

# CC Placerville Uses Dramatic Account of *Lazarus* to Share Hope of Christ

Story by Carol Savage  
Photos by Jenny Hartman



In the play *Lazarus*, Simon the leper ministers to his friend Lazarus. The play ran for six days at CC Placerville, CA. Many people responded to the Gospel message.

**“Drama is a great vehicle for presenting the Gospel,” said Dr. Phil Abela, author of a play called *Lazarus* that was performed at CC Placerville, CA. During his time at a Christian medical school, Dr. Abela and other students performed skits as an evangelistic outreach. Later, as an elder at CC Placerville, he introduced drama ministry to the fellowship, staging works based mostly on scripts he had written. *Lazarus*, the most recent of these productions, ran for six days in the sanctuary of CC Placerville, with 50-75 people from the church and community in the audience per showing. When the Gospel was presented at the end of each performance, several people responded.**

The play, which also includes original musical numbers, follows Lazarus’ death and resurrection from the dead by Jesus. It concludes with “a dramatic visual representation of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead.” Pam Logan, co-director of *Lazarus*, said that the team who performed the work saw it as a mission field, not just a play. She said, “There was a lot of adversity, such as health and employment issues during the run of the play.” The play also ministered to viewers dealing with trials.

Pam cited Matthew 11:28, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest,” as a verse that helped prepare her for the play. “We need to cast our concerns on Him,” she stated. She explained that despite various pressures and scheduling complications, the end result was “infused with His Spirit. He wants to reach people more than we do,” she added.



Sisters Mary and Martha celebrate Lazarus’ resurrection.

Pam said that there were a lot of emotional reactions by viewers to the play’s message. “One woman said that it ministered to her powerfully how Jesus is a very personal God,” said Pam. She believed that *Lazarus* “spoke to people on many levels about things with which they struggle.” The showings concluded with invitations to receive Jesus. CC Placerville’s Nick Triveri, senior pastor, Dan Rivers, associate pastor, and Edde Anderson, youth pastor, took turns sharing the message of salvation. They asserted that spiritual healing, not just physical healing as Lazarus received, is vital, and is what Jesus alone offers.

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In this scene from the play *Lazarus*, the children are coming to Jesus. After the play, pastors of CC Placerville, CA, shared the message of salvation.



In the finale, the cast sings “Garland of Praise” as Lazarus embraces Simon.

# CC Wiesbaden Serves as an Ambassador of the Prince of Peace on Violent Holiday

Good News

Story by Carol Savage

Believers from CC Wiesbaden, Germany, hosted a street outreach on the first day of May that was highlighted with a Christian concert. May Day, as the European holiday is known, originated as a day intended to promote labor issues and is often marked by rioting and anti-capitalist protests. For the past two years, it has been transformed into an opportunity for sharing the Gospel. Over 75 people attended this year’s concert and many gave their lives to Christ. Five of those who were at the concert began attending CC Wiesbaden regularly.

CC Wiesbaden participates in monthly street outreaches along with the Evangelical Alliance of Wiesbaden. Gospel flyers and individual conversations are used to share the Good News with people on the streets.

The May Day concert was the second annual one for the team, according to Pastor Ron Hostetler. This year, a Christian hip-hop group ministered to the crowd of mostly 18- to 25-year-olds that gathered. The group’s leader, Steve Acosta, gave his testimony and shared the Gospel.

The fact that the event happened as planned was a clear example of God’s faithfulness, by Ron’s account. He said of the time preceding the concert, “The spiritual warfare was absolutely intense. I was advised that no one would come to the concert. I tried to cancel it, but Gunther Weber, the pastor from CC Grunstadt, encouraged me to go ahead. So, in spite of overwhelming odds against success ... we went forward.”

The day of the concert, a political protest occurred in the nearby town of Siegen. Because of the unrest, “everyone was late,” said Ron. “It was a great opportunity to pray and trust the Lord.” Despite the delay, the outreach and concert yielded good results, with many hearing and several accepting Jesus Christ as their Savior.

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# Colombia Bike Race



Cyclists from CC Golden Springs compete in the first annual evangelistic cycling race in Colombia. Hundreds participated and many received the Gospel.

Story by Ellen Gaston  
Photos by Paul Moure

**Speeding down the high Colombian mountains on a road once used by drug lords and guerrilla fighters, a team of cyclists from CC Golden Springs, CA, strove hard to reach the finish line.**

Hector Martinez, a native Colombian and missions director of CC Golden Springs, had returned to his homeland with an American cycling team to share the message of Jesus Christ. Having left the war-torn country six years ago during communist guerrilla attacks and after repeated threats on his

life, Hector encountered a different country upon his return—one with an open door for the Gospel.

Cycling is the second largest sport in Colombia and these races have become an important sporting event since their inception in 2007. Not only do hundreds of participants sign up, but thousands journey from across the country to watch the competitors' battle to the finish line.

Kennedy Jácome, Colombian Olympic competitor and national champion, competed with only one arm after losing the other in a cycling accident years earlier. Having known Hector since grade school and as a fellow cyclist for many years, Kennedy listened attentively as his old friend shared the Gospel with the participants and crowds. Over one hundred people came forward in response to the message, including Kennedy.

The first leg of the race ended at El Secreto, a theological seminary sponsored by CC Golden Springs. Both cyclists and onlookers were introduced to the Gospel there. All received prayer and food before beginning the following two parts of the competition. At the race's completion, prizes were distributed and five brand-new bikes awarded. Despite his handicap, Kennedy came in first place. A participant commented to Hector, "This is the most anticipated race of the year because this is how races should be. You always leave us with something positive."

*The next race will commence in November 2009. Over 200 cyclists from the U.S. and Colombia are expected to participate.*

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Colombian Olympic competitor Kennedy Jácome, front center, races with a smile.



Hector Martinez, left, and Kennedy Jácome, right, receive congratulations after the competition.



A race participant journeys on one of the many newly paved roads across the country. Areas once dangerous due to guerrilla fighters and drug traffickers are now safe for those traveling to share the Gospel of Christ.

## Live Webcast of 20th Annual Calvary Chapel Men's Conference

**Saturday—October 24  
Anaheim Convention Center**

Pastors and leaders are encouraged to gather men together and host a mini-conference at their own churches using the live webcast. Speakers will include Chuck Smith, Brian Brodersen, David Rosales, Raul Ries, Pancho Juarez, Dave Rolph, Pedro Garcia, Jack Hibbs, Don Stewart, Tony Clark, Lance Cook, Michael Smith, and Greg Laurie.

The theme will be spiritual warfare and the armor of God. The conference will be structured around Paul's exhortation in Ephesians 6 to "be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might" (Ephesians 6:10). Topics will include unmasking the enemy's schemes, thinking with a biblical worldview, the power of a holy life, the authority of Scripture, and prayer. Men will be challenged to make proclaiming Christ their primary objective and to take up the sword of the Spirit as they seek to stand in the evil day.

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Pastor Chuck Smith of CC Costa Mesa will host the upcoming 20th annual Calvary Chapel Men's Conference.

# Coalition of CC Churches Brings Message of Grace to Montreal

Story by Carol Savage  
Photos by George Small

A team of believers presented LifeFest—a free, Christ-honoring evangelistic park outreach—to the people of Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Calvary Chapel churches from the north-east U.S. joined CC Montreal Regeneration in serving the bilingual French and English community. They brought the message of free salvation through faith in Jesus into a place which has “never seen reformation or revival,” according to Pastor George Small of Horizon Christian Fellowship in Fitchburg, MA. For the past three years, the event has drawn large crowds that heard of God’s love through praise music and individual evangelism. Over 500 people attended this year and several made professions of faith. A number of families began attending CC Montreal Regeneration afterwards.

A team of 30 believers from different Calvary Chapels put on the festival, which included free food, live music, balloons, clowns,



Ada Radulescu of Horizon Christian Fellowship makes a balloon for a child.

games, and moon bounces. Although most team members spoke English, some French as well as English Gospel literature was available, and the CC Montreal worship team shared some praise songs in French.

George, who was born in France and has a vision to reach French-speaking peoples, described the reaction of the locals, “They were impressed that everything was free. One man asked if he could give money, and we told him that he couldn’t.” He said that the area had a history of works-based religion, which had then been rejected and replaced with complete secularism. George added, “Initially, it was tough to get a permit. But then, as the outreach has grown each year, the park city officials now appear excited about it.”

Everything at LifeFest was free. This provided an opportunity for believers to share that salvation is also a free gift to be accepted by faith. Three churches sent people to participate in the outreach: CC Seacoast in Stratham, NH; Lighthouse Christian Fellowship in Bedford, NH; and Horizon Christian Fellowship in Fitchburg, MA.

## Horizon Christian Fellowship Fitchburg, MA

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# “Jesus Loves You Wahiawa”—Small Church is Used in a Big Way

Story by Carol Savage  
Photos by Tina Mueller



Children respond to the Gospel message following a karate demonstration.

CC Wahiawa invited the “Jesus Loves You” ministry to their neighborhood north of Honolulu, which is known for a high rate of homelessness. Six hundred volunteers from Calvary Chapels throughout Hawaii supplied those in need with material necessities while introducing them to the only One who could secure their eternal provision.

“People there are living on the beach, priced out of the housing market,” explained Pastor Francis Kamahale of Horizon Christian Fellowship, Honolulu, HI. His church was the birthplace of the “Jesus Loves You” ministry three years ago. It is a Calvary Chapel-affiliated church, with about 25 attendees. “Our church is small; our God is big,” said Francis. Their most recently coordinated event, “Jesus Loves You Wahiawa,” was held May 9-16 and drew over 1,500 people. The outreach was multifaceted, including a complimentary dinner and Christian concert one evening and a free carnival the next day.



Mike Villoria uses illusion and compares it to the truth we have in Christ.

The Gospel was presented creatively as free food, clothing, and other necessities were also provided to needy families. According to Francis, many in attendance made professions of faith in Jesus Christ.

Francis spoke to two women who admitted that they had not been in a church in a long time. He told them that Jesus loved them. Later, when an invitation to receive Jesus was given, the two women were the first to come forward to receive Christ. “Their countenances had changed, and they were filled with joy,” Francis related. Before the altar call, Francis gave a message from the Book of John.

The carnival was punctuated with three breaks, during which all were invited to come to the presentation tent to hear the Good News in unique ways—jump-rope artists, a karate demonstration, and an illusionist all served to show the need for salvation through Jesus Christ. Teams shared the Gospel as they mingled in the crowd or manned a prayer tent. Francis added, “Discipleship is as important to us as evangelism.” He and the other “Jesus Loves You” organizers followed up with those who responded to the Gospel message to connect them to local congregations.

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The “Jesus Loves You Wahiawa” follow-up team distributes new believer’s packets to children after the altar call.



Volunteers pray for individuals who come to the prayer tent.



Pastor Alan Leigh of CC Wahiawa prays for the needs of a brother in Christ.

# Believers Bring God's Light into Darkness in Israel

Story by Carol Savage  
Photo by Karen Koczman



Team member Holly Nelson, right, prays with a woman who attended the conference.

Many Russian girls, some as young as their mid-teens, are being trafficked into Tel Aviv, Israel, every year and exploited. Debbi Bryson learned of this nine months ago through the Calvary Chapel Church Planting Mission that her husband, George, and she founded in 1991 and still lead. Located in Oceanside, CA, the ministry focuses on planting new churches in Russia.

Debbi felt a burden for these girls, and God placed it on her heart to act. Debbi recalled, "I didn't know what to do or who would go with me—I just knew that I had to go." Debbi organized a conference in coordination with Pat Apple of CC Tel Aviv to help reach the exploited Russian girls, homeless

women, and others in Israel with the Good News. A team composed of 21 women from Calvary Chapels all over the United States met with Debbi to help plan and implement the outreach.

The event, which happened on February 21 in Tel Aviv, featured Debbi, Holly Nelson, and Christy Duff, who is the daughter of Pastor Steven and Pat Apple of CC Tel Aviv. The speakers shared insights on Isaiah 61, a Bible passage that talks about God giving His people "Beauty for Ashes"—the theme of the conference. Vocalist Sherri Youngward presented interludes of praise and worship throughout the event. Women who attended were also treated to manicures, craft activities, and plentiful food.

Before the conference, a disastrous situation occurred which ended up reaching a Jewish woman in an unusual way that vibrantly demonstrated the conference's scriptural theme. Debbi had printed thousands of cards in four languages to be used as invitations to the conference. The team was planning to hand them out in Tel Aviv. The vehicle in which the cards were being stored was burglarized and the bag containing the invitations was stolen. Debbi called for an emergency prayer meeting. One of those present prayed that the invitations

would be discarded, and then be found by someone who would attend the conference as a result. Later, the invitations were discovered to have been dumped a half-hour's walk from the conference location. A Jewish Israeli woman who lived in that area found the invitations and, enticed by the prospect of a free manicure, walked the entire way to the conference. At the event, she heard the Gospel and learned about salvation in Jesus the Messiah.

Of women's motives for attending the outreach, Debbi related, "Some were there for the manicures, but some were there with big life questions." All were able to hear of Jesus' power to redeem lives of sin and transform them into lives of spiritual beauty. As a consequence of Debbi's obedience, many women heard the truth about Christ at the conference, and some chose to receive Him as Lord and Savior.

## Calvary Chapel Church Planting Mission

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## CCBCE in Vajta, Hungary, to Receive Accreditation

The leaders at Calvary Chapel Bible College Europe (CCBCE), located in Vajta, Hungary, investigated the country's accreditation policies. Without accreditation, Hungarian students could not stay within the country's care system to keep their retirement and health benefits. Even with this being the case, there were about 20 full-time Hungarian students each semester.

A year ago at CC Budapest, a couple asked for prayer for their son who had been severely burned in a barbecuing accident.

The wife had previously attended the church and had given her life to Christ. The husband was not a believer. Within a week the lad was released from the hospital. Much to the doctor's surprise, he was healed. The couple saw this as God's work and they have both been attending church ever since.

A short time later, the husband asked why the school in Vajta had not been accredited. Explaining that attempts had been unsuccessful, the man then introduced himself

as the Under Secretary of Culture and Education in Hungary.

His offer of help enabled the Bible college staff to weave through the intricacies of the country's legal system. The State does not tell religious schools what to teach; instead, it looks at what is being taught, and holds that school to the program already in place. Once approved, CCBCE will be a European Union accredited university offering a BA in Theology.