

“The hills are alive with the sound of music” (From ‘The Sound of Music’)
Christian music, that is. And the sound of fervent prayer, Bible teaching, and a lot of good-natured laughter...

A fairy-tale castle looms over a mountain lake in Austria’s southern corner of the Alps. Calvary Chapel Bible College students seek the Lord from one of its 15 windows in the circular prayer tower. Others enjoy their Bible lessons in the early spring warmth outside, as a brilliant sunset diffuses to the west. The dream is becoming a reality for Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa and its Pastor, Chuck Smith, as they extend their work into Europe.

“Our heart’s desire is to reach Europe for Christ,” said Rod Thompson, Castle Director and Calvary Chapel’s pastor of the nearby church.

“Everything we do here is headed toward that goal,” he said.
“We see the ministry at the castle as our bridge into Europe.”



Bible students Nicole Fish and Celia Brunenkant enjoy time together on the Castle steps, overlooking Lake Millstatt.

COLLEGE IN A CASTLE



Calvary Chapel Bible College in the Castle at Millstatt.

The Calvary Chapel Bible College Europe (CCBCE) was created not only as a link into Europe, but as a training ground for young missionaries—American and European. Thompson explains how communism had left a void in the hearts of the people in Eastern Europe. In the west, dead traditionalism and liberal theology created a hunger for the true Gospel. Europe, which often seems spiritually dead, is ready for the truth of God’s Word and a fresh move of the Holy Spirit.

Photography and Story: Tom Price, CCMM staff

Speaking with boldness

Vicky Hill hiked to the top of the mountain behind the castle as dawn broke through the brisk spring morning. The second semester student, a native Californian, considers this a special time with the Lord.

Sitting on a jagged rock edge, overlooking a 500-foot cascading waterfall, Hill read aloud from the Psalms. She released a deep sigh as she scanned the breathtaking vista.

Just the night before, Hill had shared her triumphs and fears during ‘Koinonia,’ a special time of fellowship among the student body. Several of her classmates had come forward to give testimonies about the Lord’s work in their lives. Hill’s voice faltered slightly as she began to share how God gave her the courage to witness.

“Last night I was nervous when I began sharing,” said Hill.

“But the Lord calmed me and allowed me to speak from my heart.

I am so thankful that God has given me the grace to be open with people about my relationship with Jesus.

Study to show thyself approved

Before I came to the Castle, I wasn’t able to do that.”

“Being at the Bible College is like being in a ‘spiritual bubble,’ said 25-year-old Arpod Horvath Kavay, a Hungarian native. A bout with cancer years before and a miraculous recovery led him to dedicate his life to the Lord.

“Here there are so many people around you; to help pray with you, bear your burdens, and encourage you when you are troubled,” said Kavay.

He is one of three interns chosen from last semester’s class to be on the Bible College staff while continuing his studies. The Bible College feels it is vitally important to raise up the country’s nationals to be pastors and leaders, especially those with a heart for missions. Occasionally the college will help with the normal \$2,300 semester tuition, which includes room and board.

“At the Bible College we can focus on practicing our gifts under experienced missionary pastors,” said Kavay. He believes being at the Castle is a “mountain-top” experience, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Both have married Europeans and each has two children.

A Refuge

Calvary purchased the castle in 1988 to minister to Eastern European pastors. Since communism still ruled at that time, Costa Mesa's goal was to provide a safe haven for pastors behind the "Iron Curtain." At the Castle, built in 1912, they could be encouraged and trained to be more effective in their ministries.

After communism fell, missionaries were free to go into these countries and preach the gospel. The Castle still remains a refuge for pastors and missionaries, a place of physical and spiritual rest from their demanding lives, while doing double-duty as a Bible College.

The 70 students learn to take responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the Castle. They rotate kitchen duties as well as child care of the Castle staff's young

Both Kavay and Hill expressed a keen awareness of the trials or "valleys" that are certain to come. Their time at the Bible College will be one of the Lord's "songs" of His comfort in the "nights" to come. Psalm 77

"Before I came to the Bible College I sincerely wanted to be someone important," said Kavay. Now I've learned how important it is just to serve and be nobody for Christ."

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

Developing a servant's heart is one main theme stressed at the college, according to Castle Director Thompson.

Later that day, Thompson and Paul Lange, the Bible College director, would do their part to serve. After teaching their daily classes, both administrators would change into work clothes and help a construction crew visiting from Horizon Church in San Diego, a Calvary affiliate under Pastor Mike MacIntosh. The rest of their day would be spent as plumbers, up to their elbows in dirt.

"The goal of every Christian should be to become a servant as Jesus showed us in His life on earth," said Director Paul Lange.

"If we pass along to our students the desire to serve others by encouraging and discipling the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ, then we have done our job," said Lange.

Lange and Thompson had been plumbers together years before when they answered Pastor Chuck Smith's plea from the pulpit in 1989. The antiquated plumbing at the recently purchased Castle needed to be overhauled. They quit their jobs and headed for Austria. After finishing the plumbing needs at the Castle, they went into Eastern Europe as missionaries. They served as senior pastors in Hungarian and Yugoslavian Calvary Chapels. During the last several years they passed leadership of their churches to a national in Yugoslavia and another missionary in Hungary. Both returned to Austria to run different aspects of the Castle.



View of the town of Millstatt from the Castle, nestled in the Alps in the southern corner of Austria.

children. A free weekend finds students catching up on homework and sleep and an occasional escape to nearby ski mountains or a European town.

A warm Saturday finds students lazing on the lawn, overlooking the lake. Tapes of Pastor Chuck Smith's teaching, a regular homework assignment, are sped up to save time so the revered Calvary pastor sounds like 'Chuck the Chipmunk.'

Go ye therefore, and preach the gospel

Students spend 10 days out of each semester working at different missionary outposts in Europe. Small teams work and pray together as they plan their trip. The college is increasing their focus on developing missionaries.

Last month CCBC students did mission outreaches in Poland, Spain, England, Germany, Israel, Hungary, and Romania.

An Italian student, Gloria, felt the week in Romania was the greatest time in her life. She saw the fruit of serving in the mission field, and is now dedicating her life to that pursuit.

After sharing the love of Jesus in the state and Christian orphanages, Gloria felt the joy of the believers in the local church. Their team witnessed to the teenagers and many received the Lord.

Eight students journeyed to England to assist a Calvary Chapel affiliate there; painting, cleaning, passing out flyers, and serving the local body. They witnessed the blessing of serving behind the scenes. During their Easter week stay, 15 people came to Christ.

The entire church family at Calvary Chapel Jerusalem was blessed by 2 students, Alipio and Fabio. They arrived in Israel in time to help prepare for humanitarian aid for refugees and move the church into a new facility. While Alipio desires to return to Jerusalem, Italian-born Fabio is dedicated to preparing for ministry in Europe.

Castle Director Rod Thompson said, "Our vision for Calvary Chapel Bible College and Conference Center is to help and encourage Calvary Chapel style ministries develop across the entire continent of Europe." ©Calvary Chapel 1999

Calvary Chapel Bible College Europe is located on Lake Millstatt in the Austrian Alps. It is the European campus of the Murrieta Bible College in California. They follow the same rotation and offer the same core classes. It is under Calvary Chapel Outreach Fellowship Europe and Pastor Brian Brodersen in England. This is a ministry of Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa, Pastor Chuck Smith.

Call Murrieta Bible College at (909)-696-5944 or visit the web site at www.calvarychapel.org for more information.



The circular tower at the top of the Castle looms over the surrounding country-side and is used for prayer.



Students start their day in praise and worship .



Left: The student body poses for a photograph on the front lawn in front of the castle.

Below: A brilliant sunset in the Austrian Alps as seen from the Castle.



below-Student Erika Bierma takes a turn caring for the children of the instructors.
right-A swan floats by the dock on Lake Millstatt, just below the Castle.



“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a



Sunday afternoons are reserved for high intensity basketball.



George Clerie, a former missionary to Russia, is a favorite teacher at the Bible College.

COLLEGE IN A CASTLE

MISSION TALK

FROM PASTORS

Why do we need to go to a foreign mission field when there is so much need at home?

by Pastor Joe Paskewich, C.C. Uncasville, Connecticut

Pastors are invited to prayerfully consider contacting CCMM with articles to share on missions. Contact us at cmm@calvarychapel.com

Often people hear that friends are moving to foreign lands and that money is being sent to people and places we know little about. This sometimes raises the question, “Why do we support missions when there is so much need here at home?” It’s a question that deserves an answer.

Missions is not about need, but obedience. In each of the Gospels and in Acts, Jesus tells His disciples, “Go, make disciples” and “Feed my sheep.” Obedience to Jesus Christ includes going, telling and making disciples - everywhere, beginning at home and spreading to the uttermost parts of the earth. In fact, primary obedience seems to be directly related to spreading the Gospel. The obedient Christian and the obedient church “goes.”

In the 17th century, a group known as the Moravians took this command seriously and attempted to “tithe” their members to the cause of world evangelism. They sought to send one out of ten of their best people to those who were without a Gospel witness. The depth of their commitment and obedience to the Great Commission speaks to us today.

If you’ve had the opportunity to travel outside the states, you know there is no place like the USA. We live in the lap of luxury. No doubt we are a nation blessed by God. Thankfully in the past we’ve used our wealth to spread the Gospel. For the last two hundred years, the United States has been the primary missionary sending agency in the world. God has given us great wealth, but wealth is a stewardship. When we use what He has given us for His purposes, we are obedient. Christ is honored and the blessings are spread to others.

I remember sitting in the home of a pastor in Bluefields, Nicaragua. I was wearing a pair of \$70 Wolverine work-boots. He told me about the gracious hand of God on their ministry. Month after month the Lord had provided the \$35 rent required for the house that doubled as his residence and the church’s meeting place. A moment later, his attention turned to my shoes. “Wow, those are really nice boots,” he said, “what does something like that cost?” I was embarrassed as I mumbled, hoping he wouldn’t actually hear me, that my shoes had cost two months rent. I left my boots there.

In the United States, many of us make in one week what a banker in the third world would make in a year. Many of the products in these nations cost the same as what you or I would pay for them. The life expectancy in many of these nations is short. Some only expect to make it into their 50s or 60s. Naked children are a common sight in many developing nations. Food is simple and bought daily. We are able to use our wealth not only to spread the message of Jesus worldwide, but to alleviate suffering in His name as well.

In addition to great material wealth, we are also spiritually rich. The United States has a large percentage of the world’s Christian workers, while much of the world waits in darkness never having had the opportunity to respond to the message. There are hundreds of millions of people in the world who have yet to hear a clear presentation of the Gospel. Many people do not have the Bible in their native tongue. Yet, we have more than a hundred study Bibles to choose from and a great number of translations. Millions of people in unevangelized areas could not attend a church even if they wanted to. None are nearby. Hundreds of thousands die daily never having heard mention of the name of Jesus Christ. Missions brings Jesus to the doorstep of those who haven’t yet heard.

Jesus said, **“I must work the works of him that has sent me while it is day. The night is coming when no one can work”** *John 9:4*. We have such a great door open before us. Let us do what we can to make His name known and to show mercy to those to whom we may while we still have the opportunity.