

CALVARY CHAPEL NEWS

Students Prepared to Serve at CC Bible College Indianapolis

Eddie Turner was living in a rough neighborhood in Racine, WI, when he became a Christian at age 25. He prayed, believing that God was calling him to attend Bible college. Although he experienced financial hardships and family opposition along the way, he also had mentors to encourage and financially support him. Eddie finally started his studies at Calvary Chapel Bible College Indianapolis (CCBCI) in January 2015 and graduated in May 2017. Then he began work as a facilities manager next door at Horizon Christian Fellowship Indianapolis. Eddie related, “Before Bible college, I really didn’t understand what I was reading. I only knew the Holy Bible was truth,” he shared. “Now God communicates to me through His Word.”

CCBCI Director Paul Lange reflected, “Eddie’s time here was a huge testimony to how the Word of God changes a man.” Established in 1996, “this college’s unique advantage is that it is located directly on the property of an active church, Horizon Christian Fellowship, enabling students to plug right in to the body’s life and ministry,” Paul said. Students serve in every church ministry, from audiovisual to worship. The partnership creates a close-knit community which often stretches far beyond graduation.

One graduate, Brandon Grayson, interned at the church, became youth pastor, and planted a church on St. Kitts island in the West Indies. For the past four years, the college has sent short-term teams to Brandon’s church. “The idea that I can simply be in the Word and obey it, then the Lord will do His work, was poured into me at the college, and still resonates in my life and in ministry in St. Kitts,” Brandon disclosed. The lessons he learned from street evangelism at the school help him effectively share the Gospel.

An average of 25 students per year attend the school, allowing for individual mentorship and care, explained Pastor Bill Goodrich, president of the college. Students are trained to enter into the ministries of administration, church planting, missions, pastoring, or serving church member. Paul Lange emphasized, that servanthood is the primary goal: Jesus said, *‘the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many’* (Mark 10:45b). If our students have all A’s but don’t have a heart to serve, we have failed.”

The college offers several two-year options: Bachelor of Biblical Studies, Associate in Biblical Studies, and a certificate of completion. Although the program is unaccredited, credit hours are transferrable to Horizon University, an online school partnering with Calvary Chapel Bible College to give students the opportunity to earn bachelor’s degrees. “If you graduate or not, you can leave knowing you have a personal relationship with the Lord and a lifestyle of personal devotion and prayer,” Eddie Turner added.

www.ccbci.org



Recent graduates from CCBC Indianapolis: Kristen Jensen (top), Eddie Turner (middle), and Cora Reddy. Director Paul Lange congratulates Eddie; President Bill Goodrich hugs Cora.

Photos by CCBCI

CC Santa Barbara Brings Christ to the Community

When Calvary Chapel Santa Barbara hosted an Easter Sunday outreach at the historic Sunken Gardens, nearly 5,000 people gathered and more than 350 people responded to the Gospel message.

After being invited several times by Outreach Pastor Lars Linton, a local restaurant manager named Cesar came to the event with his wife Vania and their son. All three chose to accept Jesus as Lord. Lars remembered, “The next weekend, Cesar and Vania came to the Welcome Breakfast that we organized to introduce our church to new families. Later when I was talking with them, Vania broke down and started crying because of her struggle with God over her special needs son. Her question was, ‘Why would God give me a son with so many problems?’” Believers ministered to the family, who decided they were ready to learn more about God. Lars added that they are learning more about Jesus and growing in their faith.

This was the first year that a guest speaker was invited. Born without arms and legs, Nick Vujicic is an Australian evangelist who founded Life Without Limbs ministry. Pastor David Guzik said, “When I think of Nick Vujicic, I think of a man who more than anything else displays to me the truth: *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*” (Philippians 4:13).

Nick scooted off his wheelchair onto a matching-level platform, greeting the crowd enthusiastically. Peppering his life story with humor, he related how he came to accept that God had a purpose for his life. Nick said, “If God can use a man without arms and legs, then God can use anyone.” He shared the Gospel message, urging listeners to open their hearts to God: “Your soul is not



Above, evangelist Nick Vujicic shares his testimony and the Gospel in Santa Barbara, CA. Below, many surrender their lives to Jesus. Photos by Rob Laskin



in peace until the One who made you has filled you.” *And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent* (John 17:3).

As people came forward to accept Christ, counselors met them, talked with them, and prayed with them. Pastor Lars called it “the single biggest response to our Easter Outreach that we ever had. More than 350 people responded—we ran out of Bibles. We

received 157 response cards from those that made first-time commitments or recommitments to Jesus Christ.”

Pastor Nate Wagner, executive pastor of ministries, added that leaders emailed respondees later that day to invite them to the Welcome Breakfast and a discipleship class that started the following week.

<http://calvarysb.com/easter/index.php>

Haiti Churches Thriving, Reaching Those in Need

Seven years after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake devastated the southern seaside town of Jacmel, Haiti, two Calvary Chapel churches built from the rubble are growing and thriving despite difficult circumstances.

CC Jacmel and CC Beaudouin both grew from seeds planted by the CC Haiti Initiative, a relief organization of several Calvary Chapels spearheaded by CC Costa Mesa, CA, and CC Fort Lauderdale, FL. The group

partners with U.S. Calvary Chapels to meet Haiti’s long-term needs. Maintaining a close relationship with both Haitian churches, CC Fort Lauderdale sent a small team in January to minister to the native pastors. Jeff Kotrady of CC Fort Lauderdale reported, “Each church now has more than 150 attending.”

Having been comforted by Christ, believers at CC Jacmel are reaching out locally in several ways. “Resources are being used by the Lord to bless those in the community who are in need,” Jeff said. Short-term teams who

came after the earthquake used the church’s large property for soccer camps and other outreaches. The church has continued these outreaches and has discovered a new way to utilize their land. Pastor Dieunord Norze of Haiti has a master’s degree in agronomy and helped develop a banana tree project.

“They’ve planted 700 banana trees,” stated Jeff. “A group of CC Jacmel’s ladies tend the bananas and sell them at market. This provides for them and the church, and bananas are given to the needy in the community.”

CC Beaudouin, pastored by Sam Felix, is located amidst a displacement camp where many families are still living seven years after the disaster. The church and surrounding community are extremely poor, yet the church continues to offer children’s programs and two- to three-day evangelistic outreaches through which many have accepted Christ. Over the last few years, CC Beaudouin formed a partnership with a local orphanage. Church attendees regularly play with the children and help as needed. Someday, they hope to aid them financially.

CC Chattanooga, TN, and CC Cary, NC, send regular teams. CC Fort Lauderdale hopes to partner with other CCs to send at least two mission teams and two pastoral support teams each year. “Seeing the Haitian believers help their communities is a huge win,” said Jeff. “We are called to keep pouring into these pastors so they can keep pouring out.” Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere with more than 10 million people (CIA World Factbook).

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Pastor Doug Sauder, CC Ft Lauderdale (2nd from right) prays for Pastor Sam Felix of CC Beaudouin, Haiti (center).