

Meeting Basic Needs

Offering Physical and Spiritual Assistance

Story by Carol Savage
Photos by Jonetta Andrepont

For the past three years, Calvary Chapel Beaumont, TX, has served the city's low-income residents, homeless people, and others in need through quarterly visits to the downtown area. Due to its warm climate and location, Beaumont has become a stopping place for transient people and a home to many without permanent shelter. The church's inner-city ministry takes several forms, including prayer stations, distribution of food, clothing and hygiene items, and free Bibles for all who want them. As a result, "Many people have rededicated their lives to the Lord," said Tim Roosevelt, pastor of CC Beaumont, "and some have given their lives to Christ."

Tim, who founded CC Beaumont six years ago, said, "This type of outreach was on my heart from the beginning. It's about showing people the love of Christ through the moving of the Holy Spirit." He and others from CC Beaumont began serving alongside a local homeless shelter three years ago, and they soon found a niche in leading people sometimes overlooked by society to Jesus—or back to Him. Tim, his wife Levette, and a team of believers from CC Beaumont collect and distribute donated supplies, Bibles, and Gospel tracts in Beaumont's inner-city area four times a year. They minister to an average of 80 people per visit and see these outreaches as an avenue for reaching others in Jesus' name.

One man who has been impacted by the church's involvement in the community and love for individuals is John Persons. "I was saved in 1974," said John, "but when everything in my life fell apart, I backslid." John had served at his church for many years, but in the 1990s after an unwanted divorce and major medical issues, including three heart attacks, John became cynical. "I stepped away from everything and became a hermit," he related. "I knew I was missing something. I didn't go out or do anything; I became a



A man looks through the clothes being given away at Calvary Chapel Beaumont's local outreach to the needy. Adia Smith, center, and others from the church assist.

nobody." John lived this way for many years, until in 2008 he volunteered at a job fair—and was placed at a booth right next to the one where Pastor Tim was volunteering.

"We started talking like we had grown up together," said John. "It was amazing the way we connected. Then, we started talking about how cold the water in the cooler was. He looked at me and said, 'I feel like I'm supposed to tell you that you need the Living Water of Jesus.' Then it clicked; I knew that was it!" John concluded, "I had been sinking pretty fast. It was time for me to stop running. God hadn't moved; I had. I'm still a work in progress, but that was the day that turned my life around."

CC Beaumont, TX
www.calvaryofbeaumont.com
wecarebeaumont@yahoo.com
409-504-2765



Don Durr, left, an assistant pastor at CC Beaumont, discusses Jesus with a Beaumont resident.

Muslim Woman Receives Greatest Gift

Story by Carol Savage

A Muslim woman received Jesus as her Savior after hearing the testimony of a believer who was held captive by the Islamic Taliban in Afghanistan in 2001. This past December, Heather Mercer shared her story at Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa's (CCCM) Joyful Women's Christmas Coffee. The Muslim woman was brought by her Christian daughter; she was one of 2,000 people who attended the annual event. Its theme this year, "Holding onto Hope," referenced the story of Jesus' birth found in Luke 2:2-14, as well as Heather's account of her rescue from captivity.

CCCM women's ministry volunteer Judi Jordan said, "The event was attended mostly by believers who participate in the Joyful Life Women's Bible Study, but unsaved friends and relatives were invited as well." This year, that included a group of former Muslims who brought their friend along to hear the Good News. Afterwards as Heather signed her new book, *Prisoners of Hope*, she shared the Gospel with the older Muslim lady. Much to the delight of her family, the woman received Christ. She cannot be pictured for security reasons, since she plans to return soon to her Middle Eastern country.

In August of 2001, at age 24, Heather Mercer and her friend Dayna Curry were kidnapped by terrorists while telling people about Jesus in a private home in Kabul, Afghanistan. During a three-month period, the women and six other volunteers were imprisoned and tried. They were rescued by U.S. Special Forces and flown to Pakistan in November 2001.

CC Costa Mesa, CA
www.calvarychapelcostamesa.com
costamesa@calvarychapel.com
714-979-4422

calvary calendar

for more information, or links to register for events online, please visit our website: www.calvarymagazine.org

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

2010 & 2011

May	21-22 — Missions Conference CC Philadelphia, PA 24-26 — East Coast Pastors Conference CC Philadelphia, PA
June	7-10 — Senior Pastors Conference Murrieta Conference Center, CA 11-12 — Missions Conference CC Downey, CA
July	24-28 — Pastors and Leaders Conference CC Honolulu, HI
September	13-15 — North and Central CA Conference CC Visalia, CA 27-28 — Northwest Pastors Conference Calvary Fellowship Seattle, WA 27-29 — Northeast Conference CC Finger Lakes, NY
October	11-13 — Midwest Conference CC Crawfordsville, IN
November	4-6 — Texas/Oklahoma Conference CC Houston, TX
January	3-6 — Missions Conference Murrieta Conference Center, CA 17-19 — Southeast Pastors Conference CC Merritt Island, FL

Calvary Chapel Magazine

Summer 2010

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: [_____] _____ E-mail: _____

- 1 yr (4 issues) \$20 in U.S./\$25 Foreign
- 2 yr (8 issues) \$35 in U.S./\$50 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
contact@calvarymagazine.org
Or send this form or a copy to:
CCM
1103 Potomac Avenue
Fredericksburg, VA 22405



Gift subscription

Friend's Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: [_____] _____ E-mail: _____
Please send renewal notice to me my friend

Please make check or money order payable to: CCM

Forsaking All to Proclaim Christ

Story by Carol Savage
 Photos by Deanna Chaffee and Bill James

For two years, Dave Chaffee, Bill James, and their families have traveled throughout America in RVs sharing the Gospel. Their mission statement begins, "We are Agents for Christ. ... We have been called to travel the roads, serving God through the ministry of evangelism. Our hearts' desire is to reach people across the United States with the simple Gospel message of Christ crucified." Through Agents for Christ (AFC), more than 300 individuals have received Jesus Christ as Savior from their sins.

Dave explained the ministry's history, "In 2004, Bill felt the Lord spoke to him about being a missionary to the United States. He realized the depths of sin from which God had saved him and saw the desperation of the lost and addicted." As a result, Bill began an evangelism ministry at his church, Calvary Chapel Southeast in Portland, OR.

Bill and Dave, whose wives are sisters, expanded the ministry to the entire country in 2008. AFC's wheels began rolling as the two men moved their families into RVs and, in Dave's words, started "taking Jesus to the streets of America ... driven by a passion to fulfill the Great Commission, reaching the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and teaching the saved to do the same."

Once, some AFC members were in a park role-playing leading people to Christ. A 13-year-old girl who volunteered to act the part of someone hearing the Gospel ended up praying to receive Christ into her life. Bill commented, "You never know where God is going to use you. I have realized that it is all about Him and obedience to Him."

Another time, the ministry did an outreach with CC Blythe, CA. "One of our first stops was the local gas station," Bill said. "I walked up to the clerk, who was named Victor, and gave him a 'million-dollar bill' tract. I introduced myself and asked him, 'If you were to die tonight, would you go to heaven?' Victor said, 'No, I'm not saved.'" Bill had a compelling conversation with Victor, who acknowledged his sin and need for a Savior. Bill continued, "Right there in the gas station, with

tears in his eyes, Victor bowed his head, repented, and asked Jesus to forgive and save him."

As they travel, AFC conducts a school of evangelism at churches along the way. They have trained numerous congregations to share the Gospel boldly. In addition, Bill presents church youth groups and schools with a drug-prevention course he designed. He has used the two-hour program to coach thousands of youth in resisting peer pressure and finding abundant life in Christ.

During Bill's previous career in law enforcement, he was a narcotics detective who for five years was addicted to alcohol, drugs, and pornography. Contemplating suicide one night, he felt God direct him to confess his sin in order to be set free. He did, and he was eventually spared from the legal consequences he expected. Through the ministry of Teen Challenge, Bill gained complete freedom from his addictions.

Before beginning AFC, Dave worked in the wholesale industry. Each couple has two children; the four are aged between 9 and 13. The kids are homeschooled as the families travel. Support is raised through their sending church, CC Southeast, and is supplemented from fellowships they visit.

Dave's wife Deanna Chaffee reflected on moving into an RV: "I think initially when we sold everything, I was surprised to realize how freeing it was. I remember going into stores after we sold our house and thinking, *I don't need any of that*. We were without the former distractions and free to focus on what God has for us. There are obviously sacrifices; being in such a small space together all the time is difficult. But the joy has far outweighed that. Through this, I have watched my children grow in the Lord and become bold in sharing the Gospel. My 12-year-old raves, 'I love this' after every outreach."

The ministry's signature verse is 2 Corinthians 5:20-21, "Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God

were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Agents for Christ
www.agentsforchrist.org
dave@agentsforchrist.org
 503-353-0284



An Agents for Christ RV on the highway. Since beginning in 2008, the families have traveled about 20,000 miles.



Dave Chaffee leads kids' worship during an outreach with CC Rolling Hills in Bowling Green, KY, in 2009.



Bill James shares the Gospel at a skate park during outreach with CC Crook County, Prineville, OR. The youth were receptive, recognizing Bill; he had conducted drug-prevention training days earlier at their school.



Pastor Steve Sandoval of CC Heartland in Fort Valley, GA, prays for Bill and Dave after they trained believers in evangelism at the church.



Bill's wife Danyal James prays for a woman at the two-day outreach with CC Rolling Hills.

