

## **Baja Christian Ministries Update Letter 12/16/03**

Dear Prayer Partners,

May this Christmas season that inspires giving and good cheer return many blessings back to you! May your family and all that God has entrusted to you be blessed by Him!

This past year of service has been very effective and rewarding as we together have pressed forward to serve in His Name to His glory. Many thanks for standing with us in support.

The month of November was a rich time of ministry and blessings. We had a small team of 13 people that flew from New Zealand to serve with us who funded and built 3 houses, funded 3 latrines, and were engaged in evangelism house to house and ministry in 5 Churches where we did 6 meetings of preaching, teaching, and prayer and also an all women's meeting. These meetings were, I believe, important steps among many future steps to be taken, that served to enrich and unify the leaders and the Christian Churches in these communities. This team led and sponsored by Anthony Walton, Brent Liebszeit, Andrea Rounthwaite, and Paul Bowen, brought a new zeal, a fresh blessing and a sense of commitment that encouraged us greatly! One member flew all the way from Japan to be with us. We are believing God will bring many more international teams to cross pollinate His richness through the different flavors, unique gifting and perspectives from God's people from different nations.

We also saw two different groups: Tim Doyle and his team from Ocotillo Bible Fellowship in the Alpine area and Joe and Laurie Watson and their team from the Lake Arrowhead area, who passed through those heavy California fires to rise up and build a few weeks later - a small house-size Church building and the other, a small house-size library at the local public school. Also Jon Hall brought a team from Canyon Hills Church of Lake Forest, CA to build 5 houses and 5 latrines. Phil & Rose Dunn and Dan Cislo of Malibu Presbyterian Church in Malibu, CA brought teams to build 2 houses. We also had Mike Frabotta of Steel Unlimited and his team from Rialto, CA who built a home. Michael Klubock and his team from Los Angeles, CA built a home and a latrine. John & Christine Groen and Valerie & Brent VanderBrink from Woodenville Alliance Church, Woodenville, WA built 1 home and a latrine as well. Also, outreach groups from Flipside Church of Rancho Cucamonga, CA led by Rob & Carolyn Covell and Echoes of Faith Church, Ontario, CA led by Pastor Ralph Villa brought the Gospel to the community in word and deed. God's richness and blessings both spiritually and materially are being poured into these communities to supply need, build up, encourage greatly and bring hope, to make rich in faith and also to "Build in the Multiplier" to multiply and ripple out the Gospel blessing beyond themselves.

There are three biblical ideas that have greatly captured my heart —the principle of Antioch (Acts 13:1-3), Christ's command- To Compel them to Come in (Luke 14:15-24), and His command through the 5 major apostles to-- only remember the poor, the very thing I (Apostle Paul) was eager to do (Gal 2:10).

Luke 14:15-24 speaks of the Great Heavenly Banquet to which many were invited but instead of responding positively, gave excuses, declined His invitation and were thus excluded. In response, the Master commanded his servants to invite the poor, the maimed and the lame and to go to the hedges, highways and byways and compel them to come in. I've enclosed a poem I wrote entitled "Sail on and Compel Them to Come In". This poem is one of 6 in this series of "Compel Them to Come In" which I would like to share with you in the near future. It reflects some of the ideas I'm stating in this letter and targeting through this Ministry.

Scripture states that believers in Christ were first called Christian's in Antioch (Acts 11:20-30). In Acts 13:1-3, it states that there were prophets and teachers in Antioch. Some came in to that Christian community to train and to build up the Church there. Later, two of these leaders, Saul and Barnabas and others no doubt, were also Holy Spirit commissioned and sent out. My dream is to see El Nino and Vista De Valle as a "Mexican Antioch" that unites as a community of Churches "in one mind" to be built up from without (through the impartations of blessings from the Church of the United States and beyond) and from within as emerging leaders rise up and are sent out.

There are 3 goals that we want to focus on in 2004 through our house building and outreach ministry. One- to remember the poor through pro-active tangible deeds. Two- to compel them to come in through evangelism efforts, teaching, preaching and prayer. Three- to see an Antioch type of Church established in this part of Mexico that not only becomes a receiving Church but also a sending Church where the saints will be sent out to Mexico and beyond. Cheryl, our administrator states that we have built about four hundred houses in the communities of El Nino and Vista de Valle alone. We have seen many spiritual and material blessings poured out in the way of planting and watering to see God bring the increase of an Antioch type of Christian community leading to a growing revival.

Thank you for your generous support, it is so appreciated. I ask you to please stand with us in 2004 so that we together can remember the poor, compel thousands upon thousands to come into His Kingdom and establish a united Antioch Church in these communities. Please prayer for the success of our year-end giving and the support of our Annual Fund Raising Banquet on January 24<sup>th</sup> 2004 with Warren Duffy – Keynote speaker and Hannah Ford – Special Music. Pray that many will sign up to join us at the Banquet, that folks that believe in this ministry will sponsor tables, invite others and make a special financial gifts to this ministry. For these goals and the Banquet success is quite important to help us in our effectiveness. Also, remember to join us at the Christmas Fiesta in Mexico on Saturday Dec 27<sup>th</sup> if you're able. Visit our website for more information of both events. [www.bajachristian.org](http://www.bajachristian.org)

Thank you for being by our side, we appreciate you much! May God bless you through this Christmas Holiday. May you also have a Bright and Happy New Year.

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

## **Set Sail and Compel Them to Come In**

(Luke 14:21-23, Heb 2:10, Pro 11:30, Luke 5:1-11)

Refuse to sink anchor in the harbor of omission  
Steer clear from jagged rocks of fruitless tradition  
Raise your sails high to catch His passion and vision  
Bravely Sail with the Captain of Your Salvation  
As a Focused Soldier on this Most Important Mission  
To Faithfully Execute His Great Commission  
of Reconciling to our Precious King many daughters and sons  
Passionately intent on the importance of each royal adoption  
Set your sights firmly on this glorious horizon--  
Hone your scope to His Rock Solid, Well Anchored Hope  
Envision not each life, as they may now be, a temporary mess  
Rather, see each one as the King's special prince and princess  
Being called into His Royal Training and Transformation Process...  
of Justification, Sanctification and Glorification--  
Fully Inherent Within His Salvation Process!

Burst that tragic bubble  
That infers that the unsaved are not in trouble  
Be sensitive to this life or death urgency  
Despise that status quo eddy which leads to complacency  
Go that extra mile to reconcile  
Resist the temptation to become comfortably numb  
Redeem the time and Occupy till He comes

Cause our sails of priority to be reset  
in loving obedience, Set Sail, to be joyfully sent  
Be committed to wash, mend, and cast our nets  
and to lengthen our cords to spread His Kingdom  
Being all things to all men that we may save some  
For the wise in heart win souls  
Therefore, make this our strategy, priority, and lifetime goal  
for the wise and practicing fisherman will catch fish  
Let's not just wish, let's Go forth and fish  
Let us be wise, and strategize to effectively evangelize  
Make use of every opportunity  
Ask the Captain, "How will I reach this community?"  
"How and where shall I cast my net?"  
Be intentional and don't forget  
to continually cast your net  
Again and again  
Cast your net

as patient, anticipating, fishers of men

And Don't forget where you are from!  
You are a Royal Ambassador of His Kingdom!  
Therefore, pierce through those demonic down-winds of shame  
To humbly, yet Boldly Proclaim His Glorious Name  
God is with us, therefore...Cut edge, set sail  
Persevere and overcome fear  
Jesus, our Captain won't let us fail  
Through Him we shall prevail

Intercede and spend time at His feet  
Be empowered to become a fearless witness  
Press through that status quo tide of resistance  
Sail forth in both Word and Deed  
To meet the oceans of spiritual and physical need  
In a drowning world  
With great hope and purpose be a modern day Noah-  
Shining God's Lighthouse of Salvation  
Lowering your rescue nets to sweep the nations

Holy Spirit ignite and excite  
Ignite in us compassion for the salvation of souls  
Excite in us this lifetime passionate goal  
To save the drowning from eternal regret  
And to lovingly and enthusiastically tell  
of the King's invitation to His Royal Banquet  
And His Sure Way out from the abyss, that down spiraling hell

Holy Spirit, Baptize us with Your Baptism of Fire  
Cause us to spend quality time with You, our King  
Which will inspire and light within us a fervent desire  
To be purposefully disciplined and eager to begin  
To Go to the hedges, highways, and byways  
To compel them to come in!

For Now is the Time to Set Sail and Catch His Spirit Wind  
to Lovingly and Passionately Compel Them to Come In!

Bob Sanders 12/12/03

>---pass it on--->