of the local churches we are partnered with and house to house in some of these communities we are working. They have raised the funds to build 3 houses and 3 latrines. Reinforcements are needed to help build. Perhaps some of you might be able to join us for a day or more. If you can on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday and if you're able all four days to help with these houses please contact Cheryl: bcmcheryl@earthlink.net Don Klien of Grace Church, Seal Beach is bringing in a small team to help Saturday and Sunday and Steve Jensen, Anthony's friend, who along with Mike Lynch introduced him to us is bringing a small team, yet more construction help is needed.

Come down and meet and visit with these brothers and sisters from New Zealand. You'll be blessed! Let some of their "New Zeal" rub off on this "Land" and upon all of us. Anthony has been a great inspiration to me. Reflections of his zeal, commitment and passion for the things of Jesus is reflected in his actions of coming overseas from New Zealand, raising \$15,000 for 3 homes and 3 latrines (which is like raising \$30,000 US dollars because of the currency value difference), and their airfare and time spent to be with us and share some of the things God has shared with them. I believe they are coming like a gift and a refreshment to this ministry. Anthony, the senior pastor of "The Rock Church", a 1000 member congregation, is a player/coach and a cutting edge leader who takes his congregation to the highways and byways and into the marketplace. He has written 8 books. See an excerpt from one of them, "The Future Church", and The Rock Church web page at: <http://therock.co.nz/index.lasso?page=1,3,0> Another book he wrote is entitled, "Think Outside the Box". I wrote a poem entitled "Think Outside the Box" that I dedicated to him and his brother Paul. I revised it quite bit, added to it and

enclosed it with this e-mail. Please pray that God would enflame us with His New Zeal and enlighten our inner eyes to think His thoughts and, so to speak, think outside the box of this world's thinking as we progressively embrace His. Please pray that many will be saved, refreshed, encouraged and healed through the preaching and ministry times and that the Power of the Holy Spirit will rest upon us all mightily.

Also this weekend, Mike Frabotta from Friends Church of Yorba Linda and his company, Steel Unlimited, will be with us to build a house. Today, Wednesday, the 19th is a big day for Mike and Gina Frabotta. They have been in a long journey to adopt a daughter. They go to court today to make that adoption complete. Please pray for that victory for them along with great celebration.

Also John and Christine Groen and Valerie Vanderbrink are leading a team from Woodinville Alliance Church of Woodinville, WA to build a house and extend Christ's love in many ways.

Then on Nov 27-29 Michael Klubock is bringing a team to build a house. Please pray blessing, protection, and fullness of God's Joy upon all these group members and those they are serving. Please pray for Pastor Hector Rubio and Marcos Fraser who do such an excellent job in the construction and hospitality ministry.

2) Please pray for the success of our upcoming BCM Fund Raising Banquet on Saturday Jan 24th at Azusa Pacific University. Our goal is to raise \$75,000 which began last week, and will extend on through January when we reach our "hoped for" (Heb 11:1) goal to be topped off in overflow on the night of the banquet. Our friend and well known Christian Talk Radio Host Warren Duffy of KKLA—99.5 fm will be our Keynote speaker. Songwriter and gifted musician, Hannah Ford, will be performing special music. Find out more about Hannah at her web site: <http://www.hannahford.com/main.html> Please also see our web page regarding more information about the banquet and our guest speaker and special music and how to be involved <http://www.bajachristian.org/banquet.htm> Please pray with us that this will be well supported and that we will reach this important goal for our ministry. Thank you much!

3) Please lift David Bower's wife Marian and Jon Zimmerman in your prayers for a complete healing from our Lord. Also for my dad Bob Sr for a recovering of a hip surgery. Also for good health for Cheryl Walker. Thank you very much!

4) Please lift Pastor Hector Rubio, Cheryl Walker, Pastor Salim, Pastor Chuy, Pastor Alvin, Pastor Martin, Scott Sepanek, Pastor Manuel, Pastor Daniel, all our Board members, partners and associates, myself and our wives and families in your prayers. Pray for fullness of God's joy, His peace that passes understanding, His Love that passes knowledge, abundance of provision and finances, wisdom from above for us all along with good health, protection and His abundant blessing, but most of all that we put Him first, First Love in our Lives. Thanks much!

5) Please pray for the participation and success of our Annual Christmas Fiesta where many of us share toys, music, food in celebration and expressions of Jesus' Love in a number of communities and locations. It will be on Saturday, Dec 27th. We will have info posted on our web site after the Thanksgiving holiday. God bless you! Thanks for your vital prayers! Please see poetic prayer, "Think Outside the Box" that follows → with Gratitude, Bob Sanders

Think Outside the Box

(Isa 32:15-20, Acts 1:8, Rev 3:7-13, 1Cor 3:11-15, Isa 32:8-NIV)

Standing Upon Christ the Solid Rock
Learning to Think Outside the Box
As Jesus is faithfully breaking our Chains
Unlocking our Locks,
Turning the Key and Setting us Free
Liberating us from Mediocrity
Giving us Revelation to rise above the lies
Here to Rescue us from sinking
Into boxed in, mediocre, thinking
And down-spiraling herd mentality
Which promises comfort and luxury
Yet squeezes us into fear-entrenched boundaries
Of apathy and complacency
Which appears
to insulate from stress
But instead dulls the ear to hear
That still small voice crying in the wilderness
Make straight the way of the Lord
Beckoning to us... it's not too late
to make the crooked ways straight
Redeem the time...
Look beyond that temporal box
To His Eternal Reward
Take up the Spirit Sword
and the Faith Shield
In Full Armor, Unite in one accord
To reach the lost and serve the poor
Labor in expectation of an abundant yield
For the desert shall become a fruitful field
Go out on the limb with Him
For... that's where the fruit is
Knowing the importance of assembling together and being fed
Yet still not content to merely look at the back of each other's head
But to minister pro-actively to one another instead
in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost without dread
as sisters and brothers who are from one blood who all bleed red

For though the ship is safe on shore
And fearless in harbor,
that's not what ships were built for
neither were we saved to be mediocre...
but to have purpose and to be of noble use for our Lord
as a peculiar people zealous for good deeds
Philadelphian Brethren there is an open door
Press through...Move Beyond Fears Crumbling Wall
To Passionately Obey His Heavenly Call
As Soldiers with marching orders
Marching in Pure Love that has no Borders
Knights of the King seeking first His Kingdom
Occupying till He comes
Willing, if necessary, to multiply the rich man's crumbs
Into whole loaves of spiritual and material bread instead
So that the poor and lost may be abundantly fed
A Joseph Company flowing in Harmony
A Pro-active Church poured out beyond the walls
Not blocked by apathy, vanity and luxury
Or obstructed by selfishness, false comfort, or greed
Not just reformed, but freed
From hundreds of years of dead tradition
To faithfully follow the Holy Spirit's lead
Moved now by compassion and vision
To Faithfully Fulfill His Great Commission.
Stirred now to Count the Cost,
To Feed the Poor and Reach the Lost.
Empowered to Go and Sow
That Practical Knowledge of God we Already Know.
No longer willing to live within that half-measure bubble
Of building with wood, hay and stubble
But rather with gold, silver, and precious stones
So that His Radiant Glory may be brilliantly shone
And His New Testament church be really known
Reflected from His Glorious Face
To the Least of the Brethren in the Market Place.
With Passion and Discipline that Trains us to Run this Race,
No longer Tripped
By the Lie that We Aren't Yet Well Enough Equipped.
Or by the Spiritual Snare of Status Quo
...Rather, Rising up we gladly go...
Standing High Upon Christ the Rock
So we can see and think outside the box
As the noble man makes noble plans
And by noble plans, he stands.
Father...cross pollinate Your New Zeal into our Land

For Your Future Church is glorious like the early church ...
That eats spiritual food in order to exercise good deeds
Not just because that's where the sheep like to eat
But rather, to be strengthened in deed to help those in need
Yes, nourished and fed as sheep in the pews
To be equipped and built up to spread His Good News.
Never to become mere pew potatoes
... but rather equipped and eager to go...
Glad to leave those comfortable seats
To Go into Highways and Byways and Nameless Streets.
Trusting the Great Physician to heal us and make us whole
And Ignite Passion within for the Salvation of Souls!
Not willing to be Late or to hesitate!
Knowing it's time to overcome those fears
So the multitudes will hear
Knowing the Bugle has sounded...and the Call Is Clear...
---To Go—
Not Stay—but to Redeem the Time, and Seize the Day-
Like a River of Love and Compassion that Flows---
Like a Torrential Power Surge
Mighty Holy Spirit now Emerge
Within us an exuberant flow that moves us to Go...
Uncap Your Well and cistern within that's being filled and restored
To Bring Your Fresh, Living Water to Every Heart Door
With eagerness to Give, Love and Serve the Poor
Through Joint Efforts, Networking, and Cross-Pollination
United as a Mended Net to Reach Every Nation
Father, May Wisdom, Strategies, and Resources be Unlocked
For Those willing to Think Outside the Box.

By Bob Sanders—11/14/03

Dedicated to Anthony Walton, our friends from New Zealand, and all desiring to Think Outside the Box