

# Answering The Call

## Calvary Chapel Broomfield, CO

CC Broomfield

Through music and practical demonstrations of Christ's love, this small Denver-area church pastored by a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee reaches believers and nonbelievers alike.



Richie Furay, left, senior pastor of CC Broomfield, CO, and Kit Cushenberry share a laugh during a midweek potluck and Bible study fellowship. Richie had been a member of several internationally-acclaimed rock bands in the late '60s and early '70s.

Story by Debra Smith  
Photos by Geraldine Wilkins

Pastor Richie Furay and Scott Sellen of Calvary Chapel Broomfield, CO, strummed the last chord. As the two turned to exit the stage at California's Orange County Fair, they heard a voice call out: "Scott Sellen, Woodbury High, 1969." Puzzled, they looked over to see a former classmate of Scott's walking toward him. Scott, worship leader at CC Broomfield, was astonished—"This was 30 years and 3,000 miles later," he said. The irony grew as he remembered, "Back in high school, this girl used to bring magazines of rock-and-roll stars to school. One of her favorites was Richie Furay." That was long before Richie and Scott had met; on this day, they had been playing together for more than 20 years.

Scott introduced his old friend to Richie, and the three chatted for a while. Shortly afterward, the woman emailed Scott. "She said she didn't know what it was," he explained, "but that something seemed different about me, and something about



CC Broomfield is located 16 miles north of Denver, CO. The church began in Boulder, CO, but relocated because most congregants were from northwest Denver suburbs.

Richie surprised her. So she got on Richie's website, read his biography, and learned we had become Christians. She and her husband were believers who had strayed from the Lord, but after reading how God had changed Richie's life, they got down on their knees, rededicated their lives to the Lord, and started going to church again."

### California Rock Star to Colorado Pastor

When Richie and others formed CC Broomfield in 1983, he was not expecting to continue playing music. But neither had he been expecting, as a 1970s rock star, to ever become a pastor—or even a follower of Christ.



The church body at CC Broomfield prays before its weekly dinner together. The believers gather once a week for a meal, fellowship, worship and to study God's Word. The church has retained its intimate character through its nearly 28 years of ministry.

Richie's musical portfolio includes spots in popular bands such as Buffalo Springfield and Poco. He and friends formed the Souther-Hillman-Furay Band in 1974, and they soon debated about inviting multi-instrumentalist Al Perkins to join. Richie was hesitant—having a Christian on board unsettled him. "Al had this little fish on his guitar," said Richie, "and I was afraid he would ruin it for all of us." But Al's easygoing personality and musical ability prevailed, and once in the band, he surprised Richie by revealing solid, historical reasons to believe in Jesus. Al introduced the topic with a tape recording of Pastor Chuck Smith explaining how Jesus was foretold, hundreds of years before His birth, in the Old Testament. Before long, the need in Richie's life became louder than his resistance: Richie turned to Jesus.



Believers worship during a midweek service after finishing a meal together.

Richie's early Christian growth occurred mostly in California, where he eagerly absorbed the Bible teaching at CC Costa Mesa and was discipled by several Christian musicians. He and his wife Nancy were separated and on the verge of divorce, but they eventually reconciled, and he joined her in Colorado. Both believers now, the couple began looking for Bible teaching like Richie had enjoyed in California. They were enthusiastic when a neighbor started a home Bible study, but it lacked strong leadership. So Richie bought a few commentaries and began to share the insights he gained. The study grew, and Richie discovered he had a gift for teaching.



Richie leads worship. A member of Buffalo Springfield, a band inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997, Richie now plays music to glorify God.

### Strength in a Small Package

After nearly a decade of Bible study, the group morphed into a church in 1983. The fellowship quickly grew to a few hundred. Then the growth plateaued, and CC Broomfield has remained about the same size for more than two decades. "We're a small church, but the Lord is working through us in unique ways," said volunteer Associate Pastor David Aragon. "In this era of megachurches, we spent a number of years anticipating that maybe the Lord would use us in that way. But over time, we've come to appreciate who we are."

CC Broomfield participant and auto mechanic Ed Hitt came to the Lord as an adult. Soon after asking God how he could use his skills to serve Him, he began to repair vehicles—free of labor charges—for single parents, older individuals, or anyone in financial need. "The church saw what a

great outreach this was," said David, so CC Broomfield began to fund or subsidize the parts needed. People in the church and even the community noticed. Some auto stores began discounting Ed's purchases, and church members have donated vehicles to be tuned up by Ed and then given to families needing transportation.

***For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name,***

***in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.*** Hebrews 6:10

CC Broomfield has also been instrumental in the planting of several area churches, among them CC Nederland. In the early days of the Bible study, a participant named Doug Gibney was fighting drug addiction. One day Doug became so discouraged that he was ready to end it all. He had a pistol in his mouth when a favorite phrase of Richie's suddenly crossed his mind: "If God made



Richie enjoys spending one-on-one time with congregants during the midweek fellowship meal before Bible study.

you, God can fix you." Doug jerked the gun out of his mouth. He soon gave his life to the Lord, and eventually, he founded CC Nederland in the very community where Richie had first conducted the Bible study.

### The Richie Furay Band

For more than a decade, Richie laid aside music to focus full time on his flock. Then in 1996, encouraged by the church's worship leader, Scott Sellen, to begin performing again, Richie picked up his guitar. The two have added family members and friends to the band for a distinctive sound, and today, the Richie Furay Band both leads worship in churches and plays in secular venues—giving CC Broomfield a unique means of interacting with the world. "We look at the band as an extension of the church," said Scott. "We let the body know that when we go out there to play, we can't go alone; we need

their prayers and support. We view it as a ministry, even in the secular arena, because of the opportunities to talk to people after shows. We meet people and engage them in conversation, and we get to share our lives and our faith."

The unique draw of having a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee as pastor leads to unusual ministry opportunities, Scott said. People are frequently attracted to CC Broomfield simply because of Richie's earlier musical fame, and some of these visitors have come to know Christ as Lord and Savior. Additionally, he believes that through the band, CC Broomfield has been able to carry the name of God into places where there are people in need of Him who might never enter a church. Going out like this reminds him of Isaiah's response to God's call so many centuries before: "Also I

heard the voice of the Lord, saying: 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me'" (Isaiah 6:8).

**CC Broomfield, CO**  
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Richie, second from left, in his Buffalo Springfield days.

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