

Eulogies for *The One Item*

Columbia

Uncle Buck and I traveled to Columbia to see Martin Sanders. Uncle Buck could preach anywhere. At Puerto Lopez, he preached at a half church. When we walked in the door – there was no back to the building and only half a roof. The only furniture was plastic chairs and people that wandered in late off the street had to sit on stacks of bricks. It was a very poor neighborhood. The streets were dirt and rutted. But people hungry for God's word came, even street kids.

I planned to go back with Uncle Buck, who was raising the money to finish the roof and back wall. I guess now someone else will have to step up. While he was there they gave Uncle Buck this ____ but I don't think it is worth thousands of dollars.

Information to share at the tables

Martin Sanders was born in Bogota, Columbia but educated in the U. S. He became a full time missionary in 1991. He works with the Christian School, Colegio Peniel and a camp as well as churches hours away, like the one in Puerto Lopez. The school has a very high academic ranking so many parents want their children to attend. He prays for the civil war there to end and for more missionaries.

Ezekiel Fish

During Ezekiel's 36 years in Thailand, he, Uncle Buck and native fellow workers, have established over 87 churches in 126 villages. I went with Uncle Buck to help rebuild the Church of Christ swept away by the flood. The flood ruined all the Bibles, hymn books, guitars, sound boxes, amplifiers. We weren't the only ones contributing. I remember one member from a poor mountain village sold some of his property and another his cow. His little daughter gave Uncle Buck this (insert name of Asian object you are going to use) but I don't think it is the One Item.

Information to share at the tables

Over 376 young people and adults have studied at Maesot Biblical Training Center. Some of the graduates are serving in full-time ministries in the local churches while others are serving in Bible Training Centers and Orphanages in other areas. Less than 1% of Thailand is Christian. 5% of Myanmar (Burma, where Ezekiel was born) is Christian.

They distribute Christian literature, teaching materials, and thousands of Bibles each year but over 500,000 Lisu Christians are waiting for Bibles in Burma, India, and China. Parts of Thailand are very poor, especially in the mountains. Often the preacher is paid in rice rather than money. People are turning to Jesus because they see Buddhism as a failed religion

India

I went with Uncle Buck to India. We were working with Rana and Simie Samuels when a little girl gave Uncle Buck this (whatever item is being used). But I don't think it is worth much. The people there are very poor probably because there are so many – 1.2 billion all squashed together in an area the size of Texas. And less than 1% is Christians.

The Hindus persecute the Christians. Passion Ministries got evicted from the meeting place they rented when the owner found out they worshipped God. The Samuels weren't allowed to adopt an orphan because

they are Christians. The government person said “Better dead than a Christian” about the poor baby. Uncle Buck cried about that and said, “That poor man doesn’t understand that Christians only die once.”

McKinley

I traveled with Uncle Buck to the McKinley Indian Mission Church of Christ. It is located on a Yakima Indian Reservation. I couldn’t believe how poor the area was or how high the suicide and crimes rates were.

I remember Uncle Buck was driving the church van so a group of us could invite kids to VBS. A car driving by pulls over and a dad tried to put his kids in the van with us. Uncle Buck asked what he was doing. He said he recognized the van and knew we did great things with kids so he wanted his to go with us.

Uncle Buck explained it wouldn’t be until tomorrow but we’d be sure to get his kids. All the kids just loved Uncle Buck. They’ll be really sad to hear he has passed away.

One of them gave him this beaded necklace, but I don’t think it is the One Item of great value.

Information to share at the tables:

Our missionaries, Wayne and Valarie Goodman are tent making missionaries. Wayne teaches 3rd grade and Valarie is a guidance counselor at 96% free lunch schools. Less than 2/3 of the students will graduate high school. Reaching kids is key because 75% of the adults speak a language other than English.

Alcoholism and drug abuse are many times the national average and many of the teen feel hopeless about the future. During 2013, 30 people committed suicide in Yakima County.

Nicaragua

Awhile back I went with Uncle Buck to Nicaragua, the poorest Spanish speaking country in the world.

Many families support themselves by picking through dump sites to find recyclables to sell or use so Uncle Buck and I were there where the people were, sharing the gospel. Kids, teens, babies, everyone goes.

It was around 80 degrees. One family had placed their baby under a cardboard box for shade. A dump truck rolled in and over the cardboard box, crushing the baby. Uncle Buck decided here had to be a better way so he opened up a place next to the dumpsite – a feeding station day care kind of place. 20 kids showed up the first day.

Now 300 come and Orphan Network is partnering with us to feed them meals and share Christ with these children and their families. I hope the work will go on even though Uncle Buck is dead.

One child brought Uncle Buck this _____ as a gift. I think it is just something he found at the dump, not the one item that is valuable.

To share at tables

Children are punished if they fail to find items at the dump – some have their hands burned

Child feeding centers are located in urban areas and provide a nutritious meal each day to 1600 vulnerable children every day of the week who would be at risk for becoming social orphans. Orphan Network provides a safe place where kids can connect with caring, Christian adults

The circumstances behind Nicaragua's orphans are two-fold. Either (1) their parents have abandoned them without explanation or intention of returning, or (2) they are social orphans, children whose parents are unable or unfit to raise them, due to financial, physical or emotional inability

Nicaragua is the 2nd poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. The country's poverty most severely affects women and children. Economy is primarily agricultural. The country's largest exports are coffee, sugar & bananas but nearly 50% of all Nicaraguans are either unemployed or underemployed.

Distribution of income in Nicaragua is one of the most unequal on the globe. Over 2 million Nicaraguans live in poverty. The majority of Nicaraguans live on less than \$2/day and more than 800,000 live in extreme poverty, less than \$1/day.

1 of every 3 Nicaraguan children has some degree of malnutrition.

1 of every 4 Nicaraguan children is born to a teenage mother.

Less than 30% of all Nicaraguan children complete an elementary education. On average, Nicaraguans complete fewer than 5 years of schooling.

95% of all disabled children in the country receive no appropriate support.

In 1998 Hurricane Mitch tore through the country, destroying countless buildings and infrastructures, not to mention claiming thousands of lives. Today, the Nicaraguans are still recovering from this national devastation.

While he was there they gave Uncle Buck this bead work but I don't think it is worth thousands of dollars.