

Trusting in God's Sovereignty

Missionaries and leaders gather on East Coast and West Coast for refreshing, learning, & encouragement.

Story by Carol Savage

Photo by Geraldine Wilkins

“Relax,” advised Pastor Seige Poteau of CC Port-au-Prince, Haiti. “God is in control, and He knows all. Did He not know this earthquake was going to happen—before it did? Did He not know you were going to lose your car keys—before you did? He is God, and we can trust Him.” Such reminders were among the Bible-driven messages that attendees heard at the fourth missions conference of CC Philadelphia, PA, in May 2010. The free seminars were attended by more than 600 people from Calvary Chapels and other churches along the East Coast.

“Our vision for the conference is to refocus hearts on the Great Commission and the fact that this job is not done,” said Carlos Kalczuk, missions pastor at CC Philadelphia. “In our busy American lives, we tend to forget about the hundreds of millions who still need to hear and understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This conference is meant to realign our hearts to God’s heart regarding the nations that have still not heard.”

Message topics included “What is the Great Commission?” and “God Is a Missionary God.” Among the seven speakers were David Guzik, former director of CC Bible College Germany, and Phil Metzger, director of CC Bible College Europe and pastor of CC Budapest, Hungary.

“Many hearts were moved,” remarked Carlos, “as the Lord reminded people to take their eyes off themselves and the things that seem important in this world and to focus instead on Christ and on being used by Him to share the Gospel.” Carlos hopes to hold the conference annually. 🙌

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Left to right: Phil Metzger, David Guzik, and Dave Sylvester, all current or former missionaries to Europe, lead a panel discussion at CC Philadelphia, PA, in May.

CC Downey, CA, Prepares Future Missionaries

“Our purpose was to bring churches and their leaders together,” explained Mark Maciel, CC Downey’s missions pastor. “There are a lot of churches in our metro area, but few have missions departments. Many local believers have never deeply understood the heart and purpose of missions.” Aimed especially at preparing future missionaries and their sending churches, CC Downey’s June missions conference was themed around Paul’s Macedonian Call (Acts 16:6-10). Mark asked the crowd, “Do you really love the people? Love the culture? Those who are going need to understand what they’re getting themselves into.”

Pastor Bill Welsh of Refuge CC in Huntington Beach, CA, taught about loving missionaries well as a church, and Neil Pirolo of Emmaus Road International ministries challenged church leaders to use gusto when welcoming missionaries home. “These are the forgotten heroes,” he added. Several missionaries shared testimonies and field reports, and Associate Pastor Brian Brodersen of CC Costa Mesa, CA, concluded the weekend by counseling pastors to consider their churches’ impact with a worldwide, rather than citywide, perspective.