

Community Hears of Christ through Free Concert Series

Story by Carol Savage
Photos by Jon Duran



Steve French counsels a young man who accepted Christ at the outreach.



Listeners enjoy the musical performances from their lawn chairs.



Henry Duran, assistant pastor at CC Pasadena, CA, asks the crowd, "Are you thirsty?" in his message.



People pray with a man at one of three open-air outreach concerts held by Calvary Chapel Pasadena, CA.

During the summer of 2008, Calvary Chapel of Pasadena shared the Gospel with many through music. Their free, open-air concert series featured contemporary Christian bands, free food, and messages by Pastors Xavier Ries and Henry Duran. Each of the three concerts, held in Central Park, Pasadena, CA, was attended by approximately 200 people and resulted in numerous professions of faith in Jesus.

According to Assistant Pastor Henry Duran, the intention of the series was to "get out to the community and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ." He stated that the success of an outreach is not measured "by numbers, but in the fact that the Gospel was preached ... God does the rest." He shared that there was a good response to the messages, with many

coming forward to make public professions of faith in Christ.

The crowds consisted of a variety of people of all ages. Some were from CC Pasadena and others had either heard about the event through advance publicity or were drawn to the site by the music. A number of homeless people in the park also attended the concerts.

The Kry, Christian music veterans, headlined June's concert, and Senior Pastor Xavier Ries shared about Jesus' love for sinners as demonstrated in Luke 7:36-50. In July, contemporary Christian band Two or More took the stage before Xavier's pronouncement that "the time is truly short," based on various Scriptures about the end

Using the Arts to Present the Gospel



Dancers perform in a ballet at North Coast CC in Carlsbad, CA. This dance troupe was one of nine groups who performed Gospel-themed pieces at the July 2008 event.

Story by Carol Savage
Photo by Oru Salisbury

For four years now, North Coast Calvary Chapel (NCCC) in Carlsbad, CA, has been building bridges, through the arts, to the residents of this coastal community. Believers and unbelievers enjoy NCCC's fine art exhibits and performances. After being impacted by original artwork and stage events, attendees often return with others for worship services where the Word of God is presented.

Chuck Butler, an associate pastor at NCCC, explained how some believers stay confined to the walls of the church. He said, "There's a need for us to mingle with people from outside the church so they can 'taste and see that the Lord is good.'" The events and exhibits offered by NCCC are intended as "an entry point for those who may have said 'no' to church, but may be willing to say 'yes' to Jesus."

"This was true in 1969," Chuck reflected, "when as a young musician, I said 'yes' to Jesus through an artistic entry point that Pastor Chuck Smith provided: my generation's music."

NCCC places their creative endeavors into two categories: "the art group" (literary and visual arts) and "ministering arts" (theatre, music, and dance). They host exhibits, productions, and musical events in their new facility. It's periodically transformed into a gallery, showcasing works of many local artists. Artists from outside the fellowship are welcomed. Submitted works are screened to meet criteria of good taste. Participating Christian artists mingle with professional and amateur artists, as well as patrons at the events, to convey what inspires their work: their faith in Jesus Christ.

Founded two years ago, the "ministering art" group's July '08 event included performances by several musicians. One woman, a rededicated believer, sang an original song. "Her voice was beautiful and her heart was broken with love for Jesus," Chuck added. Her family members filled two front tables at the event to cheer her on. Moved by the whole event, several of the relatives returned to attend worship services and were presented with the Gospel.

times. August's event featured a band called Lovelite, preceding Henry's message, during which he asked the crowd, "Are you thirsty?" in reference to Isaiah 55:1-3.

In one case, a man on his way to a nearby fast-food restaurant heard music playing during one of the concerts and, drawn by the promise of free entertainment, came to listen. Once there, he stayed to hear the Bible teaching and ended up receiving Christ.

This recent series restarted a ministry that had been on hiatus since 2004. Its organizers plan to host a similar series in the future.

CC Pasadena, CA
www.calvarychapelpasadena.com
ccp@ccpas.com
626-584-9992

North Coast Calvary Chapel
www.northcoastcalvary.org
nccc@northcoastcalvary.org
760-929-0029

Southwestern CCs Reach Out to the Navajo Nation

Story by Luis Baez and Carol Savage
Photos by CC Bible Fellowship Temecula

Sixteen believers from CC Snowflake, AZ, and 15 volunteers from CC Bible Fellowship in Temecula, CA, brought the Gospel to Navajo tribe members in Pinon, Arizona, located in the middle of a Navajo Nation reservation. Last July, the two fellowships provided a week-long vacation Bible school to reach children for Jesus, and nightly Bible

studies to minister to adults. Over 70 children attended the VBS each day. Six children and two adults professed their faith in Christ during the week of the outreach.

Art Lemos, one of the leaders of the team from CC Snowflake, said that God had given him a “desire to be involved in a missions

outreach as a minister of reconciliation,” and that he and his team were able to do so in a place where “the spiritual and physical poverty are great.” On the reservation, many closed church buildings line the roads due to failed church-plant attempts. Some Navajo children, asked what they would get if they could afford anything they wanted,

answered, “Food ... good food.” In Pinon, the people were hungry for the Gospel as well as better physical sustenance.

The VBS included Bible games, snacks, Scripture lessons, and a “store” in which kids could trade tickets they had earned through participation for donated toys and other items. According to Jenni Pymm, another leader of the CC Snowflake group, the store was a catalyst for the salvation of a young man named Ricky.

In Jenni’s words, “Ricky stood out in my mind. One day, as everyone gathered to the church for closing songs and prayer before lunch, Ricky sat outside on a bench by himself. I sat next to him and asked if he’d gotten anything at the store yet. Then I asked him if he had a Bible. ‘No,’ he replied. ‘Would you like one?’ I asked. ‘Yes,’ he replied. I handed Ricky a Bible and shared, ‘This is more valuable than anything in that store.’”

After briefly explaining the Gospel to Ricky, Jenni led him to receive the Lord.

Calvary Chapel Snowflake, AZ
www.calvarychapelsnowflake.com
ccsnowflake@frontiernet.net
928-536-4479



Navajo children display their drawings about Jesus healing the blind man. CC Snowflake, AZ, and CC Bible Fellowship, Temecula, CA, combined their efforts for a VBS to the Navajo Nation.



Jenni Pymm encourages a young girl as she reads a Bible story.



Dezare Pymm and Ina Amaro share the Good News with a VBS student through a game.



Children listen to a Bible lesson. The VBS outreach was conducted by CC Snowflake and CCBF Temecula in Pinon, AZ, where Native Americans reside.

Spiritual Harvest in Little Saigon

Story by Carol Savage
Photos courtesy of CC Costa Mesa



Young Vietnamese listen to the music of Moi at Bolsa Grande High School in Westminster, CA.

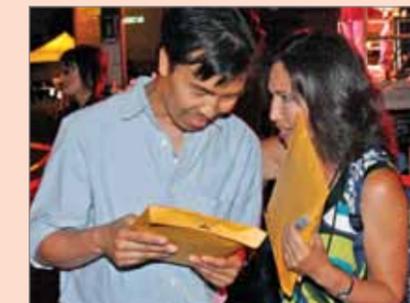
Last summer, the Vietnamese/Asian Fellowship of CC Costa Mesa sponsored a youth concert in Little Saigon, a largely Vietnamese-American community located in Orange County, CA. The event was the first of its kind in the area and nearly 1,200 people attended.

The concert, held at Bolsa Grande High School in Garden Grove, CA, featured performances by three Christian acts: Moi, Evan Wickham, and the House. Garid Beeler, a college-age pastor and evangelist from CC Costa Mesa, gave a Scripture message from the Book of Romans in which he described mankind’s sinful nature and the need for redemption through faith in Christ.

According to Bob Bruley, pastor of CC Costa Mesa’s Vietnamese/Asian Fellowship and supervisor of the event, the concertgoers were mostly young adults who seemed captivated by the outreach. He said, “The Lord showed us through this that there is a tremendous need for more outreaches in Little Saigon. People were very hungry to hear God’s Word.”

During Garid’s message, the audience was “totally silent—glued to their seats,” according to Bob. When the invitation to receive Jesus was given, over 125 people accepted. Some people on the sidelines, as well as those who walked to the stage, made professions of faith.

Those saved included a woman who was collecting used water bottles, a man who was there to help deliver chairs, and some people who had asked Bob’s wife, Minh, how to receive Christ as she manned a table serving free water and snacks to guests. She led them to a tent in which counseling, Bibles, and packets of materials for new believers were provided. There, volunteers led them to the Lord.



A man receives a new believer’s packet after receiving counseling.

The Little Saigon section of Orange County, comprising parts of three cities, contains the largest Vietnamese population outside of Vietnam. Many settled there after fleeing oppression in their native land. The ministry leaders plan to present another concert outreach there next year.

Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa
www.calvarychapelcostamesa.com
costamesa@calvarychapel.com
714-979-4422

CC Merritt Island Managua Outreach

Story by Carol Savage
Photos courtesy of CC Merritt Island



Pastor Howard Davies tells a dramatic story at an orphanage in Jinotepe with the aid of translator David DelBuono.



Pastors Cal Stuebner, left, and Howard Davies, middle, pray for a child at La Mascota, the children's cancer hospital.

Last July, Calvary Chapel Merritt Island, FL, sent a team of seven believers to CC Managua, a fellowship their church planted in 2000. It is located in the capital of Nicaragua, the largest country in Central America. Mission teams from various Calvary Chapels around the world have visited yearly.

This team, led by Howard Davies, an assistant pastor at CC Merritt Island, made a week-long trip to the fellowship to assist with work projects and evangelism. The missionaries' destinations included an impoverished community called Manchester and a local hospital.

Jessica Mentzer, a member of the CC Merritt Island team, described the outreach to the children: We ministered in an extremely poor neighborhood called Manchester, which no longer exists due to flooding [in fall 2008]. We led them in songs, told Bible stories, and played with them. We have taken quite a few teams to this particular area, but I think this group of children felt the love of Jesus more than any other time I've gone there."

When the team visited La Mascota, a children's cancer hospital, more opportunities



Team member Jay Heavner talks to some children and a parent at the Calvary Chapel Primary School.

to share were presented. Jessica commented, "The team passed out toys, hygiene items, and Christian coloring books. We also prayed with the families, who were often grateful to the point of tears."

Another team member, Cindy Dean, stated, "One young mother was alone with her infant daughter who was facing surgery. I had a companion along who could speak Spanish, so I was able to ask the woman if I could pray for her and her baby. Although I told the young mother that I could not speak Spanish, and my prayers would be in English, she gladly accepted and replied that our God does not need a translator."

CC Managua also runs a Christian school for local children in kindergarten through sixth grade to provide for young people to become educated and learn about Jesus. These children would otherwise be on the streets because their parents cannot afford to send them to local secular schools.

Additionally, CC Managua owns a bakery, the purpose of which is to provide employment and work skills for people in the area.

CC Merritt Island
www.calvarymerrittisland.org
cmmi@calvarychapelmi.org
321-453-6779

CC Managua
www.calvarymanagua.org
calvarymanagua@yahoo.com
305-767-1646

Mary Barrett



Well-known Calvary Chapel musician Mary Barrett went home to be with the Lord on November 10, 2008, after being diagnosed with carcinosarcoma less than a year before. Longtime friend and fellow musician Malcolm Wild, senior pastor of CC Merritt Island, FL, shared this from his heart. "Mary Barrett was a woman on a mission. Of all the people I have ever met, none have had a greater commitment to the call of God on their life than Mary. One of the first songs she ever wrote, 'Worshiper,' begins with these words; 'I am Your worshiper for life, my Lord, forever praising You,

I will never cease.' That was her life. She was a wonderful worship leader because she was a worshiper. She was here for a season to lead us all to the throne of God. That was her reason for living. That was her mission. To this end she was born, to this call she was faithful ... faithful to the end.

"Because of her determined commitment to that calling, when given the choice of what to do with the final weeks of her life, she chose to leave us a legacy—an amazing collection of songs on a farewell album entitled, *The Vanishing Point*. Recorded during the final stages of her illness, often in pain and suffering, she pressed on to finish her race. Literally from a hospital bed to a Nashville studio, she ignored the advice of doctors and the pleas of loved ones, and with the words,

'I am going to Nashville to sing my songs and then I am going to heaven,' she reached for the finish line. She sang her songs, then less than two weeks later, she was in heaven. Mary relied upon the Lord for her strength each time she stood up to minister, and it was His strength and power that enabled her to see it through to the very end.

"Mary was in the habit of thanking God, and when the wheels of the aircraft touched the ground, she always said, 'mission accomplished,' after returning from a conference. Write that on her life. She wanted nothing more than to bless the heart of God and serve His people. She is gone to glory, but her fragrance lingers."

www.marybarrett.com

Mary Barrett

Calvary Calendar 2009

Month	Dates	Event/Church
March	9-11	Southwest Conference CC Tucson, AZ
	23-25	High Sierra Conference CC Carson Valley, NV
April	2-4	Pastor and Leadership Conference CC Dallas, TX
	23-25	Great Lakes Conference CC Appleton, WI
	27-28	Rocky Mountains/Plains Conference Crossroads CC, CO
	29-May 1	Deep South Conference CC Stone Mountain, GA
May	18-20	East Coast Conference CC Philadelphia, PA
June	1-4	Senior Pastors Conference Murrieta Conference Center, CA

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Story guidelines

Send us a summary of your local outreach, mission trip, or other fruitful ministry in Microsoft Word format, 300 words or less.

Photo guidelines

Email or send original JPEG or TIFF files at least 2.0 megabytes in size.

Next issue deadline is June 17, 2008.

Please email your submission or send it to:

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Calvary Chapel Magazine

Spring 2009

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