

NEWS FROM CALVARY

... that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

Philemon 6

CC MISSIONS GATHERING

Testimonies About Missions Encourage Believers



Heather Mercer

Hundreds gathered for CC Costa Mesa's annual Missions Awareness Day in January. The event featured well-known missionaries Heather Mercer, 25, imprisoned by the Taliban for three months in 2001; and author/missionary Don Richardson who penned *Peace Child*, featured in Reader's Digest.

"There's a privilege in persecution," Heather Mercer said, citing Matthew 5:10: "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." She and seven fellow missionaries were arrested for sharing the Gospel in Afghanistan—a crime potentially punishable by death. Held in four different prisons in three months, their captivity became more perilous after the September 11 attacks. "One night, the bombs were falling and the building was shaking," she recalled. "I was lying underneath the bed praying, 'Jesus, Jesus, Jesus' ... I felt the presence of God as if He lay down next to me. He said to me, 'I am with you. I won't leave you.'"

Sixteen of their Afghan friends had also been captured and some tortured. In prison, they prayed the Afghans would be



Don Richardson

freed; and all 16 were rescued or escaped while under heavy Taliban security.

Hours before U.S. forces reached Kabul, they were moved from Kabul to Kandahar. They were crammed into a SUV and had to sit on rocket launchers. "We were overwhelmed and decided to sing worship songs. As we started to sing, this amazing sense of peace filled the car. We all started laughing." Reading Scriptures by flashlight, they sensed God's presence. The next day, they were rescued.

Don Richardson shared the story of the "Peace Child." He and his wife Carol spent 15 years among the Sawi cannibal tribe. He failed at several first attempts to share the Gospel in a way the Stone Age tribe could understand. Then one day, two warring villages ended a barrage of bloodshed when one man gave his only son as a "peace child" to the other tribe. "I [realized] God had prepared the way for me to explain the Gospel to them in a meaningful way," he added. "I began proclaiming

Jesus as the greatest 'peace child' sent from God the Father to make the greatest peace that ever was."

He discussed several more "cultural compasses"—things hidden in the culture or language of a people that point to Jesus Christ and the Gospel.

The Saturday event served as a capstone to the annual CC Missions Conference in Murrieta, CA, which drew more than 700 believers. During the four-day conference, Pastor Chuck Smith, founder of the Calvary Chapel movement, encouraged attendees: "Knowing God's will for your life takes a lifetime. Each experience is like a thread that God is weaving together to make a beautiful tapestry."



Elizabeth Gordon of Kenya, left, and Minnie Dwiko represented Africa at the CC Costa Mesa event.

Email or send original JPEG or TIFF files at least 1.5 megabytes in size to:

CC Magazine
1103 Potomac Avenue
Fredericksburg, VA 22405

CDs will not be returned.

DOES YOUR MINISTRY HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS TO SHARE WITH THE CALVARY CHAPEL FAMILY?

Please email news briefs to: cmm@calvarychapel.com as a Word document—no more than 300 words. Next issue deadline is March 28.

MORNINGSTAR IN MEXICALI

Nearly 600 people in a small suburb of Mexicali, Mexico, heard the Gospel presented at a December outreach hosted by CC Mexicali and Morningstar Christian Chapel in Whittier, CA.



Dressed as clowns, believers from CC Mexicali performed skits and songs.

Many adults accepted Christ after a Gospel message, and dozens of children of all ages responded eagerly to skits and messages about Jesus Christ.

"Whole families were ministered to; it was pretty exciting," said Gerard Deleeuw, mission director at Morningstar. He said that 150 people from Morningstar traveled to Mexicali to serve at the outreach. They handed out shoe box gifts, each including a personal note about the love of Jesus, to more than 400 children. Skits and Bible studies geared for teens,

children, and toddlers stirred visible excitement and interest.

Morningstar has been working with CC Mexicali pastor, John Barillaro, for more than three years in the church's local colonia, or village. Pastor John gave the invitation for adults to accept Christ, and

believers from CC Mexicali ministered to their neighbors through the Christian festival. Food and clothing were also distributed in the needy area.

Morningstar Christian Chapel
www.morningstarcc.org
1-562-943-0297

BRINGING THE BIBLE TO BIKERS

Located on the same street as Harley Davidson/Buell of Glendale, CA, the nearby Calvary Chapel Los Feliz held a special outreach for the estimated 20,000 motorcyclists who rolled into town for the world-renowned 23rd Annual Love Ride in November.

"We were able to freely share the Love of Christ with hundreds of bikers who stopped by our church that morning," said Pastor Gabriel De Alba of CC Los Feliz. CC Montebello's live worship band, "Milagro," helped draw crowds, and Christian bikers mingled with visitors to share the Gospel.

An estimated 500 people visited the outreach, receiving free coffee and breakfast burritos. Believers from CC Diamond Bar handed out water and free DVDs of Pastor Raul Ries' testimony. Several members of

"Bikers for Christ" stopped by to fellowship and share.

"The Love ride is the largest motorcycle fundraising event in the world," explained

Gabriel, "so it was a blessing for us to take advantage of this event and turn it into something that brought glory to God. Many of the bikers could not believe that we were giving them something for free." He added that many heard the Gospel and received prayer before heading off for the 40-mile ride.



Nearly 20,000 bikers attended the 23rd Annual Love Ride in Glendale, CA.

CC Los Feliz
www.calvaryclf.org
323-353-2521

CALVARY CHAPEL ELK GROVE

After 25 years of ministry, many things have changed at Calvary Chapel Elk Grove Village, IL. Services are no longer held in a living room, worship is led by a praise band instead of a vinyl record, and sermons are delivered live by the church's pastor rather than a taped message from Pastor Chuck Smith. The church held a day-long 25th Anniversary Celebration to reflect on all God has done over the years.

Senior Pastor Phil Ballmaier and his wife Cyndi were honored for their ministry to the fellowship for more than two decades.

The theme of God's faithfulness and His enabling power was shared throughout the evening. Phil pointed out, "Today is not about one single man, woman, or ministry. God has done exceedingly abundantly

above all we could ask, pray or think. Today is all for His glory. He has proven that it's not the instrument, but the One who uses the instrument, that matters."

Each assistant pastor shared testimonies and memories, and presented a hand-carved wooden dove crafted by another CC pastor, Daniel Jones, of Rancho Maranatha in Alamos, Mexico.

The service ended with a surprise video from several Calvary Chapel pastors from across the country—including Mike McIntosh, Raul Ries, and Chuck Smith—who praised God for the work He's done in and through CC Elk Grove. Believers at CC Elk Grove expressed their gratitude for their pastor, God's faithfulness, and a loving church body.



Pastor Phil Ballmaier

The church in northeastern Illinois regularly conducts nursing home ministry, homeless outreach, and community evangelism, as well as regularly supporting missions and mentoring local children.

CC Elk Grove
www.calvarychapelElkgrove.org
cceElkgrove@yahoo.com
847-895-3545

FREE WITH YOUR NEW SUBSCRIPTION
Each CD set includes messages from Chuck Smith, Kay Smith, Don McClure, Brian Brodersen, and Jon Courson.



What does this CD set contain?

- The Old and New Testaments in MP3 Audio (32kb), New King James Version, narrated and dramatized (72 Hours)
- The entire Bible text from the New King James Version
- Over 2,000 sermon notes by Pastor Chuck Smith with search engine
- A daily Bible reader for the Old and New Testaments to listen to and/or read in 365 days
- Over 25 MP3 messages to help you grow in your relationship with the Lord
- Macintosh and Windows compatible



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: [_____] E-mail: _____

- 1 yr (4 issues) \$15 in US/\$20 Foreign
- 2 yr (8 issues) \$28 in US/\$40 Foreign
- Gift _____

This is a subscription: for me my friend myself and my friend
This subscription is a: new subscription renewal

Subscriptions: 1-888-257-2714
www.calvarymagazine.org
cmm@calvarychapel.com
Fax: 1-540-373-8025

Or send this form or a copy to:
CCM
1103 Potomac Avenue
Fredericksburg, VA 22405

Please make check or money order payable to: CCM

Gift subscription



Friend's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: [_____] E-mail: _____