

GOOD NEWS FROM CALVARY

... that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

Philemon 6

CC FORT LAUDERDALE EASTER SERVICE



The CC Fort Lauderdale worship team takes the field.



People celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

CC Fort Lauderdale gathered together on Easter Sunday this year at Dolphin Stadium in north Miami to celebrate the resurrection. This was a rare opportunity for the 15,000-person congregation to worship together as one body. Services at the stadium were held free of charge to the church. Previous Easter celebrations were held at a smaller stadium and had to be divided into two services.

"The first Easter was an outside event; for that reason, we've pursued each year to

get out of the building and proclaim this great news publicly," shared Pastor Bob Coy. "Each year we've witnessed the excitement of the body as they invite family and friends. God is so faithful to bless us with the power of the resurrection, and we take joy in the salvation that He died to provide."

A large banner waved from the upper deck proclaiming, "He is Risen!" while the Jumbotron displayed images of a crowd

doing "the wave," not in response to a home run or a touchdown, but in celebration of the victory of Christ over death.

This unique break from the traditional drew many who would not otherwise attend an Easter service. Many came out of curiosity and responded to the Gospel message passionately proclaimed by Pastor Bob.

www.calvaryfl.org

MOVES IN THE MINISTRY

Rod Thompson, current director of the CC Bible College in Vajta, Hungary, will move to Murrieta, CA, with his family this summer. He will work with Dave Shirley at the Bible College in the area of missions. Rod has been on the mission field for 15 years.

Phil Metzger will now be overseeing the Bible College in Hungary, and Robin Turner will be supervising the Castle in Austria. Here, A Vision For Life will be run year round. A Vision For Life is a discipleship program giving people the opportunity to seek God and His path for them. It is also suited for young people making decisions about their future and their consecration to Christ.

www.avisionforlife.com



Rod Thompson



Phil Metzger



Robin Turner

CALVARY CHAPEL TRAINS MILITARY CHAPLAINS

Good News

In March 2005, the Department of Defense recognized Calvary Chapel as an official endorsing agent. Calvary Chapel is now authorized to place pastors into every branch of the service as military chaplains. Men will be trained, educated, and prepared as chaplains to meet the spiritual needs of those faithfully serving our country.

The military chaplain has a variety of opportunities to minister in times of peace as well as in our present time of war. Whether praying with men and women on a battleship or leading a Bible study on the back of a tank, a military chaplain is a pastor doing the work of the ministry at home and on the field. There is a great need for



Captain Dave Starkey gives biblical counseling to a fellow soldier.

military chaplains. Currently, CC chaplains are holding weekly worship services at two

military bases: Camp Pendleton and 29 Palms in Southern California.

The first CC Chaplain is Captain David Starkey, who gave his life to Jesus in the tent days at a Saturday night concert led by Pastor Chuck Smith in 1973. Captain Starkey is stationed at 29 Palms as the base chaplain and has aided Calvary Chapel through this approval process.

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STREAMS IN THE DESERT

Gary Vandenbos serves on staff at a Calvary Chapel in the Pacific Northwest. These are his reflections of his Iraqi deployment.

As I looked toward an 18-month deployment to Iraq, I knew I'd always have God's Word and prayer to draw upon; but while stationed in Baghdad, I wondered whether I would find other "streams in the desert" as spoken of by Isaiah.

Because of the heightened need for physical protection, soldiers are particularly open to prayer. Each morning during our three days of convoy from Kuwait to Baghdad, our company would gather as I prayed publicly. We received a barrage of small-arms fire and later passed a large semi-truck that had just been forced off the road by an Improvised Explosive Device. The spiritual growth we experience as a result of our deployment

has provided many occasions to be an encouragement and light to fellow Americans. And, long nights on duty have made for some great biblical discussions, sharpening each of us.

Our platoon was glad to receive encouragement from people back home. Friends and family, churches and schools sent numerous care packages to express their gratitude for our service and to assure us of their prayers for our safety. Coming through Dallas airport, over 200 children and adults greeted us with banners, flags, candy, and hugs. These Texans encouraged us in a way we will never forget.

Another stream in the desert has been the military chaplain program. Upon my arrival in Baghdad, I discovered that one of the buildings of Sadaam's former palace complex had been converted into a military chapel, and that weekly services and Bible studies

were being conducted there. The chapel has large glass windows and is surrounded on three sides by water, giving one the feeling of being on the water. On that first Sunday, as I joined with others in song and watched the sunshine sparkle on the water, I was overcome by a sense of gratitude that, even here on the outskirts of Baghdad, God's people are able to acknowledge His infinite worth through public prayer and praise.



Gary Vandenbos leads worship at a former palace during a church service.

DOES YOUR MINISTRY HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS TO SHARE WITH THE CALVARY CHAPEL FAMILY?

Please email news briefs to: cmm@calvarychapel.com as a Word document—no more than 200 words.

Send scanned photos as JPEGs or TIFF files on CD at 300 dpi to:

CC Magazine
1103 Potomac Avenue
Fredericksburg, VA 22405

CDs will not be returned.