

'COME BACK TO HIM' CRUSADE

Story by Carol Savage
Photos by Laura Dienzo

More than 1,000 people attended a crusade geared to encourage backslidden Christians to return to their faith in Christ. Desiring to reach people who had walked away from the Lord, Calvary Chapel Atascadero, CA, held a "Come Back to Him" Crusade this past September. At the outdoor crusade, attendees were encouraged to return to Jesus.

"Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness." Joel 2:13b

Worship leader/songwriter Phil Wickham and contemporary Christian band Safe Haven opened the outreach. CC Atascadero's youth group performed a skit portraying a young girl—first being created by God, then being enticed away from Him by various temptations. The Jesus character rescued



More than 1,000 people attended a September crusade about returning to faith in Jesus.

the girl and drew her back to His love. The audience seemed touched, and many of the viewers wept.

was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found" (from verses 20, 24).

After the message and altar call, Steve addressed Christians in the audience who identified with "the other brother," asking if they wanted to receive "a fresh filling" from the Lord. More than one-third of the audience raised their hands. CC Atascadero Youth Pastor Jason Byard is again organizing a similar crusade for next September.

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Pastor Steve Shively prays with counselors at the event.

The account of the prodigal son in Luke 15 was presented by CC Atascadero Senior Pastor Steve Shively. In the passage, the father saw his prodigal son returning, "had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him" and said, "This my son

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SHARING THE GOSPEL THROUGH BASKETBALL

Story by CC Boston
Photos by Mark Everett

Calvary Chapel Boston, MA, hosted a basketball clinic to reach children with the Gospel, drawing more than 200 people. Nearly half of the children who came responded to the Gospel invitation. The clinic featured "Gospel stations," where the Good News was clearly presented.

Pastor Randy Cahill of CC Boston cited Matthew 19:14 as key to the outreach: "But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.'"

Former professional basketball player Bill Alexson helped lead the outreach. Bill, previously a chaplain with the Boston Celtics, uses basketball to share about salvation through Jesus Christ. While giving a ball to one boy, he explained that salvation, too, must be received as a gift.

The event featured Armen Gilliam, a 13-year National Basketball Association veteran, and Bruce Crevier, who holds a world record for spinning 23 basketballs at once. Bill, Armen, and Bruce shared their hoops skills and their personal testimonies, then encouraged attendees to accept Christ.



Bill Alexson demonstrates the "free gift" of salvation to a third grader.

"This was an exciting opportunity for us to reach both church and un-church kids," said Pastor Randy. "A local newspaper helped us promote the event. Also, a team of adults and youth spent part of a morning prior to the event handing out invitations to local residents and businesses." The church is planning their next sports-oriented out-



Pastor Randy Cahill of CC Boston shares the Gospel using cartoons.

reach with Heath Evans, fullback for the NFL's New England Patriots.

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POLICE OFFICERS ENCOURAGED

Story by Carol Savage



Attendees discuss the message at a gathering geared for police officers.

Several law enforcement officials have rededicated their lives to Christ through a specially geared outreach of Calvary Chapel of South Denver, CO, called "The Centurion Ministry." For the past seven months, the ministry has offered Bible studies and fellowship events for local peace officers (police,

deputies, troopers, corrections officers, etc.) and their families. Through the studies and fellowship with Christian officers, many have been challenged to live boldly for Christ and to share the Gospel.

Pastor Gino Geraci of CC South Denver, a chaplain for various Denver-area law enforcement agencies, said, "Police officers are a vast unreached people group."

Detective Michael Williams, who leads the group, said the focus is to "provide a godly source of fellowship in a safe environment" and "refocus the officers" toward putting God first in their lives. He was first asked by a police chaplain to start the ministry.

Michael explained, "Every contact that we have with a citizen, fellow officer, or offender is an opportunity for us either to share the Gospel or to be an example." In addition

to leading a Bible study on Christian leadership for police officers and their spouses, he sends an online newsletter to more than 200 people in the Denver metropolitan area and elsewhere. The newsletter includes an encouraging, Biblical column and Bible study meeting information.

The ministry's defining Scriptures are Romans 13:1, part of which states, "For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God," and Ephesians 6:13-18, which exhorts believers to "put on the whole armor of God." Pastor Gino chose the name "The Centurion Ministry" based on the Biblical examples of Roman centurions who believed in Jesus while serving their government.

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BELIEVERS AND SAILORS WORK TOGETHER FOR ORPHANS

Story by Monique Laura

In July of 2007, a group of believers from Calvary Chapel Downey, CA, teamed up with U.S. Navy and Peruvian Navy sailors to help renovate a CC orphanage in Chaclacayo, Peru. The project afforded opportunities to share the Gospel while also preparing a Christian home for parentless children in Peru.

One of CC's recently ordained U.S. Navy Chaplains, Lt. Junior Grade Dennis Wheeler, recognized an opportunity for some of the two countries' sailors to work alongside CC volunteers. Chaplain Wheeler and Pastor John Bonner of CCBC Lima, Peru, organized the project. The volunteers and sailors dug trenches for sewer lines, created a cistern for a reservoir, and demolished two rooms to make space for a kitchen.

Yuri Escandon, the Spanish ministry pastor at CC Downey and a Major in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, worked closely with the sailors. Relating to them as a fellow service member, Pastor Yuri shared how he came to know God's love and accept Christ as his Savior, emphasizing that Jesus also loves them. Many of the sailors requested prayer and more information about helping the orphanage in the future.



Believers work alongside sailors to repair a CC orphanage in Lima, Peru.

The orphanage, "Aldea Infantil" (Children's Village), will be overseen by missionaries Justin and Sarah Eaton of CC Orlando, FL. The orphans will be cared for and taught by CCBC Lima students. The orphanage was founded by Rocky Mountain CC of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and CC Lima, Peru. CC Downey volunteers were among several who have helped refurbish the children's home. The orphanage will house 45 children from infants to 5-year-olds and is expected to open early next year.

Pastor John Bonner summed up the ministry to the orphans: "Our vision is to keep them until adulthood, and see them raised



The team helped improve sewer lines, a cistern, and made space for a kitchen.



Believers share Christ with sailors.

in the training and admonition of the Lord to serve their own people where there is a tremendous leadership void."

PROTEST AT CC TEL AVIV MINISTRY

Story by Christmas Magdalene Beeler

Jewish poor defend CC believers against anti-Christian group

On a mild autumn afternoon in Tel Aviv, believers from the local Calvary Chapel were feeding more than 100 homeless and poor at a CC soup kitchen. Pastor Stephen Apple of CC Tel Aviv leads the Shepherd's Light ministry which regularly feeds the needy of the inner city, provides free medical care, blankets, and clothing. Many of the Jewish people that immigrate to Israel come with only a suitcase of worldly possessions.

"Most of the people in Tel Aviv who know about us approve and respect what we are doing," Stephen explained. But that afternoon, a fuming crowd of "anti-missionary" protestors mobbed on the busy street outside the soup kitchen. They had come to close it down with threats and protest signs. Stephen went outside, keeping in mind "a soft answer turns away wrath" (Proverbs 15:1a). As he began reasoning with some of the protestors, another angry group surged behind him: The soup kitchen patrons rushed to his defense. They shouted support for the ministry that had met their practical needs regardless of religious affiliation. Stephen gently asked them to go back inside.

Reasoning with protestors about God's love and the Scripture, Stephen watched warily through his peripheral vision. "I tried to keep track of events so that nothing would get out of hand. These people had been known in years past to respond violently, but this day seemed different." Speaking with an orthodox young man about the Messiah, he continued silently praying. No one raised a hand against him or the building.

Stephen reflected later, "After ministering here for four years now, I am convinced that we are living in a unique time in history—a time when doors that have been shut for 2,000 years are starting to nudge open." A few days after the protest, several Jewish people who had accepted Christ were baptized. "We are witnessing prophecy being fulfilled: God is bringing His people back into the Promised Land." He added, "The Lord has directed people to us by miraculous events: One lady saw a negative newspaper article [about us] that was written by anti-missionaries, and she came to help us—impressed that we served the poor."

Recently, more than 350 Christian refugees from Sudan arrived in great need of aid. Fleeing for their lives to "the Promised



Pastor Stephen Apple of CC Tel Aviv shares God's Word with a protestor.

Land" of the Bible, they had walked more than 1,200 miles from Sudan, through Egypt, to Israel—many dying along the way. Shepherd's Light gave all of their stored food to the Sudanese, who wept with gratitude. Stephen said, "God is always faithful to care for those He brings to us. We can rest in Him."

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UK CROWD AT CREATION FEST '07

Photos by Jacob Harman



In August, more than 8,000 attended the 6th annual Creation Fest in Woolacombe, England. Nearly 100 came forward to accept Christ.



London-based R&B group Four Kornerz performed at the free music festival. Pastor Brian Brodersen shared the Gospel.



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