



2nd Timothy—New Testament letters from the apostle Paul to young pastor Timothy.

*These things I write to you, ... that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.* 1 TIMOTHY 3:14a-15

Three breakout sessions addressed the unique needs of women in ministry, how senior pastors can effectively care for their staffs, and how leaders can serve the lead pastor and support his vision.

### Building Up Small Fellowships

Isaac Bradford, associate pastor at Calvary Chapel Payson, AZ, has prioritized coming to the conference for 12 years because it offers fellowship with other small churches. “In Arizona, there are so many small towns spread out. It’s really encouraging to connect with other like-minded people who are going through what we’re going through.” One of the pastors attending the conference this year “has been such a crazy encouragement for me. He texts me on Sunday mornings, praying for the teaching and the worship,” he said. “This little community within the Calvary leadership movement has been huge for me. We don’t usually get to see each other, and it’s cool to catch up and hug a brother. I try to go out of my way to tell those guys how much they mean, and how much encouragement they give me to keep on serving.”

*Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.* ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10a, 12

# Dear Pastor

SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE  
ENCOURAGES, CHALLENGES  
CHURCH MINISTRY LEADERS

Story by Margot Bass  
Photos by Steve Shambeck

“Dear Christian, you have a job to do, and it’s to preach the Word. Maybe it won’t be behind a pulpit, but I believe we’re all called to preach,” declared Nick Wyss, young adult pastor at Calvary Chapel Tucson, AZ. Nick was the organizer and one of twelve speakers at the Southwest Pastors & Leaders Conference held at Calvary Chapel Tucson in March. The letters of the words “Dear Pastor” were displayed behind the speakers in the form of giant typewriter keys of an old-time typewriter. The “Dear Pastor” conference encouraged and challenged pastors, church leaders, and future leaders from Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Kansas with wisdom from 1st and



Top left: Nick Wyss, young adult pastor at CC Tucson, teaches at the “Dear Pastor” conference in March.

Bottom left: Ilowee Owens (left) engages speaker Al Pittman, senior pastor of Calvary Worship Center in Colorado Springs, CO.

Bottom middle: Lead Pastor Daniel Fusco of Crossroads Community Church in Vancouver, WA, interacts with conference volunteers.

Bottom right: Men encourage each other in group prayer.

"Dear Christian, you have a job to do, and it's to preach the Word ... maybe it won't be behind a pulpit ..."

Pastor Nick Wyss



#### Building up Women

Caitlin Wyss and Leslie Grijalva, both members of Calvary Chapel Tucson's Ignition group for young adults, led by Nick, were refreshed by the teachings. The "Dear Daughter" breakout session taught by Melissa Coate of Calvary Chapel Tucson "hit me right where I was at," Caitlin admitted. "God used Melissa's teaching to wash off the lies and discouragement that so easily fall on women in ministry." Melissa shared that God enables believers to endure trials. Caitlin continued, "We have to risk getting hurt, to be vulnerable to really love and care for others. She made the point that even before we're a friend, wife, mother, or sister, we're God's daughters. We need to go to Him to be refreshed before going out in ministry."

*But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me ...* 2 TIMOTHY 4:17a



Top left: Participants worship during the Southwest Pastors & Leaders Conference at CC Tucson.

Bottom left: Pastor David Rosales, CC Chino Valley, CA (left), warmly reunites with an old friend.

Top right: Conference guests share a tender moment. Pastors and leaders came from Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Kansas to be encouraged.

Bottom right: Jenise Clark and husband Pastor Tony (left), CC Newport News, VA, interact with Pastor Jerel Hagerman, CBI and CC Joshua Springs, CA.

This year's conference was Leslie's first. "I thought how cool it was to have all these pastors teach back-to-back with different styles, all passionate about the Word of God," she observed. Nick, at 30 years old, was the youngest pastor teaching during the main session—he urged older pastors to encourage younger pastors and leaders, as Paul did with Timothy. Leslie added that she had been struggling with the feeling that she wasn't "doing enough" in ministry and learned that she doesn't have to be in full-time ministry to represent God or be a leader. "Even in my workplace now, I can still represent Jesus and be a leader."

She's taken the teachings to heart and back to her job in a special education/autism classroom, becoming more intentional about working with a positive, joyful attitude. "My job's pretty hard, especially being patient. But being aware of the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and how God can work through me, wherever I am, has really helped me," she noted.

*And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.* COLOSSIANS 3:17

#### Building Unity with Other Churches

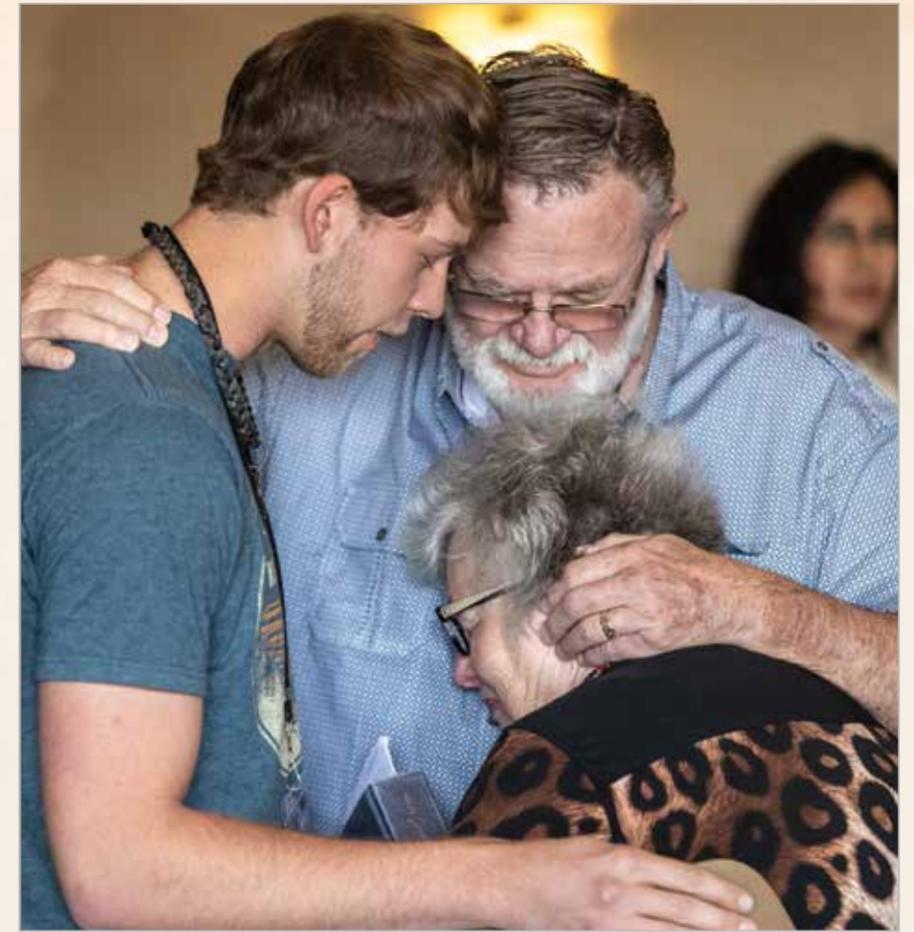
Calvary Chapel Tucson purposely opened the conference doors to churches outside the Calvary Chapel family; approximately 40 pastors and leaders from other churches attended, including Rob Davis, assistant pastor of preaching at Christ Community Church in Tucson. "I think it showcases Jesus when the body of Christ comes together and says that though we may have different church models, we're one in Christ and are pulling the ropes in the same direction. Ministry is hard, and we need each other," Rob stated.

*So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.* ROMANS 12:5

Nick explained that he wanted to break down walls among Tucson-area Christian churches. "It's about Jesus and the greater work that He wants to do. My burden was, *Why aren't we opening this up to everybody? We have this conference, and it's all based on God's Word. We need to get as many pastors and leaders as we can.*" CC Tucson provided free tickets to non-Calvary Chapel fellowships. "We told them this wasn't about making money or getting numbers, but that we wanted them to be blessed."

During the last session, Rob recalled that he experienced "one of those very distinguishable moments where I felt God speaking very powerfully to me. Some things I was thinking about regarding my own congregation really came into a clear focus—the idea of spiritual warfare, just encouraging my people to remember that Christ has defeated the enemy, and that we have victory in Him no matter how despairing we may feel," he related. 🙌

The next Southwest Pastors & Leaders Conference will be held March 2-4, 2020, at Calvary Chapel Tucson.



Calvary Chapel Tucson  
[calvarytucson.com/series/southwest-pastors-and-leaders-conferences](http://calvarytucson.com/series/southwest-pastors-and-leaders-conferences)

