

Sharing Christ at Street Painting Festival

Story by Carol Savage
Photos by John York



John Henry, right, of CC Boynton Beach, FL, discusses a Gospel tract with an attendee at the Lake Worth Street Painting Festival. John explained that no matter what a person is going through in life, Jesus will help all who ask Him.

When Mike Olive of CC Boynton Beach, FL (CCBB), brought his family to the Lake Worth Street Painting Festival in 2008, he was struck by the creativity he saw—and the sheer number of people present. There were more than 200,000 attendees over the course of the weekend. He and his wife, Kelly, longed to reach out to the crowds with the Good News about Jesus. So the following year, they and a handful of others from their fellowship returned to the festival to share Gospel literature with all who would accept it. A year later, at the most recent street festival held this past February, the outreach team had grown to over 300 participants. Volunteers from CCBB and Palm

Beach Atlantic University, a local Christian college, shared through music, literature, and free face painting. The teams were able to pray with dozens of people while 17 of those contacted responded by placing their faith in Jesus.

The Calvary contingent set up a prayer table in front of a coffee house located in the festival's center. The table served as a meeting place for the ministry members, who went out in different directions to share the love of their Savior. Four different worship teams wandered throughout the grounds, sharing Christian music, while others handed out Gospel tracts. The teams doing the face

painting were “so good, people were surprised it was free!” in Mike’s words.

“When I first began handing out tracts, I didn’t really think that people would receive them well, but it was a way to open the door to conversations,” said Tricia Herriger, one of the CCBB believers. “My favorite part was the ‘Need Prayer?’ table. Just by being there and available, we were able to pray with many, from a lady with cancer to some with financial needs.”

“For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds,” says the LORD. Jeremiah 30:17a

Mother and daughter Mimi and Tirsia Dominguez explained that they were able to see God at work while they were face painting. “I asked one lady, who looked about 75, if she would like me to paint her face,” Mimi recalled. “She said, ‘No, I’m too old.’ I told her that she wasn’t, and then painted a flower on her face. As she sat, I was able to share Christ with her, and she left with such joy.” Tirsia recounted, “I was able to talk to a lady who began to tell me about the hard life she has had. As I listened and painted her face, the woman began to smile. When she left, she thanked us for showing her the love of Jesus.”

There were two days of prayer and training for volunteers before the outreach. Since then, there has been a weekly Bible study for new believers. The study is attended by 14 people who received Christ during CCBB’s festival outreach. Mike and two other pastors take turns teaching verse-by-verse through the Book of John.

“This outreach showed that Jesus uses regular people, just being themselves in Him, to spread the Gospel,” concluded Mike.

CC Boynton Beach, FL
<http://calvaryboynton.com>
lorymarse@calvarychapel.com
561-304-1449



Veronica Sanchez shares her face painting talents and the Gospel.



Charro Wilson, left, explains the hope found in a relationship with Christ.



Team members who had returned to the church’s booth to be resupplied with tracts pray for people’s salvation before venturing back into the crowd.

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