

Baja Christian Ministries Update and Prayer Letter 7/6/04

Dear Prayer Partner,

At no time in my life have I ever enjoyed Jesus our King, His goodness, and seeing Him move in His divine arrangements, and effectual ministry as I have in this season of my life. His interaction with us has been so real, as also the battles and enemy resistance has been real, yet His victories and breakthroughs have been manifest in greater ways. I wish to say a big thanks to you for being so faithful in prayer to cover us, which has served as such a vital part of the advancement of His Kingdom work through us in Baja.

According to 2Cor 1:8-9, Paul the Apostle encountered in Asia a thick demonic cloud of despair and the sentence of death, yet he also received an influx of the Holy Spirit's deliverance because of the "prayers of many" (2Cor 1:10-11). This consorted prayer effort of the saints had served as a vanguard to facilitate that blessing through cooperation with the Holy Spirit. In the same way, your prayers in Jesus have also helped us (Phil 1:19) as a cutting edge vanguard to prepare the way and to break through the resistance as our Lord (Micah 2:13) goes before and encases us in His Presence. I believe your prayers are calling forth a greater flow of the presence of the Holy Spirit to envelop our groups and outreaches with His Fullness of Joy. I have noticed an acceleration in the joy in our groups' experience while serving, as well as seeing more people being saved, an increase in obvious divine arrangements and appointments, and more effectual ministry since your prayer involvement. Thank you!

Hannah Ford, who just served with us recently in Baja, is part of a church in Southern California whose fellow church member built a house with another organization at another time. Hannah was sharing her Mexico experience with that friend and these are Hannah's words, "I was excitedly describing to my friend about what took place the past few days in Mexico. I told her about the evangelism, prayer for people's needs, divine appointments, and the ways that we were able to bless people through building the house, VBS, etc. Her friend said to Hannah, "That sounds a lot different than the Mexico trips that I've gone on with my church. We just worked on building the house and preparing our meals."

Hannah joined her brother Billy Ford, Youth Pastor of 1st Baptist Arcata, CA. I asked their team to take a break from the house building as we called together some of the surrounding neighbors, about 50 in all, and we led many of them into relationship with Jesus Christ, shared testimonies, and prayed for many. While leading a very oppressed man to the Lord, with several of us praying for him, I had a sense to call for Hannah to sing her song "Psalm 40" over the man. Regarding that ministry situation these are Hannah's words, "Bob- I had a great time. I'm so happy that I was able to be a part of what God did. It was great being able to be used in ministry with you through my song, "Psalm 40." ... The man said that he felt an evil spirit leave him as I sang and as the words were translated to him. God broke strongholds in his life. Also, I was able to meet a man named Pedro who had become a Christian already. The day I met him, he was just released from over 7 mo. in prison for some housing problems that he was not guilty of.

It was great being able to share with him more and get a group to pray for him, encourage him, and send him off on his new chapter of life. He was so excited. I believe it was a divine appointment. I gave him my CD, as well as to a man selling ice cream going out in the border traffic. He said that he only knew about God's love for him a little, so I was able to use the evangecube and my broken Spanish to tell him about God's love. I gave him a cube and a Spanish book of John and he was very interested. Bob, your ministry with the people at the worksite got me and others focused on God and on the supernatural opportunities that were available. Thank you for your passion and for being in tune with God's Spirit. There were many great things that God did. It was also wonderful to be able to witness the giving of the key to the woman who received her new home, and to travel with Billy's group to visit the homes they built last year, and their families. How wonderfully they were doing in their homes! :) Just so you know, Billy was a tremendous leader, and has the same heart and passion that you do. God bless you and thank you! :) Hannah”

BCM builds more than needed houses; it also builds needy lives through the power of God and the building blocks of His Spirit!

The majority of you know our construction leader, Hector Rubio and our administrator Cheryl Walker. Hector and Cheryl did such a fantastic job with the many groups, representing hundreds of people who were so gracious and wonderful to work with. Some of these groups served in San Bernardo and others across TJ in Vista De Valle. Much happened and there is much to share. I plan on sharing some of those stories over the next few prayer letters.

Brandon and Kirsten Dickerson of Spiral Films video shot and produced our very well done 5-minute BCM video along with Mike Coelho. These DVD's are now available. Contact me at: bajachrist@aol.com or Cheryl Walker at: bcmcheryl@earthlink.net and we'll send you one of these DVD's free of charge.

Brandon introduced us to Susan Rigby, the Director of Adult Education and their congregation, First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, who brought a team to Baja last week and joined another team from Heritage Church of Lincoln, CA. to minister together and build a complete church building for our staff pastor, Salim Barraza, and a house for their neighbors across that deeply creviced dusty road. Allow me to share with you Susan's words about her experience:

Susan writes, "Can't believe that our time in Mexico has already past. We had such a great time. Everyone on the team worked really hard along with the folks from Lincoln. They were a great group. I feel so privileged to work along side such amazing people. Bob, the biggest blessing for me personally was working with Pastor Salim and Jorge. "I don't know how you do it but the Lord has given you the best men to work with. I miss those guys – they were amazing to say the least. Their spirit of compassion, sharing, giving was so beautiful. I just love them. They were an inspiration to everyone on our team. I could see especially the last day how God is going to bless the relationship Salim and Jorge built with Valentin (the new owner of the house we built). It ended up that he took the day off from work and helped us to finish the house. Of course, a highlight was

when we stood in the house and dedicated it to the Lord and to His glory. Valentin and Mida were so blessed. As we prayed you could hear everyone on our team “sniffing” and holding back the tears of joy.”

Susan goes on to say, “On Friday afternoon, we were sure that we couldn’t finish the project but by 8pm, we knew that we were only a few hours away – Saturday morning we went out early, along with the Lincoln Church to finish the church and the house. There is something else that happens – and it’s totally a God thing. It is what happens in the hearts of the team when they work together, eat together, pray together, laugh together – its like for those few days we get a picture of how God intends for us to live and be. It is a beautiful picture of being His family and serving him together. Thank you Bob and Cheryl for a wonderful week. You are in our prayers. God bless you, Susan”

A member of the Hollywood Pres team who is a dear brother named Stan Morse who works with Brandon also shared. These are his words:

“Greetings Bob, ...it was a real joy and pleasure to meet you and to break bread with you! God is certainly using you in a Big way down in Baja! You asked for a highlight from our trip...umm...well, that's a bit difficult to narrow down to just one! But...I'd say it's seeing total strangers, the crew from the Heritage Church of Lincoln, CA and the local pastor and neighbors all working together with genuine LOVE and JOY from the Spirit of the LIVING GOD! I truly had joy working with everyone, even though my old body was tired and sore when I went to bed, I was rejuvenated each new morning with the fellowship of our new brothers and sisters in CHRIST! Not to mention seeing the completion of both projects knowing that I and my fellow bro's and sisters have been faithful servants of the most high GOD! Bob, thanks again for this wonderful opportunity to serve GOD! ...God Bless you and yours... peace.”

There were many other churches that ministered with us. I will share some of their stories over the next few weeks.

Many know Hector, Cheryl, Chuy, Salim, and Jorge. Let me introduce you to another.

Captain Jose Venegas, newest BCM team member. Jose is a Captain of the Police Dept with a pastor’s heart. Very compassionate and humble. He loves the poor and serves them diligently, especially very poor police officers and widows and families of deceased officers. If I have ever met a modern day Cornelius (Acts 10) Captain Venegas is that man. He readily associates with the lowly yet also is highly respected by high-ranking government officials, especially godly officials. We have had meetings with a number of high-ranking officials through his relationship building and connections. I look forward to introducing many of you to Captain Venegas.

New Zeal is Coming to Baja—One of my favorite people in the whole world, Anthony Walton, and some of his pastors, Andrea Routhwaite and Keryn Martin and team from the The Rock Church, Wellington, New Zealand are flying in tomorrow Weds 7/7 to be with us in Baja. Pastor Brent Liebszeit who joined us last time is also sending a team of eight members from his congregation from Nelson, New Zealand. Anthony is bringing

some of his children as well. They will be building a café/church/community center and ministering in various ways in Vista Hermosa, a community of many poor police officers, security guards and their families. See further report below:

The Dream for Police Officers of TJ: Some exciting and very amazing things are happening with the ministry right now. And you are a big part of it. We are beginning to penetrate the Tijuana Police Dept with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are working with the Chief and Assistant Chief of Police of TJ. They oversee 3500 officers, many very poor, 350 have no salaries at all. We also are working and have great favor with the director and other leadership of the police academy.

Our Dream is to believe God will transform the officers of TJ to be one of the godliest police forces on the earth. Impossible Dream? Not really... they just haven't yet been approached like this. They are a very neglected mission field. So many officers are humble and open. They just need to be loved into the kingdom!

Fiesta and Dedication of Café/Church/Community Center: On Saturday, July 10th we will be having a special event, fiesta and dedication in Vista Hermosa at that building site. We have invited a number of police officers and their families, some government leaders, church members from local churches and US side to help in the celebration, preparation and distribution of meals, food and toys. Please be praying diligently that many will be deeply touched by the love of Jesus at this event, throughout this week, and throughout our follow up work.

Great Opportunity: The New Living Translation of Luke 16:9 says, "I tell you, use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. In this way, your generosity stores up a reward for you in heaven." What an opportunity we have in the US and in the first world to make friends with the poor!

The Dedication Fiesta will include roasted goat, carne asada, fresh salsa, beans, tortillas, etc. and a Mariachi Band. Also we will have 8 professional wrestlers from Mexico. Steve and Terry Skolos and team from Vineyard Community Church of Laguna Niguel, and Teri Awad and team from Inland Vineyard Church of Corona are bringing a large amount of food and toys to be given and to help facilitate the celebration event along with the New Zealand Team. We also need others to join us. If you can...meet us at McDonalds US side at 11:30. Contact Cheryl for more info 909-627-4339 or 909-

Caravan by Police Escort: the Chief of Police of TJ and Captain Jose Venegas will meet us at the border with permits and police will escort us from the border to the jobsite and dedication that Saturday the 10th. Those cars will be bringing a mix of toys to give to the children, food, bibles, Spanish books, and Purpose Driven Life Books in Spanish for some of these poor police officers. Our Great King is up to something good!

Anthony Walton to address the group. Anthony will put on two hats--"the NZ Pastoral Hat" and "the NZ Government Leader Hat" to address the Mexican government officials and the police officers and families. Anthony is also a cutting edge political leader in

New Zealand with a heart for the poor and hurting. Pray that Anthony and all of us will be filled with the exact words and keys to these hearts to open to the Lord.

Our scope is to love many police officers and their families into the Kingdom of God in both word and deed... This event is just the kick-off towards the goal to reach all 3500 officers and students in the academy for our Lord. Please pray for divine appointments and the opening of hearts to the Lord.

Ray and Jeannie Fecteau and team to build home. Ray and members from his company and friends along with Pasquale and Danelle Russo, blessed friends who introduced us to the Fecteau's, will also be joining them. They will be building a house for another Captain, Daniel, who trains the police force in TJ. He is also a Christian and a professional wrestler. Though he has these prestigious roles he is very poor and very excited about them building a home for him.

Two Miraculously donated vehicles: A few months back I mentioned to our administrator Cheryl that it would be nice to trade our ministry van that's getting up in miles for a Jeep Cherokee. When I was younger, I used to like Porsches but now I like Jeep Cherokees, if I like any car in particular. Last week while in Mexico I got a call from Ray Fecteau on my cell phone that doesn't even work in Mexico. He said, "Bob, Jeannie and I want to donate our Jeep Cherokee to your ministry". Wow! Just minutes before that Capt Jose was telling me his car was severely broken and he needed something that was rugged enough, possibly with four-wheel drive. So I struggled a bit with that...am I supposed to give this Jeep to Jose? Later that day I spoke with Cheryl who told me that Ken Larson from Solana Beach wanted to donate a Suburban with 4 wheel drive and well maintained. Well, we picked up both last week. I am driving a Jeep and Jose a Suburban. And let me say this, we don't get many cars donated to this ministry, but two in one day? Does God give us the desires of our heart (Psalm 37:4)? I don't think I even prayed about this one? Isaiah 65:24 states, "Before they will call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear." Pretty amazing, this wonderful King we serve!

The Newsboys—God has refreshed and encouraged us greatly through ministry involvement with Peter Furler and the Newsboys Management team who served with us along with friends, Anthony and Paul Walton and Paul Bowen from New Zealand and some other friends from the States that joined our house building and evangelism ministry in Baja about a month ago. Since that time we have had some very gracious and much appreciated exposure for BCM through their involvement. Please keep the Newsboys, their Management team, INPOP Records, and their families in your prayers. They are kicking around some ideas of involvement with us, which, to say the least, is quite exciting! Their music and ministry, I believe, has a nice balance between Mary Devotion and Martha Service. They are more than great musicians; they are visionaries with a heart for God, his people and for the lost. An outreach ministry they have raised up is called Festival Con Dios: <http://inpop.com/mediakit/condios.html> Following their last album, "Adoration", the Newsboys are in studio now recording their newest album, "Devotion". Please pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire great depth of creativity, beauty, and harmony in these songs to deeply touch our heartstrings to worship our King. Pray

that this is their greatest album of all and that it has wide spread impact on the masses. Pray that God will continue to grow the relationship and favor between the Newsboys and Baja Christian Ministries and that we will influence hundreds of thousands of souls in Baja for Jesus and His Kingdom through our involvement together.

Rekindling the Romance- Family Life Ministries, founded by Dennis and Barbara Rainey, is linking up with Christian musician Fernando Ortega and others to host a one-day marriage conference at the Arrowhead Pond in Anaheim on August 14th. Mike Coelho: mac@resourcefinancialgroup.com or Danny Coelho: dgcoelho@modularsolutions.com strong advocates of this family and marriage ministry and strong advocates of ours can arrange for discounted tickets for you and your spouse or a group from your church. Danny has also arranged for 500 Seats available to SPANISH SPEAKING couples. If you want to sponsor some couples that can cross our border or you know other Spanish speaking couples that would like to attend contact Mike or Danny at: (909) 476-4205 or myself. In this time when marriages and families are assaulted so severely let us pray for the success of this ministry and of this event.

Flipside Church Alta Loma—is coming south for a week 7/12-17, led by Jake Hamilton, Larry Murdock, Jimmy Benitez and Jason to build a house and serve with Pastor Salim, other team members and myself. They will also be preaching the gospel house-to-house and open air (Acts 20:20) Pray for hundreds to be saved and refreshed by our Lord and encouraged.

Please pray for God's blessed protection, blessing and fullness of joy on all who serve and are being served. Along with "the Prayers of Many", the individual prayer time we spend at the Lord's Feet as Mary did—the One Needful Thing—the Better Part () is so important! I've enclosed three poetic prayers entitled: At Your Feet, The Importance of the Night Before, and The Pearl of Great Price. I hope you are encouraged by them! Thanks for your precious prayers! With Gratitude, Bob Sanders—poems follow-→

At Your Feet

Inspire my Heart and Mind to Gladly Meet
A fresh Each Morning at Your Feet
Excite strong desire within me to perpetually greet
You... my Sweet, Majestic, Loving King
To abide in Your Precious Holy Spirit Anointing
the Promised Inheritance of Your Lovely Presence
as I Humbly Retreat at Your Mercy Seat
Therein I am Blest
in Your Meek and Lowly Presence
as I gratefully and faithfully enter Your Rest

Embolden my Heart to approach Your Throne of Grace

Train me to Wholeheartedly Seek Your Face
To take Great Delight in Your Secret Place
with Immense Pleasure in pursuing Your Heavenly Treasure
finding liberating joy and ecstasy in this adventurous journey
At Your Feet
Ignite my Heart to Worship You
to Adore You, to Love You
to be Fully Renewed
This Day I Pray
Generate a Fresh, New Start
Open Wide my Heart
to Wholeheartedly Seek that Better Part

Gladden my mind and heart to Rise Up Early from my Bed
To Behold Your Beauty and to be Richly Fed
Even When I Don't Want To,
Or Know How to Please You,
Or Have the Faith or the Will To,
Wake me to Rise Up Joyfully to Be With You
With Childlike excitement cause me to Follow Through
Inspire Fresh Enthusiasm that Continually Renews
Create Deep, Intimate Relationship with You
Solidify Strong Anchored Devotion
That Immerses me in Your Love so Pure
That Marynates me in Your Heavenly Ocean
of Deep, Rich, Satisfying Devotion
To draw me near, keep me near, and quell every fear
while healing my mind, will, and emotions

My King...
Impassion me to enter in to Your Kingdom within
Woo me to Surrender to Your Love so Tender
Shower me with forgiveness and acceptance like a flood
Through the liberating power of Your Precious Blood
Endear me to You, my King, through Worship and Prayer
Like a sponge, soften my heart to drink in Your Loving Care
And the Abundant Life You desire to share
Holy Spirit Anointing that teaches me all things
Continually free from me from all fear and draw me near
Perpetually bring me to Your Feet my King
To pursue the One Needful Thing
The Better Part
The breaking of the alabaster jar
that changes from bitter to sweet
the fragrance of my heart
To pour Out Upon Your Feet

My Precious King

The Importance of the Night Before

Father, Kindle my Heart the Night Before
For the Great Things You have in Store
Prepare me For that Most Important Date
That Royal Appointment with You every Day
Precious Time with You my King
Cultivating Friendship and Intimacy
Awaken me to This Divine Reality
For I'm Flawed and Dull in Sensitivity
Open my eyes to see!
As I Awake to the God of the Universe
Tweak my Mind to Put First Things First
To Sanctify and Prioritize
This Glorious Opportunity to Be With You
To Rise Early each Morning to Mercies Fresh and New
Awaken Love in me to Wholeheartedly Give Back to You
As a Child that Can Barely Wait
With an Exuberance that Joyfully Anticipates
Arouse me to Press In
to this Royal Relationship which resides within
Excite me to Rise each day on Time!
To Your Fresh Manna and Spiritual Wine
Lavish Your Love so Sweet!
Spread Your Banquet of Wisdom and Love that I may Gratefully Eat
Tantalize my spiritual taste buds my Precious Savior
with New Spices of Your Grace and Favor
Delight my Spiritual Palate with New Heavenly Flavors--
Delights-- - Promised in Your Word
That Eye has not Seen nor Ear has Heard-
Nor entered the heart
Infinite Supply More Vast than the Oceans
Received when pursuing the One Needful Thing--the Better Part
Rooted in Deep Confident, Trusting Devotion

Father...

Quicken within me First Love Showered from Above
Open wide my Heart Door and Abundantly Pour
Your Infinite Love You have in store
Into my Finite Cup

Gracious Holy Spirit... fill it up!
Cause my heart to flow with overflow
Arrange for me to Retire Early the Night Before
So Valuable Devotion won't Suffer Neglect Anymore

Pearl of Great Price

(Lk 17:21, Heb 4:1-11, Mat 6:6, Ps 16:11, Ps 36:7-10, Is 58:11)

Since the Kingdom of God Dwells Within
And Rest through Faith is Reserved in Store
...By Faith, I Shall Enter In...
to my Devotional Heart Chamber and Close the Door.
Delighted and Excited to Explore what You Have in Store--
Spiritual Treasures, Heavenly Pleasures and Delights Beyond Measure!
Not Seeking Rote Theology, Religion or Heartless Service with my Lips!
I'm Seeking the Joys of Relationship, Worship and Friendship--
With the God of the Universe Promised to me in Scripture Verse!
I Come to Drink of Your Rivers of Delight
And to be Lit Up by Your Fountain of Light
My Captain, Into this New Horizon I'm Setting Sail
in Pursuit of Your Springs that Won't Fail
And the Well-Watered Garden promised to my soul
Captain of my Salvation open wide to me this Glorious Trail
to take hold of this Greatest of All Goals
Fully Satisfy me, my King
in my Pursuit of the One Needful Thing
For You are My Pearl of Great Price
My Royal King Jesus Christ

By Bob Sanders--7/2/04
<http://www.bajachristian.org/>