

Missionaries: The Next Generation

Calvary Chapel's Bible College at Murrieta Hot Springs is equipping the next generation of missionaries for world evangelism

Photography and Story: Ed Compean, CC Ventura

Near the lake at sunset, a cross can be seen leaning against one of the many palms on the Calvary Chapel Bible College campus.



First Semester student, Jason Morton, from Calvary Chapel



A view of the Calvary Chapel Bible College lake and chapel.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
- 2 Timothy 2:15

Sitting outside the chapel on the Calvary Chapel Bible College and Conference Center campus, Heather Merz gazes at the sun's reflection in the lake. She keeps her attention precariously divided between the vibrant scene before her and the stack of cassette tapes she is listening to for her Old Testament class.

"It is kind of hard to pay attention," Merz admits, jotting down notes from Chuck Smith's sermons. Affectionately called "Chuck tapes" by the students, Pastor Chuck's verse-by-verse study of the Bible is required for all attending the college.

According to Calvary Chapel Bible College administrator Brad Lambert, there is a strong movement toward missions on campus. Citing Pastor Brian Brodersen's return from planting a Calvary in London as a key example, Lambert says, "God seems to be saying the time is right, there is a unity on campus toward missions."

In his message at a recent Sunday night service, Pastor Brian let the students know that as the Lord had called him to help oversee the college, He was also calling him to get the students into the field. Describing that moment the pastor said, "I was looking at the vast continent of Europe and thinking,

'Lord, we have got to do something. Lord, we need people, there is a great work to be done, but we need people.'"

Speaking directly to the students, Brodersen added, "Our Lord showed me England, Europe, the world, and you. There's a big world full of mostly lost people and we have what they need. I want to get you out there," he said.

Equipping the next generation of Calvary Chapel missionaries is the responsibility of some of the best pastors and teachers in the Calvary Movement. Pastor Chuck, the founder and president of the Bible college, teaches a chapel class and takes time for student questions and prayer requests. Bob

Hoekstra, founder of Living in Christ Ministries and Bible college administrator, also teaches at the college. Altogether there are 15 staff members at the college fulfilling teaching duties. Guest speakers, as well as various pastors, teach at Sunday night chapel.

Director of Calvary Missions, Pastor Jeff Jackson, takes time from his flock at Calvary International Fellowship in Poway, California to bring first-hand information to a church planting class. Jackson and his family were used by God to establish Calvary Chapel Cebu City in the Philippines.

"There is definitely an interest in missions



The Calvary Chapel Bible College chapel offers a peaceful place for

at the college," says Pastor Jeff. He feels many of the students will be actively participating in church planting. They could be involved through their home church or from the field.

Nineteen-year-old second semester student Stephanie Hall explains that the college is not only giving her a firm Biblical foundation, but has changed her life, causing her to become more focused and submitted to God. "If I was going to go to art school it would not be for God. Here I

get the Bible all day, every day." Hall feels called to work with children and feels the college is equipping her for that calling. Blowing bubbles and watching fellow students play volleyball after class, Hall recited Philippians 4:11 and 1 Timothy 6:6. She said God has shown her how she should be content while having a heart for those who live with much less.

"I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have



Second semester student Stephanie Hall, originally from CC Ocean Gateway in Maryland, found some time between classes to blow bubbles on the Murrieta campus. CCBC students have a sprawling campus with several natural hot springs, a lake, a pool, and several grassy areas in which students can spend free time.



Pastor Chuck Smith is greeted by students after chapel class. Pastor Chuck holds the required class every Friday. Several of the students gathered around to ask questions from the Bible or about ministry.



Second semester Bible college student, Bob Pecoraro, originally from Calvary Chapel Fairport, New York, photographs the steam on the Murrieta campus before class. Steam from the hot springs rises from several streams and pools on the campus in the cool of the morning.



Calvary Missions Director, Jeff Jackson, teaches a class titled Church Planting. He is also pastor of Calvary International Fellowship in Poway, California. Jackson and his family were missionaries to the Philippines, so he brings first hand experience to the class setting.

learned to be content whatever the circumstances.” Philip-
pians 4:11 NIV

**“But godliness with content-
ment is great gain.”**
I Timothy 6:6 NIV

Jamie Kahn feels that the fellowship and the unique setting of the college allows for great growth in the students. Though Kahn said she is open to change, she feels God is calling her to minister to junior high girls and work on methods of friendship evangelism with them. Kahn said that she has faced many trials since arriving on campus, but the fellowship of students and staff helps her to depend on God to solve those problems and prepare her for ministry.

“I have learned how to depend on God and not myself; my worries are not going to help God any.” Kahn added that through prayer and support she feels completely empowered to continue, “Some days I’m totally amazed at what God is doing with me here.”

Instructing and equipping the next group of Timothy’s for ministry is the focus of Calvary Chapel College. This is enhanced



by the stunning campus grounds and conference center which provide a magnificent backdrop for the students. Sitting on the former Murrieta Hot Springs Resort, the campus has several natural hot tubs, a naturally heated pool, fountains, and streams which flow into a lake.

As the students at the Bible College study themselves approved unto God, they are not waiting for graduation or even summer break to begin serving Him. Besides required courses in practical ministry and a required short-term mission trip, students also serve in the local community.

bible college in murrieta

Second semester student Don Christopher, top, and first semester student, Cory Pratt, swim in the naturally hot spring heated pool on the Murrieta campus. Christopher came from Calvary Chapel Redmond, OR, and Pratt from Christian Life Center in Bend, OR.



Every Friday after classes a group of students gather near a fountain on the campus to pray before heading out to their mission field of downtown Oceanside for street witnessing. It is at this time that the bridge between the children the students recently were and the adult ministers they soon hope to become is most evident. Some of the students bring skateboards in order to cover more ground and gain entry to the skaters in Oceanside. Others prefer to walk to the bus station, pier and boulevards in groups of two. All are carrying Bibles, tracts, and a heart for the lost.



Second semester Calvary Chapel Bible College student, Justin Harvey, leads a group in prayer before they head out for street witnessing in Oceanside, California. Harvey is one of 30 students that went out on a street witnessing mission to the lost of Oceanside, about a 45-minute drive from the Murrieta campus. A group from the college meet on campus for prayer every Friday before carpooling to the seaside city to share the Gospel.



A group of Calvary Chapel Bible College students get together for some impromptu worship and fellowship outside their rooms on campus. Pictured standing is Stephen Anderson from Calvary Chapel Palm Springs, CA. Seated: lower left, Brian Mattera from Calvary Chapel South Bay, CA; upper left, Jamie Kahn of Calvary Chapel Pinetop, AZ; upper right, April Sartain of Calvary Chapel Grants Pass, OR; and bottom right, Kristen Smith of Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa, CA.

Degrees: Associate Degree in Theology or Bachelor Degree in Biblical Studies.

Goal: According to Pastor Chuck... "to equip the next group of Timothys".

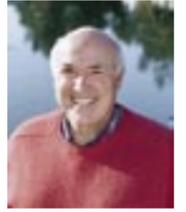
Where: Murrieta, CA, about 90-minutes driving from Los Angeles, one hour from Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa.

Students: 520 full-time, 480 live on campus. Extension campuses include up to 5,000 students worldwide. The Castle in Austria is the most popular.

Admission Requirements: Spiritual maturity, personal references, high



Second Semester Calvary Chapel Bible College student, James Gillespie, right, originally from Calvary Chapel Ocean Gateway in Maryland, shares the Gospel with a man in downtown Oceanside on a recent Friday night. Gillespie was one of 30 students that went out on a street witnessing mission to the lost of Oceanside, about a 45-minute drive from the Murrieta campus. A group from the college meets on campus for prayer every Friday before carpooling to the seaside city to share the Gospel. Gillespie had met this man on previous outreaches, and said he will continue to make an effort to reach him with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Matthew 28:19-20 KJV

A Word From Pastor Chuck

This is known as the Great Commission, and is accepted as the duty of the church. This is the motivation behind all the mission programs of the church. We are commissioned by Jesus to take the message of His love to all people. How can they believe in Jesus if they have never heard of Him, and how can they hear of Him without a preacher, and how can they preach except they be sent? Those who have heard and received the message of salvation through Jesus Christ thus become debtors to share that message with the world. Paul states, "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Romans 1:14-16 KJV. Paul saw himself as a debtor to all men, to let them know of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Note that he refers to it as the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes. Imagine what the disciples must have thought when they received this commission from Jesus. Mark records

the words of the commission as, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15 KJV. I imagine that they were wondering how in the world could they ever do this. All the world? every person? They had no doubt heard stories of Rome, and exotic places like India, but how could they possibly take the Gospel to all these people? Jesus had said that all power had been given to Him in heaven and in earth, now you go and teach all nations. He has the power, but you are to go. Matthew 28:20 states, "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world." Here is the tie between all the power in the universe being given to Him, and their going into all the world. He will be with them. This power will be available to them to carry out this mission. I think of the sheer folly of trying to carry out this mission without the power. Jesus promised them that they would receive power after the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they would be witnesses of Him to the uttermost parts of the world. **This power that was given to Him, would be available to them through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as they took the Gospel into all the world.**

Excerpts from Tape 5191, Matthew 27-28

