

# THE POWER OF *(How a single church can make global impact)* ONE

Calvary of Albuquerque  
By Matthew Ellison and  
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"We entered an open air market in Ecuador. The thick heat of the afternoon sun was beating down upon us. The whole village gathered around to look at our costumes and painted faces. These people heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the first time as we performed."

"After we finished, I approached an old man seated at the edge of the plaza. His face was weary and sad. I explained to him that Jesus Christ was the Son of God and that He died on the cross to pay for our sins. I told him that, because of Jesus, God could forgive him of all the wrongs that he had ever done. I also told him that God wanted to give him eternal life. He looked at me with amazement."

"I can be forgiven?" he asked.

"Yes," I said. "Truly."

"A look of deep relief began to cross his face. He looked straight at me, and asked when this had happened. I blushed with embarrassment."

"Nearly 2,000 years ago," I replied.

"There was a long pause; his face became sad again. He had a look of confusion in his eyes."

"Why," he asked quietly, "did you wait so long to come here?"

Cesar Loya, 18, is in the internship program at LifeLine Missions at Calvary of Albuquerque. His experience during this short-term mission trip demonstrates the awesome privilege of giving the life-transforming News to people who are desperately waiting for hope.

"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'" Romans 10:14-15 NIV

The Bible reveals that God's purpose is clearly global. Long before the Great Commission was delivered to the church, God desired to glorify Himself by making His name known among the nations. His passion for all mankind can be found in the most unlikely places. For example, in 1 Samuel 17:46, David said to Goliath, "Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel." Since God's desire and ultimate goal is that the whole world know Him, so that heaven will be full of worshipers from all nations, tribes, and tongues (Revelation 5:9), then the church's goals must be aligned with His.

"It begins with a God-centered vision," says Matthew Ellison, director of LifeLine Missions. Several organizations to support this were born through Calvary of Albuquerque in New Mexico. Ellison adds, "It can be the vision of every church, no matter its size, to have the power to make that impact."

LifeLine Missions began in 1995 with a teen outreach to Mexico City. The vision grew from there. "We became increasingly aware of the need to involve teens from other churches," Ellison said. As they added to their knowledge, the organizational structure expanded as the vision grew.

"We became a vehicle for other churches' youth." Hundreds of teens have been trained through LifeLine Missions. Resources are provided so they can serve the Lord with the gifts He has given them.

High school and college graduates are trained through a nine-month internship program, with the option to continue as an apprentice for a second year. Interns make preparations for the intense ministry requirements of outreach opportunities in countries such as Ghana, Nicaragua, the Philippines, India, and Nepal. Currently there are 15 young people preparing for the outreaches that will take place this summer.

"The hands, feet, and minds of these young people are performing God's eternal work," adds Ellison. "LifeLine Missions is a means through which God is ministering to and through teens with a heart for service. It's transforming."

Connection Missions is another outreach born from the vision of global impact. Through this ministry, Calvary of Albuquerque places full-time, adult missionaries in various countries around the world.

## LIFELINE MISSIONS

"Ideally, these are the people we work with when doing the teen outreaches," emphasized Ellison. Connection Missions also puts together short-term mission outreaches for adults, often to help in areas of the world where there is a catastrophe or other great need.

Recently, Calvary of Albuquerque has opened up Connection Missions for other churches.

"We offer to train people in a church with a school of ministry," Ellison explained.

With all the training programs born from the original vision, Calvary of Albuquerque wants to be a resource to the Body of Christ by enabling missionaries.

The Good Shepherd's Lively Hearts Band, led by Pastor Skip Heitzig, is another area of missions. It consists of four members, who travel throughout the United States, Asia, and Europe, using "redeemed Beatles lyrics" to minister God's love through music. The band had incredible success in India last year with thousands of people giving their lives to the Lord through a Connection Missions crusade.

Through recent mission efforts, the Gospel is now being brought to Native American reservations, which were once closed to outsiders. This outreach is headed by Pastor Reynard Faber of the Jicarilla Apaches. Native Americans are seeing the power of God's love. Their lives are being impacted by seeing consistent Christian love and service.

At least twice a month, Calvary of Albuquerque hosts weekend mission adventures at a church base in Juarez, Mexico.

These opportunities add to the growing number of programs that Connection and LifeLine Missions offer.

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You may be asking yourself, "Where do we go from here?", or "We have the vision, but not the resources. Our church is small..." "Start praying," says Ellison. "Sponsor one missionary. Involve your youth group. A church of any size can be a 'Great Commission' church with global vision and impact. We want to provide pastors, adults, and youth with the opportunity and the resources to experience missions firsthand."

The God-centered vision of Calvary of Albuquerque is to reach a lost and dying world through evangelistic outreach. They live out their objective of educating, equipping, and encouraging the local body to take its place in God's worldwide purpose.

"We summarize our goals with four E's," concludes Ellison. "They are:

1. **Expose** - To expose the Body of Christ to God's missionary mandate to glorify His name in all the earth.
2. **Equip** - To equip the Body of Christ with the best possible tools and training to be effective in global evangelism.
3. **Experience** - To provide the Body of Christ a first-hand opportunity to experience the adventure of participating in the greatest work of the universe.
4. **Enlist** - To enlist the Body of Christ in the privilege of bringing gladness to all peoples through strategic short and long-term mission endeavors."

Through a passion for spreading the message of God's love, Calvary of Albuquerque is seeing worldwide results. In the words of our Savior: "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant and whoever wants to be first must be your slave." Matthew 20:26-27 NIV.



### >> TO REACH/SUPPORT THIS MISSION

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