

# For Such a Time as This

BY PASTOR BRIAN BRODERSEN



Many years ago, I was looking at a world map, marveling and grieving that so much of the world was under the dominion of atheistic communism. I remember being perplexed as to why God had allowed things to be as they were, wondering if there was ever going to be any change. Well, we all know things have changed—drastically. Now, those very nations that I looked upon that were once closed have been opened up in a powerful way by the grace of God.

A past issue of this magazine featured Pastor Chuck Smith at a radio rally in Moscow, Russia (Issue 17). There the Lord opened the doors for the Word For Today radio program to be broadcast to the precious people of Russia. The photos speak volumes: men and women huddled around, wanting to touch Pastor Chuck because God has used His Word to change their lives. Many churches have been planted throughout

which many have said is post-Christian and a lost cause as far as Christianity is concerned. I like my wife's perspective. She says, "Post-Christian is pre-Christian. We can start all over again." I agree: The Lord is working. New churches are starting in Britain, Germany, Italy, Spain, Holland, Denmark, and Finland. Bible colleges are training young men and women in England, Germany, Austria, and Spain.

When I was living and ministering in England, many people in the country would tell me that what they were seeing happen with Calvary Chapel was extraordinary. From what I know of recent church history in Britain, I would have to agree. God has been pouring out His Spirit, not in an outwardly dramatic way—at least not yet—but rather in a quiet, yet certain way. He's been blessing—one life and one fellowship at a time. But I see this all as preparatory for greater

Lastly, I have to touch on Latin America: Peru, Chile, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Mexico—new churches, Bible colleges, radio ministry, and outreach. God is using Calvary Chapel, and I believe He wants to do so in an even greater way in the future.

These are indeed exciting times, and I believe God has raised up the ministry of Calvary Chapel for "such a time as this" (Esther 4:14). Now perhaps some of you are thinking that I'm putting too much of an emphasis on Calvary Chapel. Please don't misunderstand me; when I'm speaking of Calvary Chapel, I'm using it as an example of New Testament Christianity, which is summed up in Acts 2:42: Continuing steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine (Bible study), fellowship (stirring up love and good works), the breaking of bread (worship), and prayer. This is what really matters. What we call ourselves is secondary. Above all else, we

## What we call ourselves is secondary. Above all else, we are followers of Jesus Christ.

Russia, the former Soviet Union, and Eastern Europe—regions that were formerly under the grip of communism. Back in the early 1990s, God opened a great and effective door, and now we have churches, Bible colleges, and Bible conference centers in many of those countries!

In Africa, we are seeing new fellowships, Bible schools, and orphanages established regularly. All over the continent, churches are springing up with a vision to teach God's Word, chapter by chapter, verse by verse. From Morocco to Cape Town, the Lord is working and using the ministry of Calvary Chapel.

A beautiful work of God's Spirit is taking place in various areas of Western Europe,

things to come. My reasoning tells me that since God is investing so much time and energy into these places, He still has a work to do, and I want to be a part of that work!

Another area where I see God beginning a work through the ministry of Calvary Chapel is Brazil. Having spent a few weeks there recently, I saw firsthand a beautiful work of God's Spirit in the lives of many Brazilians. Several commented to me on how much God had blessed their lives through the ministry of Calvary Chapel. They each emphasized the impact that the Bible teaching was having on their lives! We need more pastors and more churches. To help facilitate that, the Lord has provided a Bible College and Conference Center in Campo Mourao, Brazil.

are followers of Jesus Christ. And as His followers, we will continue to wholeheartedly embrace the model of the church He left in His Word and seek to inspire other believers and fellowships to do so, regardless of what they call themselves. This is the great need of the hour. God has opened up the nations to us once again, and I pray that we'll seize the opportunity!

Much of mainline denominational Christianity has died through unbelief or become liberal and ineffective. But God always has His witness; He always has His testimony, and I believe Calvary Chapel is being used, not exclusively, but as a part of what He's doing in these last days. ✚