

# Texas CCs Team up to Minister in Honduras

Story by Carol Savage  
Photos by CC Mt. Pleasant, TX, and CC Dallas, TX

Several Calvary Chapels in Texas have teamed up to minister in Honduras over the past four years. Now pastors are seeing early converts leading others to Christ and estimate that more than 200 Hondurans have accepted Christ through the continuing ministry in Honduras, a country with a predominately Catholic population.

In 2004, Pastor David Anderson of CC Mt. Pleasant, TX, asked God to help the believers at his fellowship “experience the joy of being used by God.” Soon after, he learned that Jason Mulla, pastor of a new CC in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, was inviting other believers to serve on short-term mission trips. As teams have showed Christ’s love and shared the Gospel, people of all ages have chosen to follow Christ. “The miraculous things God did in the Book of Acts are still happening today all around the world,” David said.

On their trips to Honduras, CC Mt. Pleasant has teamed up multiple times with three other CCs to minister in Honduras: CC Dallas, TX; CC Ft. Lauderdale, FL; and CC Texarkana, TX.



Pastor Jason Mulla of CC Tegucigalpa meets with a family that lives near the ranch in Ojojona. Teams from CC Dallas and CC Mount Pleasant, TX, were visiting to work on a water filtration system

“I saw [spiritual] fruit producing fruit,” stated Eric Coburn, assistant pastor of CC Dallas. He mentioned a young woman who had been saved during CC Mt. Pleasant’s 2004 trip. In the summer of 2008, she was leading worship during a prayer time following a church service. Breaking out in tears, she cried to the Lord to surrender her all to Him. Seeing her express her heart for Jesus, a man in the congregation received Him as his Savior.

Witnessing the effectiveness of the Gospel in the lives of Hondurans reminded Eric of Philemon 1:4-6. Verse 6 reads, “that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.”

Many false doctrines circulate in Honduras and have obscured the true Gospel, explained David. While the first team in 2004 encountered skepticism, he said, “I

think our recurring presence there is slowly winning people to Jesus.”

During their trips, the missionaries have served numerous people at a medical clinic, visited orphanages, and showed movies portraying the Gospel. They have also witnessed on the streets, in public parks and schools, and in the rain forests where some Hondurans dwell. To communicate, they



Team members pick out the rocks that will be part of the water filter system.

employed Spanish-language tracts and the translation skills of Spanish speakers who served with them. In 2008, Eric and his wife presented a conference on spiritual gifts at CC Tegucigalpa.

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Pastor Dave Anderson, right, helps install a PVC pipe from the water tank.

## Love Wins Hearts for Christ

Story by Shelby Lawson and Carol Savage  
Photo by Shelby Lawson



CC Costa Mesa missionaries replace a roof in Cantu, Mexico. A chicken coop and a washing machine were installed at a shelter for women and children.

By repeatedly visiting Baja California, Mexico, believers from CC Costa Mesa have seen God’s grace changing hearts in an area where grace is not often understood. In May of 2008, a mission team of 13 people made its third foray into Baja led by John and Kelly Melendes. They shared the love of Christ through practical help and encouraged fellow servants in Ensenada to keep focused on Jesus.

A primary destination for the team was Agua Viva (which means “Living Water”), a free day care center for children of farm workers. The team made important repairs to the facility and cooked for the children and staff. They also led a Sunday worship service for the staff. John taught on Revelation 4:2, exhorting them to remember that Jesus is their “first love.”

The team also ministered to the residents of Casa Esperanza (Hope House), a shelter

for abused women and their children that is supported by several Calvary Chapels. The believers completed construction of a chicken coop, installed a washing machine, and provided clothing for many women and children.

The Melendez family also treated five orphaned siblings to a weekend at the beach. The family had devotions together with the children twice a day, sharing God’s Word in love.

John said, “Christ gives freely. That’s what is touching hearts.” He cited John 13:14, which says, “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.”

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### Calvary Calendar 2009

Month	Dates	Event/Church
January	3	<b>Missions Day</b> CC Costa Mesa, CA
January	5-8	<b>2009 Missions Conference</b> Murrieta, CA
	19-21	<b>Southeast Conference</b> CC Merritt Island, FL
February	2-4	<b>Northwest Conference</b> CC Spokane, WA
March	9-11	<b>Southwest Conference</b> CC Tucson, AZ
	23-25	<b>High Sierra Conference</b> CC Carson Valley, NV
April	23-25	<b>Great Lakes Conference</b> CC Appleton, WI

# Cancer Survivors Offer Hope in Christ

Story by Carol Savage  
Photos by Anthony and Heather Nieto



**CC Aurora's cancer support meeting gives Abraham Rodriguez and his son a time to share prayer requests.**

either I would meet Jesus face to face, or He would bring me through it." Her treatments were successful, but she soon realized that several others in the fellowship had been diagnosed with malignancies. This discovery prompted Carla to begin praying about starting a Christ-centered cancer support group. She consulted with CC Aurora's senior pastor, Ed Taylor, about her vision—to use her experience to comfort others going through similar struggles and to exhort them to trust in the Lord. Pastor Ed encouraged her and offered guidance, and the new ministry was born.

"Cancer is very difficult, but Jesus can provide the comfort and answers we need to get through it all," said Carla.

Since the ministry started in 2006, many from outside the fellowship have come, including non-Christians and believers from other churches. Unbelievers "learn a little more about Jesus at each meeting," said Carla. The group meets twice a month to pray, share Scripture, and encourage one another. Its members also deliver gifts to homebound and hospitalized cancer patients, sharing the message of salvation when given the opportunity.

One gentleman who has greatly encouraged the group is Abraham Rodriguez, who has had a chronic, painful condition since childhood. "If I'm healed, I'll praise Him; and if

I'm not healed, I'll praise Him," Abraham said. Several people in the group testified that they have been strengthened by Abraham's consistent trust in God despite his ongoing illness.

Nancy Farrell, another cancer survivor, said she has seen the Lord working through the ministry. She attended her first meeting with many questions about why her trial was happening. "It was wonderful to talk to someone who understood," she recalled. Carla and others encouraged her to pray and pointed her to the Scriptures. "The Lord is always there," Nancy said. "Though we can't comprehend everything God does, we still need to trust Him."

Carla cited 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 as their theme: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." Carla explained, "Because He's blessed us so much through our cancer trials, I feel it's our reasonable service and privilege to help others going through similar circumstances."

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Carla McBride, a breast cancer survivor, and her husband Patrick started the ministry. Carla was a new believer when she received her diagnosis in 2004. She recalled, "I was shocked, but not devastated. I realized that



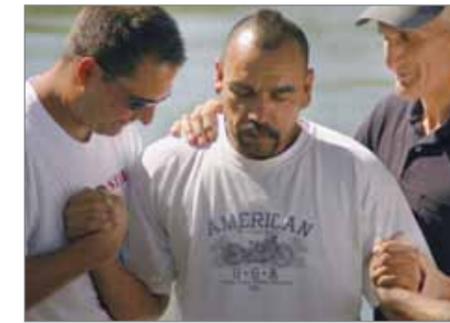
**Ministry leader Patrick McBride, left, and Dr. Alex Thomas pray with Abraham, who has encouraged other group members with his trust in the Lord.**



**Carla McBride, top right, leads a discussion during a cancer support group meeting. She and her husband, Patrick, began the group after she had cancer treatment.**

# Lost Are Saved, Baptized at Outdoor Outreach

Story by Carol Savage  
Photos by Andrew Crawford



**CC Idaho Falls' assistant pastor Gordon Boyle, right, prays before baptizing a man at the Seek First Celebration.**

Nearly 2,000 people attended an evangelistic outreach in a city park in Idaho Falls, ID. Responding to the Gospel message, nearly 150 people were baptized in the river.

Hosted by Calvary Chapel of Idaho Falls, the second annual "Seek First Celebration" on August 10 was held in a natural amphitheater in Freeman Park along the Snake River. The event proclaimed the message of Matthew 6:33, which exhorts, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Attendees were informed that baptism is not what saves a person, but that Christ commands those who believe in Him to be baptized in Matthew 28:19.



**Nearly 2,000 people gathered in a natural amphitheater in Idaho to hear the Good News.**

Senior Pastor Rick Brown wanted the event to reach people who would not attend regular church services, including those who view the fellowship's local Sunday morning television show. He cited 2 Thessalonians 3:1, "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that

the Word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you," as being the church's vision for their area, which he said includes a large population of Mormons who need to be reached with the Gospel.

"This event is visible, tangible fruit that the Word of the Lord is running swiftly in our community," Rick added, thankful that so many came to the event and responded to the Gospel.

Andrew Crawford, CC Idaho Falls' videographer, described the atmosphere: "The audience was captivated. ... [They] were heading down to be baptized even before the music had ended."

The event featured performances by Christian guitarist Dennis Agajanian and French-Canadian Christian rock band *The Kry*. Activities such as sack races and games entertained children while their parents heard the Word.

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# Believers' Bible Study at the Magic Kingdom

Story by Carol Savage

Believers who work at Disneyland in Anaheim, CA, have been meeting weekly at the resort for Bible study, fellowship, and prayer for the past 35 years. The Christian Fellowship Club has a Wednesday midday Bible study that is attended by 20-25 people each week and is the oldest continuing club at the resort.

The Bible study has been led since 1976 by Bill Hoganson, who worked for Disneyland for 26 years and has been assistant pastor of CC Anaheim since 1994. Pastor Bill teaches topical Bible messages, presents Christian videos, and brings in speakers such as Pastor Greg Laurie of Harvest Christian Fellowship to edify believers and share the Gospel.

On one occasion, the club hosted an after-hours screening of *The Hiding Place*, a

Christian film depicting the life of Corrie ten Boom, for three consecutive nights in an on-site cinema. Each night, nearly 350 people attended. Most of the attendees were Disneyland employees who do not normally attend the study and their families.

Mark Neynaber, a member of the group, said, "We have an active prayer ministry. We pray for each other and the company." Believers are also encouraged to be good examples at work. "Christians should do the best job and have the best ethics of anyone," said Mark.

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**Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, CA**  
photo courtesy of Disneyland Resort



**Part of the oldest continuing club at the resort, believers meet weekly for Bible study and prayer.**