

SCANDINAVIA CONFERENCE

Story by Carol Savage
Photos by Annette Kotsay-Osen, Daniel Ornelas,
Pat Carpenter, and Yuri Makassiouk

Further Kingdom Planting in Frozen Soil

Last August, four Scandinavian Calvary Chapel pastors and leaders brought a Bible conference to Ekebyholm Castle outside of Stockholm, Sweden. This was the tenth annual conference, which drew over 140 attendees this year—128 adults and 18 children. The vision for the event was “to edify, encourage, and equip those believers who either serve actively in CC-related ministries in Scandinavia or prayerfully wait for such a ministry to be planted in their home region,” said Theis Broegger, leader of a Bible study in Aarhus, Denmark. Theis explained, “Scandinavia is a tough place to minister. The spiritual soil is frozen here.” According to Theis, “The biggest problem among the born-again believers seems to be a lack of exposure to solid Bible teaching.” Sound biblical teaching was presented to fill this dire need in the local body of believers.

Theis stated that the spiritual climate in Scandinavia is bleak. “If they do believe in a ‘god,’ it’s usually not the One Who has made Himself known in Scripture. The opinion that all religions are equally valid and true is becoming widely adopted.” He elaborated, “In many ways, Scandinavia can be compared to the condition of Israel in the day when Jesus Christ began His public ministry. The faith of their forefathers had slowly faded into a shallow religious culture, where people prided themselves on their ‘heritage’ rather than in a personal relationship to God. And just like God was able to reach out to those people and convince many of their need for Him, so He is able to do it again today in Scandinavia.”

Although the main focus of the four-day meeting was to strengthen believers in the faith, some who attended brought along unsaved family members who “received prayer and generally seemed to be very touched by seeing God’s love flow freely among His people,” said Theis. Calvary pas-

tors taught 11 sessions from the Book of Romans on topics such as peace with God, freedom from the law, and living in this world without conforming to it.

Out of the difficult milieu of Scandinavia, the idea for a conference to reinforce the fellowship and faith of believers in the area was born. The first conference, held in Sweden in 1999, was arranged by CC Malmo, Sweden. The conferences started with few participants, but attendance grew over the years, while the location changed to Denmark and then back to Sweden. This year, the conference was organized by Pastor Bob Pecoraro of CC Turku/Helsinki, Joel Wickstrom, leader of Calvary Stockholm, Daniel Jacobsen (leader of a Bible study in Hillerod, Denmark), and Theis.

“To me, this year’s conference was a wonderful snapshot of the fresh work God is doing in Scandinavia. The hunger for the Word and the passion for fellowship demonstrated caused me to believe that God is going to do a wonderful work in these decidedly post-Christian nations,” commented Pastor Nate Holdridge on Calvary Scandinavia’s blog.

Theis added, “We were anticipating that many people from Denmark, southern Sweden, and the rest of Europe might stay home due to the longer journey to Sweden and the subsequent higher cost. But after only a few weeks after announcing the



Joel Wickstrom, left, prays for David Alm from the Stockholm fellowship.



Conference participants relax on the stairs at Ekebyholm Castle outside of Stockholm, Sweden, at the tenth annual Scandinavian Calvary Chapel conference.

conference, people were signing up in record numbers, doubling the previous year’s attendance, and the four of us were amazed at how God was stirring people to come.”

Next conference: Ekebyholm Castle August 4-8, 2010

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Jonas Palvig and Pastor Cartie Carpenter worship the Lord.



Brenten Powers, American missionary to Latvia, left, leads the worship team in prayer before a session.



Conference participants walk through the park leading up to Ekebyholm Castle after a teaching session.

Kearny Block Party

Story by Carol Savage
Photos by William Laohoo



Bonnie Corsia, a professional clown who attends CC Kearny, NJ, uses Bible stories and illusions to minister to children at last July's block party.



Janet Herket, "Rudy the Clown," shares the Gospel with children.

After city leaders allowed a Calvary Chapel in New Jersey to host a Fourth of July event, many in the community responded to the Gospel. The believers of CC Kearny hosted a large-scale block party, proclaiming the Good News of Jesus while providing free food, music, and fun this past July. More than 500 people attended, with several people professing to receive Jesus as Savior during the day and many others recommitting their lives to Him. And in the words of Pastor Luis Solis, CC Kearny's second service has been "maxed out" since the event.

Three years ago, Luis sensed the Lord leading the church to plan an Independence Day outreach. A year later, doors opened for his fellowship to do so when a believer who worked for the mayor decided to authorize CC Kearny to direct the event. This year's block party was geared to reach as many locals as possible, using Latin music to

attract attendees. "The music drew people out of the woodwork," said Luis.

Three pastors took turns presenting the Good News of eternal life in Jesus. Pastors Charlie DiLorenzo of a Calvary fellowship in Binghamton, NY, and George Hillman of CC Montclair, NJ, preached the Gospel in English. Heber Ramos, a non-denominational evangelical pastor from Cuba, shared in Spanish. Other believers related stories throughout the day of how Jesus changed their lives. Stories about God's grace were well-received, as many of the area's residents came from backgrounds in which salvation is said to be earned, not given as a free gift through faith in Jesus Christ.

After one of the testimonies, many people came forward to receive prayer for various needs. "Tears were shed," said Paul Cardillo, assistant pastor of CC Kearny. "God brought



CC Kearny's assistant pastor, Paul Cardillo, right, prays with residents of the fellowship's neighborhood during the Fourth of July bash.

them to a point where they knew they needed a change in their lives, to get back to a right place with Him."

The Bible teaching was interspersed with music provided by Musicians for Christ and three worship teams. Clown acts also drew crowds to the stage, where they could hear the all-important message of God's grace.

CC Kearny, NJ

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SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS:

Ministry Submission Guide:

Send us a summary of your local outreach, mission trip, or other fruitful ministry in Microsoft Word format, 300 words or less. Email or send original JPEG or TIFF files at least 2.0 megabytes in size.

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Bible College is Accredited



The Calvary Chapel Bible College Europe campus is a historic property that lies two hours south of Budapest, Hungary. *file photo by Tom Price*

A "Bachelor of Arts in Theology" degree is now offered at Calvary Chapel Bible College Europe (CCBCE), located in Vajta, Hungary. Pastor Chuck Smith, CC Costa Mesa, commented, "Without having to change any of our curriculum standards, students can come and receive the same emphasis in biblical discipleship that we have always offered, and in addition, now receive a bachelor's degree that has been accredited by the Ministry of Education and Culture in the Republic of Hungary, a member of the European Higher Education Area."



Pastor Phil Metzger

Phil Metzger is pastor and director of CCBCE. He commented, "On a practical level we will continue to disciple young men and women in the name of Jesus Christ. But now there is the added benefit of a European Union recognized degree that allows for entry into a country as a missionary where a degree is required, possible health insurance benefits, and potential scholarships. And it will benefit Hungarian students who previously

could not retain their health benefits while attending the Bible College."

Pastor Paul Lange from CCBCE emphasized, "The school will continue to be discipleship-based with the added benefit of offering a bachelor's degree while keeping our identity as a Bible-based curriculum." The accredited bachelor's degree is a six-semester program. The first four semesters are the same as the current CCBCE curriculum. A fifth semester of additional classes is required. This fifth semester would look much the same as the previous four semesters. Students will take more Bible classes, plus some spiritual leadership classes. For the sixth semester, the student is required to write a thesis. Three options are now offered for students: the one-year Missions Training Program, the current two-year Bible College program, and now in addition to these, the new three-year Bachelor in Theology degree.

CCBCE

www.ccbce.com/degree
ccbce@ccbce.com
714-716-8143, ext. 505 in U.S.

Certified Teachers Needed

Calvary Christian Academy (CCA) Vajta, Hungary, needs certified teachers with experience and a heart for missions. Located in central Hungary, the school is a support ministry for the missionaries who serve at the Calvary Chapel Bible College Europe and Conference Center. CCA Vajta cares for the children of these missionaries and provides them with quality education. The vision of CCA Vajta is to make disciples through a biblical school environment that

prepares students to glorify God spiritually, academically, and socially. The school's goal is to teach high-level academics while the students learn the heart of Jesus and gain a greater knowledge and love of the Word of God.

<http://www.cca.golgota.hu/>
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Message shared in Kenya, Africa

Story by Carol Savage
Photos by Isabel Hill



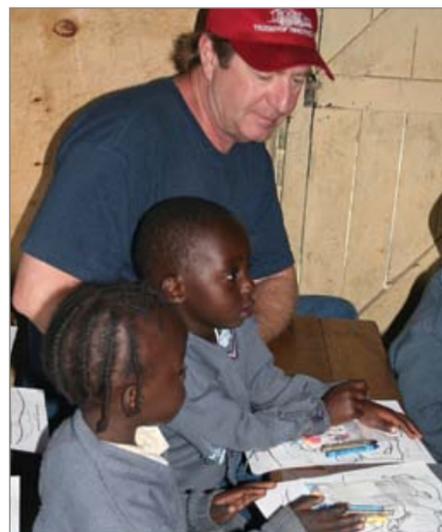
An African woman carries away a bag of corn flour given to her by the CC High Desert team. Over 500 ten-kilo bags of corn flour were donated to needy families in Nairobi, Kenya during this past trip by the California believers.

Redirected Mission Brings the Good News to Nairobi, Kenya

On their first overseas mission trip in 2007, believers from CC High Desert (CCHD),

Hesperia, CA, traveled to a country other than the one they'd first planned to reach. Now, after their third trip to Nairobi, Kenya, Africa, this past April, believers have seen the work grow in variety and scope; famine

relief and biblical training have been added to their initial outreach to impoverished families. Many hearts have been turned toward Christ as a result.



Mark Kuhn of CC High Desert ministers to children at a slum school in Kenya.



Kenyans gather to hear the Word of God from CC Bible College students as the CC High Desert teams prepare for food distribution.



Africa Inland Church choir members participate in an outreach with CC High Desert and CC Nairobi.

"We had originally planned to travel to Guinea ... but the door closed due to political problems," said Brian DuPont, Missions Pastor of CCHD. "It was the Lord's hand redirecting us. So we got in contact with

Wes Bentley of Far Reaching Ministries, who helped us reach out to children who live in a Kibera slum."

Kibera is home to over 600,000 people on the outskirts of Nairobi. The team was able to assist CC Nairobi Pastor Dave Zavala and others on several outreaches to schools in the slum. They were able to bond with some of the children through school ministries. As relationships developed, the children voluntarily brought their prayer requests to the American missionaries.

The following year, the team returned with a biblical counseling training seminar. In 2009, this was attended by over 200 Kenyans. On their most recent trip, the team of six from CCHD and students from CC Bible College Nairobi, distributed emergency food and care packages for churches in Nairobi, providing mosquito netting,

flip-flops, and English and Swahili Bibles. Then, they helped publicize a "Freedom in Christ Concert," attended by over 300, with over 90 people responding to Christ.

All three years, CCHD believers visited Kibera families' homes with the Gospel message. Sarah Haselton, a teen who was part of the CCHD team, said, "During one of our home visits, I got the opportunity to visit a woman by the name of Helen. Her husband was an alcoholic. Helen introduced us to him, and we got to pray with him. The Lord had divinely appointed Helen's husband to cross our path so that we could be a witness for Christ to him."

CC High Desert, Hesperia, CA

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Good News

Calvary Calendar 2010

Month	Dates	Event/Church
March	8-10	Southwest Conference CC Tucson, AZ
	22-24	High Sierra Conference CC Carson Valley, NV
April	22-24	Great Lakes Conference CC Appleton, WI
May	24-26	East Coast Pastors Conference CC Philadelphia, PA
June	7-10	Senior Pastors Conference Murrieta Conference Center, CA

Month	Dates	Event/Church
July	24-28	Pastor and Leader Conference CC Honolulu, HI
September	13-15	North and Central CA Conference CC Visalia, CA
	27-29	Northeast Conference CC Finger Lakes, NY
October	11-13	Midwest Conference CC Crawfordsville, IN
November	4-6	Texas/Oklahoma Conference CC Houston, TX

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