

RELYING ON THE ROCK OF AGES

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Photos by Tom Price unless otherwise noted

CALVARY CASTLE
ROCK, CO, GROWS
THROUGH TRIALS
AS LEADERS POUR
LOVE AND GRACE
INTO MEMBERS'
LIVES THROUGH
MENTORING,
COMMUNITY, &
DISCIPLESHIP
AVAILABLE TO ALL



Inset: Dave Love (left), senior pastor of Calvary Castle Rock, CO, leads his congregation in prayer during a service.

Main photo: The wooden cross marks land the church has purchased for a new building to be erected in the future. Castle Rock, in the background, is a popular destination for both tourists and local residents.





Calvary Castle Rock, a Colorado Calvary Chapel fellowship in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, has grown in seven years, from a hurting church to a healthy one, as leaders pour love and grace into the believers' lives. The fellowship's heart for ministry starts with the pastors and trickles down through mentoring, community groups, young adults, youth and children's groups, and formal individual discipleship.

Senior Pastor Dave Love came to Calvary Castle Rock in 2012 after planting Horizon Christian Fellowship in Littleton, CO, 17 years before. Castle Rock members were hurting after their previous pastor had to step down because of "certain [financial] improprieties," Dave explained. Neither Dave nor his wife, Mindi, wanted to leave their fellowship in Littleton. But she was the first to sense the Lord's leading that they were supposed to minister to the people in Castle Rock. Dave admitted, "I did not want to leave our church in Littleton, but I knew God was calling us through His Word in Joshua 1:9: ***'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.'*** Both knew that much strength and courage would be needed for this step of faith.

Dave exclaimed, "I must say, to have a wife who will go with me on these ventures of faith is amazing; I am

blessed. We went slowly with people, not making huge changes, and loved the people in Castle Rock the best we could." As they took this step of faith, they were met with some godly men and women at Calvary Castle Rock who stood with them in the face of adversity. "Joey and Chalyn McKee, John Winder, Frank Elizalde, and Chris Kroger all supported my wife and I as we went forward in the healing process for this fellowship," he remembered.

Today the church is stronger and healthier. "As I see it, they love the Word and they are loving each other, which is what God has called us to do," Dave added.

A Commission to Care

"Every Christian knows of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). Jesus asks us to go and make disciples. But there's another kind of mission Jesus tells us to do that a lot of people miss: the Care Commission," Dave said. "In John 21, Jesus has a little fish fry with His disciples, charging Peter to ***'Feed My lambs, Tend My sheep, and Feed My sheep'*** (15b, 16b, 17b). That speaks of caring for people once they start coming to your fellowship." One of those ways is through small home fellowships—commu-



Senior Pastor Dave Love

nity groups. "I and the other pastors can only take care of some of the sheep, so we raise up other people to do that."

One recent August afternoon, after Sunday services, Dave learned that one of the security team volunteers had suffered a heart attack on his way home. Dave recounted, "As my wife and I went into his hospital room, we found that some people from his community group and the security team had beat me there! That is exactly what is supposed to happen. When the community group finds out about it, boom, they're going down to pray for him and love on him before I can even get there. That's a microcosm of the body, pouring into the sheep so that they can love other sheep as well."

"A new commandment I [Jesus] give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." JOHN 13:34-35

Mentoring Encourages Leadership

Sean and Maesa Printz lead the junior high ministry, the last thing they expected seven years ago. Now 30 years old, Sean gave his life to Jesus at 19, although he was still caught up in a party lifestyle. When he learned that Calvary Castle Rock was just five minutes from his house, it became his home church. However, he continued a "hypocritical" lifestyle of partying at night and eventually met and moved in with Maesa. "We had our first daughter out of wedlock. Once we discovered we were pregnant, the first thing I thought was, *I've got to get back to God,*" Sean related. Maesa became a believer during that pregnancy. Pastors and leaders at Calvary Castle Rock mentored the couple. "I got myself around a lot of good Christian men.



Top left: Assistant pastors Chris Kroger, Frank Elizalde, and Joey McKee pray for Dave and his wife Mindi before they leave for a sabbatical.

Top right: Joey prays with a church family.

Bottom left: Pastor Dave leads an Easter service.

Bottom right: Mindi Love enjoys a moment at a three-day women's conference she hosted. Mindi is the daughter of Sandy and Pastor Mike MacIntosh.

They knew our situation and wanted to pour wisdom into us," Sean said. Pastor Dave boldly urged Sean to move out. "I told Dave I didn't want to leave Maesa and the baby alone at night. But he opened Scripture and showed me, 'That's not what God has called you to do. He loves Maesa and the baby more than you do and will take care of them.'" The couple immediately took the difficult step of faith and accountability.



Photo courtesy of Calvary Castle Rock



Top middle: Grace Covington (left) and Dorothy Hize (right) encourage each other.

Bottom left: Chuck Neiderworder (right) encourages Jim Pumroy at the coffee shop before service.

Left of center: Women enjoy craft time and sharing at the women's conference.

Right of center: Believers lift their concerns to the Lord before the service.

Bottom right: Assistant Pastor John Winder (right) greets a young woman.



All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

Months later, Sean and Maesa married. She recalled, "This alone time [before the wedding] was very important for us because we really focused on our relationship with God. Those nights were my time to be in His Word, and I got to learn the basics. It grew our faith in God and made us love each other more." As the leaders continued to encourage and counsel them through other difficult circumstances, they found themselves spiritually maturing and desiring to serve others. Sean added, "We've experienced sacrificial, non-judgmental love. It motivated Maesa and I to want to plug in, pour out God's truth, and do what He has called us to."

Tammy and Dave Swafford, who now serve in ministry, were also mentored. Tammy admitted, "Our marriage was

a disaster. I was a disaster, on drugs that were destroying me. When I finally got off them, I had a wonderful counselor here, Cindy, who became my dearest friend. She met with me every single week for more than a year. They didn't drag or push us—they just came alongside us.

I want to be able to share with other women what I now know." Her husband Dave confirmed, "They ministered to and prayed with us. The pastors gave me an opportunity to talk about what I was going through, because it was changing all we'd known for the last 30 years."

Trickle-Down, Exponential Discipleship

Calvary Castle Rock began a formal discipleship program in 2014, using the book *Making Disciples* by Larry DiSimone, which focuses on the fundamentals of Christianity. First Pastor Dave and then his pastors and men staffers went through the book; they in turn led the men's leadership team through it. "Now we had 40 guys who could do one-on-one discipleship with people. My wife Mindi took women's leadership through it, who then introduced it to the women," Dave stated. He estimated more than half of the fellowship has been formally discipled.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. JAMES 1:22

"The way you grow in Christ is to disciple someone else. We encourage them to find someone else in the church to disciple and to get involved somewhere. If you're truly a disciple of Jesus, you should be using your gifts somewhere in the body of Christ," Dave said. He cautioned that not everyone who's discipled is yet mature in Christ. "Nothing's foolproof, but God has seemed to bless this training," he added.

"THE WAY YOU GROW IN CHRIST IS TO DISCIPLE SOMEONE ELSE."
PASTOR DAVE LOVE





Even the young adult and senior high youth groups participate in this discipleship. Aliah Isaac, a recent high school graduate, meets one-on-one with senior high leader Coreena Munsinger. “We’re reading through Bible passages, asking what they mean and how we might apply them to life. The goal is that I might be able to disciple someone younger than me,” Aliah said.

Pouring into Youth

Both junior and senior high youth groups study the Bible verse by verse each Sunday. Junior high leader Sean explained, “We encourage students to ask questions. We want to be able to relate Scripture to current issues, trials, or even good things they’re experiencing. I’m big on application. That’s where my heart is: being a genuine light and a witness.” He described many of his students, 10 to 14 years old, as spiritually mature. “They still want to fit in [with the world], but they also want to honor God and not hide their relationship with Him. There’s this really awkward balance of how to live in the world without being of it,” he added.

But as for you, continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, ... and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 2 TIMOTHY 3:14-15

Stephen Wink, a 13-year-old, observed that Sean doesn’t preach. “It’s more like he’s having a conversation with us,

trying to help us understand as much as we can. It’s so useful in our lives.” Stephen recalled a time when one of the leaders encouraged him as he was struggling with anxiety over school issues. “The leaders are not only there on Sunday—they’re available all the time and are going to be there to help you.”

While both youth groups enjoy fun fellowship activities, the goal is to ground them in the Word of God, declared Youth Pastor Larry Munsinger, who teaches the senior high students. “I’ve found that the kids are hungry for the Word of God. They really want to know who God is, why they were created, and what the Word says. My heart is that they would make their relationship with Jesus their own,” he said.

Last October, Larry took 30 youth on a life-changing trip to the Creation Museum in Kentucky—25 of them rededicated their lives to the Lord and were baptized in the hotel pool. “We worshiped, and everybody was crying,” Aliah recounted. She started a small group, Slice Night, when students talk over a pizza meal and then go to the Munsinger home for worship and prayer. To further encourage the students, Larry helps several of the youth teach fellow students on Wednesday nights in the summer.

Children’s ministry leaders encourage even the youngest children and their families to have a deep relationship with Jesus. Volunteers Stu and Jamie Schmeets serve both teachers and parents at the church. The teachers, they

said, pray for the children throughout the week and come prepared. “We want their ears and hearts to be opened to the truth,” Jamie remarked. Stu continued, “This is our chance to fill the kids with the Word that doesn’t return void. We want to instill in them what the Bible says about truth so that when they come to those challenging times in life, when they’re searching for an answer, they remember what they learned when they were young.”

That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. EPHESIANS 3:17-19

Calvary Castle Rock
calvarycastlerock.com



Photo courtesy of Calvary Castle Rock

Top left: Crystal Coleman leads an energetic Sunday school class in age-appropriate worship.

Top right: Youth group teens enjoy fellowship.

Bottom left: Even the very young learn to pray.

Bottom right: Castle Rock, 370 feet tall, with the Rocky Mountains behind. Photo by Calvary Castle Rock