

Story by Carol Savage
Photos by Tina Mueller

OUTREACH IN SALT LAKE CITY

Story by Margot Bass & Wilda Kruzinski

A local Calvary Chapel holds a unique outreach monthly to which more than 600 people gather at a public park to hear God's Word in the predominantly Mormon culture of Salt Lake City, UT.

Calvary Salt Lake City members invite family, friends, neighbors, and park visitors to hear the Gospel message at a free music concert every first Wednesday between May and September at "Church in the Park." Those who come are fed both physically—with free hot dogs and hamburgers—and spiritually with God's Word. "It's a perfect environment to receive from the Word," reminiscent of Jesus teaching the multitudes on the hillside, said Kim Giebler, assistant to Pastor Terry Long.

In its 15th year, the event is held at Sugar House Park and features the church's worship team followed by a free concert with a guest musician. Pastor Terry teaches Scripture line by line, always sharing the Gospel and giving an altar call. After the teaching, people line up to pray with a team of seasoned believers who have been in prayer before each event. Follow-up for new believers is provided through special classes at the church. For the children, a VBS-like program for preschoolers through 12th grade features age-appropriate games, music, worship, and a message from God's Word. "Children beg their parents to come back," Kim said. "They may not come to church, but they may return to the park and have barbeque with you."



Above, a volunteer from Calvary SLC paints a girl's face. The monthly outreach draws dozens of children at each event.

Kim described "divine appointments that we don't foresee, but the Lord knows." Tommy, a 30-year-old who gave his heart to Christ through another outreach of Calvary Salt Lake City, said the park event really helped him understand the truths of the Gospel and encouraged him to join the fellowship. One couple is genuinely seeking God and continues to come to the park event. Another unsaved woman never misses the park outreach because her children were saved there and "because of what God has done in her children's lives," Kim said. The mother wants to learn more about the Bible.

"Today salvation has come to this house ... for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:9b-10

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Left, Rebecca Nied and Mary Smith, center, welcome a visitor to the outreach.

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Pastor Chuck Smith greets a woman at the birthday celebration at CC Costa Mesa.



Days before, Pastor Chuck was serenaded at the pastors conference in Murrieta, CA.

Believers at CC Costa Mesa celebrated Pastor Chuck's 80th birthday at a surprise party following the Sunday evening service on June 10, 2007. The theme of the celebration was "To God Be the Glory," also the name of one of Pastor Chuck's favorite worship songs, to acknowledge the work the Lord has done through him and the CC movement.

A visiting messianic praise band and musician Marty Goetz both performed messianic Jewish music, reflecting Pastor Chuck's interest in the nation of Israel as God's chosen people. On a DVD shown at the Sunday night celebration, CCs from around the world also wished happy birthday to Pastor Chuck and his wife, Kay, who both turned 80 this past June.

At a special dinner prior to the service, Pastors Bob Coy, Greg Laurie, Don McClure, Raul Ries, and others related humorous and poignant vignettes about Pastor Chuck's influence in their lives and ministries.

At the end of the service, Pastor Brian Brodersen and his wife, Cheryl—Chuck and

Pastor Chuck Smith, founder of the Calvary Chapel movement and senior pastor of CC Costa Mesa, CA, recently celebrated his 80th birthday. He was honored by his congregation in June.



Pastor Chuck and his wife, Kay, who both turned 80 in June, enjoy hearing fellow pastors share humorous "Chuck stories" at a birthday dinner prior to the Sunday night service.

Kay's daughter—led a congregational prayer for the Smiths.

The Calvary Chapel movement traces its roots back to the mid-1960s, when Pastor Chuck became senior pastor of CC Costa Mesa in December of 1965. That congregation of 25 people has grown to a movement which includes more than 1,000 Calvary Chapel-affiliated churches worldwide. Pastor Chuck's practice of teaching verse-by-verse through the Bible has become a trademark of Calvary Chapel churches everywhere. Highlights from his 50-plus years of ministry include reaching out to hippies during the Jesus Movement in the 1960s and '70s, founding Calvary Chapel Bible College in 1975, and watching CC churches spring up in other countries around the world.

CC Costa Mesa
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At the birthday dinner on Sunday night, Kay reminisces over ministry scrapbooks called "Books of Remembrance."

SONFEST REACHES TEENS, CHILDREN

Story and photos courtesy of CC Crook County



Above, the band DecembeRadio played Christian rock before sharing the Gospel.

On Saturday, nearly 500 children heard of Jesus' love at the kids carnival which included a water slide, an inflatable jump-house, games, and puppet shows. Music artists included well-known blues harp player Darrell Mansfield and rock group DecembeRadio. Many came forward for prayer after DecembeRadio's lead singer, Josh Reedy,

passionately shared about coming to Christ simply, apart from one's own works or merit.

On Sunday, the park was packed as the CC Crook County worship team led the group in praise. Pastor Ryan Couch taught from John Chapter 4. Afterwards a dozen people were baptized.

"We started doing this event three years ago when [our fellowship was] only 100 people; now we are nearly 200," Pastor Ryan said. "If we can do this, other small churches can do it too. ... The Lord provided amazingly."

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called, ... that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus,

In the small town of Prineville in central Oregon, hundreds of local teens and families attended a three-day Gospel outreach hosted by the local fellowship, CC Crook County. Several teens responded to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, and 12 people were baptized at the conclusion of the outreach on Sunday.

The three-day outreach in downtown Pioneer Park was geared to tangibly demonstrate the love of Jesus. In its third year, the event was held the weekend before the Fourth of July. Nearly 300 young people gathered on Friday night for a skate demo and a concert from the band Brier Rose of Calvary Fellowship in Seattle, WA. CC Crook County worship leader, Stewart White, shared the Gospel, and several teens responded to the invitation. Young attendees were invited to visit the church's indoor skate park.



Left, Shawn Jones and Pastor Ryan Couch baptized Jose Cuellar, center, and 11 other people on Sunday.

who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 1:26, 29-31

Citing the above Scripture, Ryan gave God the glory for bringing fruit from the event. One family began attending the fellowship afterwards, and the parents were baptized. Coordinator Chad Carpenter offered his assistance to help other CCs host similar outreaches in their communities.

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NEW LIFE AT RESURRECTION CELEBRATION

Story by Carol Savage

Many people responded to the Gospel at Calvary Chapel Tucson's Resurrection Celebration this past spring. Church staff members said the harvest was preceded by much prayer. A great influx of new believers was baptized and plugged into the fellowship afterward.

Referring to a meeting for new believers, Assistant Pastor Eric Souza stated, "There are always more people than a room can fit right after the Resurrection Celebration." He cited John 4:35b: "Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"

Spiritual preparation began about six weeks earlier with a concentrated prayer effort known as "Operation Andrew"—so named, said Pastor Robert Furrow, because, "Every time we read about Andrew in the Bible, he's bringing someone to the Lord."

Prayer cards were distributed in church bulletins. The congregation wrote names of people they wanted to invite. Pastors and church staff members prayed for each person listed. "I believe we can change people's destinies—even their eternal destiny—through prayer," said Robert.

CC Tucson hosts the springtime crusade in the Tucson Convention Center. This year's event began with the Calvary Praise Band and special guest musicians Todd Agnew and Detour 180. After worship, Pastor Robert shared the Gospel and gave an invitation.

Church leaders hope to expand the outreach in 2008. But, according to the pastor, "It's not about how many people attend; it's about people getting saved."

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N.C. CHURCH SHARES THE GOSPEL

Story by Margot Bass

True freedom in Christ was proclaimed during a July Fourth beach outreach in North Carolina. Believers from CC Wilmington and "The Edge," a local Christian radio station, worked together to bring Christ's message of grace to more than 800 visitors at Wrightsville Beach Park in Wilmington, N.C., on Independence Day.

CC Wilmington Pastor Clay Ritter called the effort a "fellowship with the people of the community" to "reach outside of our four walls." Amidst the free fun and events, the church's evangelism team quietly worked behind the scenes. Testimonies were shared

by Pastor Clay, a professional skateboarding team, and six Christian bands. Two visitors prayed for assurance of salvation, and several others asked for prayer or guidance. Since the outreach, several newcomers have attended the approximately 250-member fellowship in the port city.

Obstacles were overcome through prayer. "God opened doors that at the time seemed closed," Clay noted. Nearly a week prior to the event, the town council cancelled the well-advertised event over concerns of large crowds. CC Wilmington believers prayed together. Then, with an attitude of respect

and love, they met with the city manager. By the next Monday, officials had given their consent. Clay added, "God has given the people of our fellowship a heart of love and a desire to serve God and others."

The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Romans 5:5b

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REACHING OUT IN SAN ANTONIO

Story by Carol Savage

Believers at Calvary Chapel of Northwest San Antonio have been sharing the Gospel and the love of Jesus with the local community through family-oriented outreaches at area parks.

The latest "Calvary Day at the Park" was at Rainbow Hills Park in June. Church members of all ages served at the carnival-like event featuring a food booth, dunk tank, moonwalk, balloon creations, and face painting. Believers gave Gospel tracts and Christian growth literature to visitors.

Pastor Joe Marquez, who also took his turn in the dunking booth, said, "Our goal is to reach each park in the northwest area with the Gospel of Jesus Christ." He added that two families who attended the outreach began coming to the fellowship. Another man who had recently received the Lord was asked to be discipled.

The pastor cited 1 Corinthians 3:5-7 as a summary of the event, especially verse 7: "So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase." Joe concluded, "It's our job just to be faithful and continue."

Prior to the event, church members distributed more than 800 invitations to homes in the neighborhoods surrounding the park. Evangelism training was also offered prior to the event to instruct church members in sharing the Gospel.

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Believers do crafts with community children at the family-oriented event.



Pastor Ed Taylor of CC Aurora, CO



Pastor Jeff Johnson, CC Downey, CA

CORRECTION

A photo caption in the Good News section, Issue 32, incorrectly identified a photo of Pastor Jeff Johnson as Pastor Ed Taylor. Jeff was a guest speaker at Ed's church. Both men are pictured here with their correct information.



The church's clothing ministry, Tabitha's Touch, provided free items for the needy at the outreach.

CCs SHARE IN BIBLE BELT

Story by Nelson Morais, photos courtesy of CC Greenville and CC Open door

CCs from the West Coast joined local CC believers in March to reach the Greenville, TN, community. The Gospel outreach drew several newcomers from the traditional Bible-belt town, including some who accepted the Lord for the first time.



Jeff Bartley, CC Greenville, shares Christ.

Calvary Chapel had been largely unknown in the northeast Tennessee community of nearly 15,000 people. Pastor Gary Hall of CC Greenville was initially sent out from CC Hemet, CA, to start the church in Greenville in 1997. Since then, most of the congregation of CC Greenville have been transplants—people who moved to Tennessee from California and Florida—the outreach has helped change that.

Team members came from CC Open Door in Anaheim, CA; CC Truckee in Truckee, CA; New Horizon Christian Fellowship in Klamath Falls, OR; and Gold Country CC in Grass Valley, CA. For four days, team members joined local believers in knocking on doors to share the love of Christ, pray with hurting people, and invite them to CC Greenville for free evening concerts. The worship/music concerts featured well-known Christian blues harp player/singer Darrell Mansfield as well as acoustic guitar player Ted Shultz of Journey Home Ministries.

Over the next few days, a small trickle of curious community members visited CC Greenville for the first time. To make room for newcomers, the pastor added a second Sunday morning service for the weekend after the outreach. Both services have been well attended since then. Pastor Gary said he was still seeing effects of the outreach five months later: “God is starting to fill the place up,” he said.

Twenty of the 25 team members came from CC Open Door along with their pastor, Roger Stahlhut, who has been leading teams to help local Calvary Chapels share the Gospel in their communities throughout rural America.

The local pastor said teaming up with other CCs was extremely helpful in several areas: helping to unify the body of CC Greenville, imparting a vision for local outreach,



Ted Shultz, left, of Journey Home Ministries, CA, and Roger Stahlhut share.

encouraging the body, and assisting members in sharing the Gospel with their neighbors.

At a subsequent outreach, CC Greenville also held a “Freedom and Worship” concert featuring a youth choir from Texas to bring in donations for U.S. troops serving in Iraq.

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After a meal at the U-Turn for Christ Men's Ranch, believers from the visiting CCs and CC Greenville pray together for the outreach.

Believers Minister after Quake

Story by Christmas McGaughey



Survivors in the Cañete Province were displaced from their adobe homes.

Photo by Jason Bonner

students in good spirits—some even discussing the second coming of Christ.

Believers prayed together before heading to a city park to share the Gospel and pray for those in distress. At least seven people accepted Christ there. “People in Peru are very open to the Gospel; this earthquake just heightened that,” John said. Several friends and family members of CC Lima believers also have accepted Christ since the earthquake on August 15.

Seismologists with the U.S. Geological Survey reported aftershocks ongoing several days afterwards. At least 1,000 people were injured, according to Associated Press reports one week later.

“The quake did reasonably little damage in and around Lima,” John said. He immediately contacted Jaime Inga, who oversees a CC outreach in the Cañete Province, more than 100 miles south of Lima.

“We went there because it was one of the worst-hit areas and because there would be follow-up [for victims],” John explained. When his team arrived the day after the quake, Jaime and other believers were already helping people with the damage.

John's son, Jason Bonner, described visiting the town of La Quebrada. “Walking through the streets, the town looked really



CCBC Peru intern Matthew Carver shares the Gospel with children in Las Viñas.

Photo by Jaime Inga

old. There were cracks in every building,” Jason said. “There was a sadness. People had blank expressions on their faces.”

Believers took up pick axes to help locals level their damaged, nonreinforced adobe homes—a serious hazard due to aftershocks. Jason added, “On Friday, we worked alongside these people and became friends. I asked them, if the quake had taken their lives would they have gone to heaven or hell.” He shared the Gospel with them, and a few people prayed to accept Christ as Savior.

Believers have had many opportunities to share Christ's love and the hope of eternal life by faith in Him. Several CCs from the U.S. and abroad sent support or teams to minister to victims.

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