



# THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

Story by Ron Nordyke  
Photos by Jason Joseph

## Calvary Chapel Men's Conference Addresses Spiritual Warfare and Broken Lives

Men started coming down the aisles toward the stage. Some sprang out of their chairs like sprinters charging out of their starting blocks. Others watched, found comfort in the hundreds going forward, and stood, beginning a journey to free themselves from the enemy's grip on their lives.

Barely a quarter of the way through the men's conference, Pastor Greg Laurie had asked those who wanted to give their lives to Christ to come forward. He also asked men who had previously dedicated their lives but had walked away from the Lord to join them. Having just finished teaching on having your feet shod with the Gospel, Greg prayed a prayer of salvation and rededication for the throng that had made their way to the front—a few with tears in their eyes, some young, many middle-aged, and all

very serious. The 430 men were then led into a room set aside for counseling. There they poured out their struggles and prayed for the Lord's help in their battles.

"All day long we had people coming into the prayer area, and not just after the altar call," said James Kissinger of CC Costa Mesa (CCCM). "We always had 20 to 30 men praying together or receiving counsel—every one of them a divine appointment." One of the pastors in charge of the event, Bob Wolfe of CCCM, commented, "This event gave men a place to pour out their hearts in praise and to confess their sins among men who will not judge but will pray for them."

Quoting 2 Corinthians 5:18-20, James told them that Christians have been given the



Counselors, right, pray with some of the men who came forward. Each man was encouraged to attend a Bible-teaching church and study God's Word.



The Anaheim Convention Center is packed to maximum capacity for the event.

message of reconciliation. He explained, "Our message to the men was to be reconciled to God and to come together. That's the heart of the ministry. And we reminded them that they're not the only ones to experience failure. The things they're experiencing are common to every man."

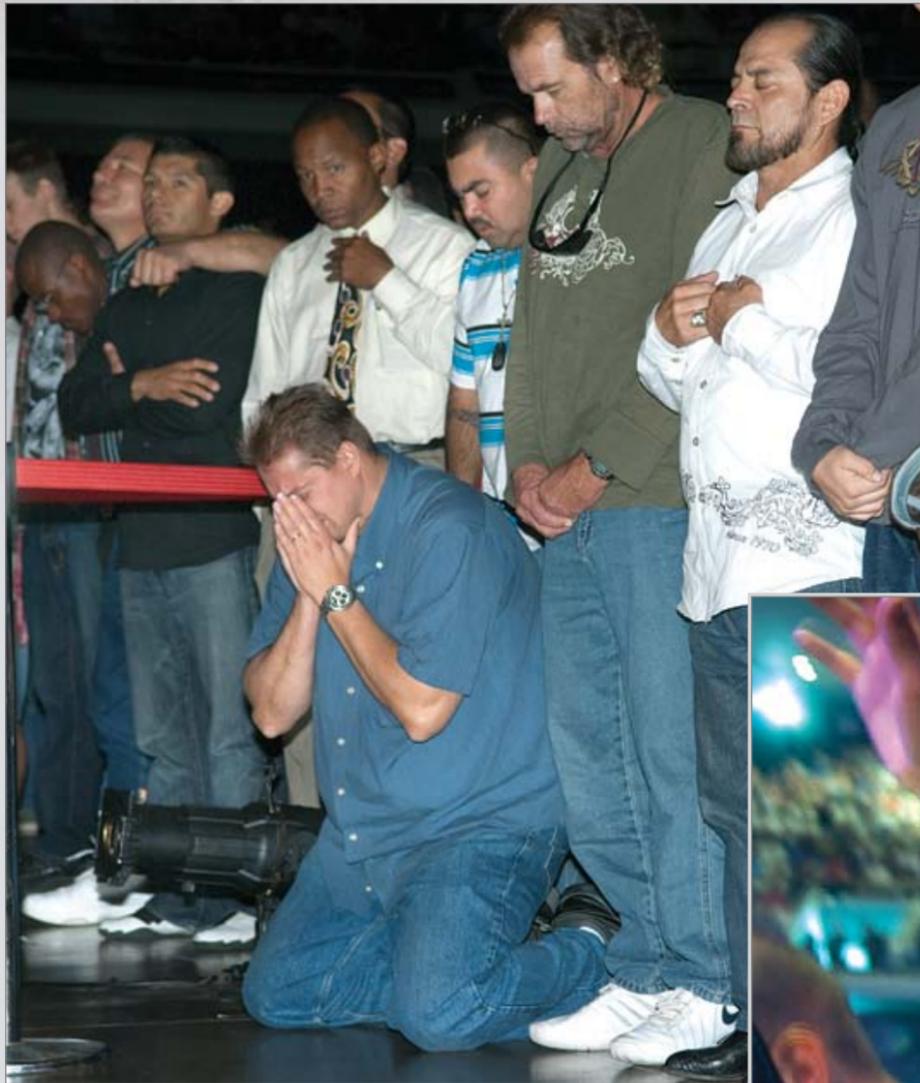
With spiritual warfare as the primary topic, each of 12 Calvary pastors addressed a different portion of Ephesians 6:12-18. In verse 12, the apostle Paul reminds Christians that "we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

Held on October 24 at the Anaheim Convention Center in CA, the CC Men's Conference began with opening words from Pastor Chuck Smith, who then led an estimated 12,000 men in prayer. Event leaders estimated that more than 50,000 people watched the live telecast on the Internet.

Dave Eason of CCCM helped oversee the conference. He said that unprecedented economic problems have brought stress to marriages and family relationships. In some cases, he added, the economic downturn has brought underlying problems to the surface. Therefore, the conference leadership felt God was calling them to help men understand and wage the unseen spiritual battle raging behind their circumstances. "I believe that the Lord gave us the topic for this conference," Dave Eason said. "He wants us to equip men on how to stand during this hard time in our nation and to realize that we can't do it in our own strength—we can only do it in the power of His might."

Many of the volunteers, such as Pastor Jake Harman of CCCM, related that there was a spirit of brokenness in the men who sought prayer and counseling. "The men who came forward were all in the same place where they're admitting 'I need Jesus. I know things aren't right in my life, and I need to get it right.'"

James Kissinger, who directed the counseling area, added that he believes the Holy Spirit further demonstrated His power by even orchestrating the number of chairs set aside for prayer and counseling. "We had



Emotions are felt as men pray along with Pastor Greg Laurie during an altar call to accept Jesus as their Savior.



Pastor Chuck Smith, right, of CC Costa Mesa, sings with Dennis Agajanian.

500 chairs in the prayer area: 430 guys came for prayer and we had 60 counselors on hand. He knew every appointment; He knew every counselor who was going to talk with these guys and every word that was said."

The gathering featured worship music by Scott Cunningham and Dennis Agajanian. DVDs of the day's teachings are available through Calvary Distribution. ↵

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### Celebrating 20 Years

The roots of the Men's Conference go back 20 years, when a dozen laymen at CCCM felt God was calling them to address the rising number of divorces and related problems in Christian homes. After several months of prayer and preparation—and the blessing of Pastor Chuck Smith—the first conference drew more than 9,000 men to the Anaheim

Convention Center on December 9, 1989. Since then, every conference, with the exception of the 1990 event, has been held there.

As one of the original founders, Dave Eason of CCCM said the challenges facing Christian men have not changed, and it is the consistency of the conference in

addressing these matters that brings men back every year.

"We've had no less than 300 to 500 guys at each event who accept Christ for the first time, or rededicate their lives to Him," said Dave, who still helps to oversee the all-volunteer staff. "This really confirms that the Lord wants this ministry to continue."



Men are encouraged to step forward in faith and go out in power as they recommit their lives to Christ during the closing prayer. Speakers taught on the sixth chapter of Ephesians, concentrating on the spiritual warfare in each man's life.