

TRUMPET CALL



VOLUME III, ISSUE 1

CALVARY CHAPEL OF SAVANNAH

FALL 2007

Mission to Peru

Six disciples from Calvary Chapel Savannah answered the Lord's call to go to the "outer most reaches of the world" this summer. Read about some of their experiences.

Pastor Dan: This last July we had the privilege to go to Lima, Peru. Going to another country is quite a step out of your comfort zone, but we all took that step and were greatly rewarded for it.

Lima is a huge city and at first I thought, "What are we doing here? Surely they can take care of themselves." But when we got there, we saw that things were quite different from what I thought. Susie and I went down a few days earlier than the rest of the group, to sort of get the lay of the land and to see what was ahead of us. During that time we had a chance to see the great need in this beautiful country. There is a spiritual darkness that covers the land. Catholicism and idolatry have a stronghold on the people, and the Calvary Chapels that are there are right in the middle of all of it, and in spite of everything they're making head way. People are coming to the Lord.

The people there are very thoughtful and caring, but just like any big city, there's a dark side. We first met up with Lucho Garcia from Calvary Chapel Gracia and Brian Vander Kodde from Calvary Chapel Koinonia, at the airport. We stayed at Brian's fellowship where they have a building with 8 or 10 dorms. There is not a set price to stay there; it is on a donation basis. I asked Brian how much it would cost per day to stay there and he said; "We're not in this for the money. We're here as a ministry, so taking that into consideration, we suggest a donation of at least five dollars a day." Now that included breakfast and on some days lunch, but dinner was up to us. They took such good care of us that I told everyone in the group, "Think about raising the amount from 5 dollars to 10 or 15 dollars a night" because they had fed us everyday and even fed us some dinners. Where could you go here in the States and get room and board for 10 or 15 dollars a night?

After meeting up with our group from Savannah, we ventured out to the other Calvary Chapels to help minister to their needs. Each of our gifts were used in one way or another. George's construction skills came in very handy right down to the use of his survival knife. He also was used to teach and minister to those in need at the different ministries. Aida helped with translating and reaching out to the ladies and kids,

and David helped with his muscle and camera. Stephen helped bridge the gap with the youth. Susie taught at women-only sessions and ministered to their needs. Many of the ladies needed a pastor's wife to lay their burden on, and Susie was there to help them. I was able to teach and pastor almost everyday, sometimes two and three times a day. The Lord even opened a door for me to share with the "Christian surfers" there in Lima.

Recently, there was a great earthquake that took place just south of Lima, in the area in and around Canete. It's been reported that the majority of the homes around Canete were destroyed, leaving the people to live in the streets. The homes in that town are mostly made up of adobe bricks with no reinforcement, and some homes only have bamboo for their walls. So the need is now even greater than when we were there.

Before we left, they all said; "Please pray for us and don't forget us. Please come back." We told them that we would never forget them, and that we would be praying for them and praying about coming back. Since then we have been sending financial relief to Brian's fellowship who, in turn, gets it out to places like Canete. We've also sent relief to Lucho's church for those in need there.

We've been invited to come back this next year; I've been invited to teach at the Men's Conference in Lima next September. So next year, beginning in August, I'll be going back to Lima with those who feel called to come with me. I will be going down a week earlier so that I can go and minister to those who live in the jungle. Those who feel led can come with me or come that next week.

If you feel led to be a part of this next outreach to Lima, start praying now, start preparing your heart now, start saving your money now. As a church, we aren't setting the price to go on this trip. What you want to spend for your mission trip to Lima is up to you. Your flight will cost around \$800 to \$900. The trip into the jungle will cost an additional \$200. Depending on where you stay, your lodging can cost anywhere from \$30 for the whole week if you stay at Brian's, on up to a couple of hundred dollars for the week if you stay at a hotel. Food there is cheap; we had their grilled chicken, and it only cost around four dollars and that included all the fixings. So basically for around \$1,200 - \$1,300 (based on last year's prices) you can have an awesome experience at fulfilling the Great Commission. Pray about coming with us this next year; you won't regret it.

Pastor George: For those who haven't been there, I want to share my thoughts on the impact that the trip had on my life personally. Although my original intent was to minister to those around me, I was quick to discover that it was I who was being ministered to—from the moment I got off the plane to the return trip to the airport going back home. Little did I know that all of my preconceived ideas regarding what I would see, taste, and smell, as well as the interaction with the locals was totally erased and replaced with what my Savior knew was best for me.

Coming from the comforts of a country where nothing is lacking, I was soon to discover that mere existence of life is dependent on the relentless daily pursuit of providing for individual needs. But despite the appearance of extreme poverty practically everywhere, our efforts to provide aid to their physical needs were reciprocated tenfold by them—in their display of unending portions of Christ's love to us. We were quick to discover that their ideology on giving (since they have far less to give) was truly from the heart. So much was offered to us beyond our imagination. To say I was humbled by their witness of sacrificial love is an understatement.

We also discovered while there that the prince of darkness reigns strong, even influencing their majority professed religious system. But the God of ALL creation had His hand in control of every single minute, and He was felt by us all as He used the gifts He has equipped us with to minister to those needs which were most needed at the time.

Even with my ignorance of the language, God nevertheless poured out His Spirit to get my messages out—as well as Dan and Susie's—which we shared at various churches through the help of faithful servants who assisted us.

My encouragement to all who didn't have the opportunity to accompany us is to never forsake what the Lord has in store for your life and to allow Him to do the opening and closing of those doors in front of you as you continue in your venture of faith. (Proverbs 8:32-36)

Susie Tuttle: "I'm trading my sorrow, I'm trading my shame, I'm laying it down for the joy of the Lord. I'm trading my sickness; I'm trading my pain; I'm laying it down for the joy of the Lord..." At every Calvary Chapel Church service in Lima that we attended, this song was sung (in Spanish, of course) and, often times, it was the very first song. I saw it as the opening anthem of a precious people who suffer great persecution for believing that God can be worshipped outside of a Catholic Church. For many of our brothers and sisters in Lima attending a Calvary Chapel means being forsaken by their loved ones and friends—the result of going against the national religion—and seeking a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. As the song continued, they would break out into smiles, "I'm pressed but not crushed, persecuted, not abandoned, struck down, but not destroyed. I'm blessed beyond the curse for His promise will endure, and His joy's going to be my strength. Though the sorrow may last for the night, His joy comes with the morning, and we say Yes, Lord—*Si Senior.*"

The general population of Lima does not look like the Indian mountain people a few hundred miles away. In Lima, they look much like we do, some very tall, not only brown eyes, but some blue eyes or green - so it is easy to fit in. Yet, they must overcome things in their culture that we will hopefully never face, simply because we are USA citizens. Oh, I know we all suffer individual persecution for our faith, and I'm not discounting that. But because their Church is not recognized by the government as a Church, it really has an impact, on both their civil lives as well as their family relationships. Imagine how your life would change if your family and government authorities thought you were part of an evil cult. Imagine how differently you might be treated and how you might respond to constant rejection. Yet, an exceptional unity is found through their fellowship of suffering. And great joy is found in their sacrifice to serve the Lord.

Back at the Calvary Chapel Churches, the worship would most always end with a song that goes, "Lord, You have my heart, and I will search for Yours, Jesus take my life and lead me on. ...let me be to You a sacrifice...and I will praise You, Lord, and I will sing of love come down, and as You show Your face, we'll see Your glory here."

I would like to invite you to come next year with us – to see His glory there.

Be Yourself

By Vicki Mitchler

In April I was blessed to be able to attend the East Coast Pastor's Wives Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Susie and I made the jaunt together and had a great time! It was in a beautiful area right on the Chesapeake Bay!

Susie was responsible for teaching, but I was able to just absorb the wisdom of some great ladies, including Susie.

The conference was geared toward encouraging pastors' wives and women in the ministry. The theme was taken from *Mark 14:3-9*, "Why was this oil wasted?"

The main speakers included: Cheryl Broderson, Carol Wild, Gail Mays, and others. Workshops were conducted by Susie Tuttle, Reina Dalton, Debbie Bryson, Donna Byrd, Irma Pressley, Tara Plantholt and Cyndi Ballmaier.

To be able to come together and worship and fellowship with so many was a great experience. The whole retreat was about loving our Lord and Savior, and giving of yourself as you feel Christ would have you do.

I realized that I don't have to be just like anyone else. God created each of us to be what He created, and He created each of us with different gifts, talents, and needs, and that as long as we desire to please Him, He will guide us through every situation. This is important for each of us to know, no matter in what way we serve God and others. Be yourself, and look for our Savior to guide you.

His Workmanship

By Mark Stump

For the past several weeks, *Exploring the Faith* (more commonly referred to as the young adults' group) has begun a study of the book of Ephesians under the tutelage of Pastor George. Ephesians is chock-full of great and wonderful truths concerning "His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves."

So Ephesians has been on my mind lately, especially a passage that came to my special attention yesterday while I listened to a teaching on chapter two:

In verse ten: *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

What most intrigued me is that the Greek word translated "workmanship" is the word from which we derive our English word "poem." Now, the Greek isn't referring to a specific type of literary art, but rather to the product of a master craftsman. Everything that we are is a result of God's hand, His shaping and molding of our character. What a great thought! Whereas many go to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to view the "workmanship" of the world's finest artists, we might instead travel the world to view the workmanship of God in His people, the spiritual rebirth constantly at work in their lives. As wonderful as many of the pieces in the Met are, not one of them can top the splendor of a life transformed by the Holy Spirit.

Now onto everyone's favorite, the good works. We hear a lot about those, don't we? But here, we're not being bludgeoned by the Holy Spirit over the good things we haven't done (as true as that may be). Rather, the word says that even before I became God's son, He had already set out the things that He would have me do! The Bible also teaches that these good works are the driving force behind my life lived in Christ here in the world. On that point, Pastor Chuck makes a great observation: our Father loves us too much to keep us here any longer than necessary. Ever think of that? With the spiritual battle raging around us everyday, our Father keeps us here because of those good works He has set before us.

In thinking about this, another image came to mind: that our Father is like a master tailor, who has made a great suit (or dress) that fits us perfectly, even before we walk into His store! At a certain point, I came into the shop, maybe out of curiosity, maybe out of desperation for something to wear; nevertheless, I came in. And I may not have seen the suit He made for me right away. I tried one on and it was too big – it was obviously for someone else. Or another, which was the right size, but the pattern didn't suit me. Discouraged, I look at Him, wondering (maybe even asking/accusing) "Nothing in here fits..." I imagine Him smiling at that point, and pulling out that suit that He'd set aside even before I set foot in the shop. I try it on – and it's wonderful, like no other set of clothes I've worn.

This is, perhaps, the sweetest part of walking with God – knowing that He knows me better than I do myself and that He has set a full life before me that is my unique service to Him. We serve an awesome and wonderful God, don't we?

Frightful

By Susan Maxon

Some times people enjoy being frightened. They watch scary movies, go on thrill rides at amusement parks, or think about strange and creepy things at Halloween. God's Word, however, exhorts us to spend our time meditating on whatever things are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, and good. (Philippians 4:8)

As that pagan holiday comes around again, let's pause to realize that here is no aspect of Halloween that is virtuous. It is the devil's holiday, and there is nothing in its celebration that glorifies God, even though much of it may seem like innocent fun, especially to innocent children. In its traditions and symbols, we catch glimpses of the very real and very frightening kingdom of evil.

In my personal Bible study during the past few weeks, I have been contemplating that kingdom, and the fact that hell is a truly frightful concept. In the New Testament, Jesus speaks about hell over thirty times, and Matthew, Peter, John and Paul talk about the kingdom of darkness as well as hell, specifically. Usually I spend more time thinking about heaven than hell, but as I've been praying lately for my unsaved family members, I am reminded of how utterly horrific it will be in that everlasting dominion of darkness. And no matter how much I want my loved ones to be in heaven with Jesus, even more I want them to stay out of hell. Like the old fire-and-brimstone preachers whose sermons vividly opened eyes about the reality of eternal consequences, may the following poem I wrote urge you to pray without ceasing for those you love. For those who have not decided to follow Jesus here on earth will be given their chosen position forever but "*Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*" (Romans 10:13)

Gehenna

Most frightful place, more dark than night,
Lake of fire without a light.

Chains of darkness, no relief,
Not joy, not love, not hope, just grief.

No chance of rest, no glimpse of peace,
Where fears and anguish never cease.

Gnashing of teeth, sounds of weeping,
From tortured spirits never sleeping.

Terrifying, tormenting throes,
Harrowing, everlasting woes.

Furnace of flames and burning coals,
Eternal wrath for eternal souls.

Little Christs

By Sherri Marshall

Saturday, September 1, 2007, marked the "maiden voyage" of Calvary Chapel Savannah's Mobile Ministry. Mark, Tara, Emily, Marina and I had the honor of leading some residents of Marsh View Senior Living facility in praise, worship, the Word, and fellowship. Although the weather was stormy, the Lord allowed us to shine forth in His glory.

At first, the residents were a bit apprehensive. Some sang along with us while others tried to follow using the song sheets we provided. After several songs and prayer, Mark delivered a short sermon and the set ended.

My favorite part of the visit was fellowship. The Lord afforded the team the opportunity to mingle with a few residents. As we sat and talked and touched and smiled and prayed, I thought about the Scripture that teaches us about the Word becoming flesh and dwelling amongst us. We were "little Christs" walking and talking and touching and loving as our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, had done while in His earthly ministry.

I went away thinking about God's grace upon my life. I am convinced that every experience we have—good, bad or indifferent—He uses to His glory. Right after I received Christ, I was part of a team that ministered to residents at a convalescent center in Midway. Currently, I work in a capacity where I am around senior citizens on a regular basis. The Scripture that comes to mind for me regarding the whole experience is from the Psalms: "Teach us to number our days that we might gain a heart of wisdom". My prayer is that all of us will learn to do this with eternity in mind.

Blessing On Saturday Morning

By Chuck Teague

What have all you men been doing the first Saturday morning of the month? Well, over the past several months some of us have been meeting at Calvary Chapel for a wonderful time of fellowship, food, bible study and prayer.

If you haven't been there you have missed some of Pastor Dan's best egg concoctions (I really liked that one with the peppers in it – they all have peppers in them), a variety of other delicacies, such as: watermelon, fresh California strawberries, home made biscuits with gravy, an amazing salmon casserole, and various sweet tastes sometimes including Krispy Kreme donuts. You bring it, we eat it.

After feasting on such varied and interesting cuisine while discussing and being encouraged by what the Lord is doing in our fellowship, we feast on the word of God. Various teachers among us have led us through a continuing study in the book of Acts. Most recently, we have been blessed by the adventures of the apostle Paul as he is led by the Spirit on his missionary journeys. Believe me when I say that this stuff is

better than an Indiana Jones adventure. Paul has been miraculously delivered from jail by an earthquake while singing praise songs after being beaten with rods. Then he went to Athens and confounded the greatest philosophers in the ancient world. He then arrives in Corinth, and establishes a fellowship in the midst of pagan debauchery. In our last study we saw him set up a school of ministry in the Asian capitol of Ephesus and saw the Lord use it to spread the gospel throughout the province of Asia in the space of a couple of years. The adventure continues in the coming months with Paul returning to Jerusalem to be persecuted, imprisoned, and tried before being sent to Rome first class.

We end our time together by coming before the Lord to speak to Him about our concerns and desires, not only about our personal concerns, but also about the requests and concerns of our fellowship. What a great way to spend a Saturday morning.

Leadership Training Course

By John Maxon

We started this current Men's Leadership Training Course last August expecting to complete it within a quick six month time period. As we know, however, God has His own time line for events to take place. A year has passed since we started our time of training, and we're still going strong.

One of the main purposes of this training has been to equip those taking the course for the work of the ministry. God has turned our training time into a year long journey of digging into His Word, exploring Pastor Chuck Smith's writings, a time of personal sharing, intercessory prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Additionally, and equally as important, this course has turned into a wonderful time of koinonia.

Let's put our bi-monthly training time into perspective. Christ was with His disciples everyday for nearly three years. To come close to that amount of training time, we would have to start meeting for the whole day, twice a month, for the next 45 years. Don't panic Pastor Dan, we'll try to finish up by the end of the year.

Route 66

By Shakila Jenkins

Our Ladies Bible Study is always exciting, and it's an event that I enjoy.

During the current "Route 66" study (using Jeff Lasseigne's book, *Highway 66*), we will go through all sixty-six books of the Bible, looking at four or five books during each session, while concentrating on one chosen chapter from each book.

I believe that this method stretches us spiritually because we get to hear what God has shown to each lady, and how she is using that precept in her life.

The Billy Graham Call Center

By Emily Avery

“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”

John 4:35-38

About two years ago I was presented with an opportunity from my chiropractor, who is a strong Christian. He was organizing a Billy Graham Call Center right here in Savannah. He said, “The fields are already white for the harvest.” He was right. Since becoming involved in this crucial ministry, I have seen hundreds of people become saved simply by watching Billy

Graham’s salvation message on television, calling the 1-800 number and speaking with someone who cares. Several people from our fellowship have been involved regularly and can testify to the awesome move of the Spirit that has accompanied each telecast. Sometimes as many as 40% of the calls are salvation calls. It is very exciting to pick up the phone to ask someone if they want to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior and to hear them say “Yes!”

Perhaps even more exciting than that is the opportunity to see the diversity of the body of Christ, as people from churches all over town get together with one purpose in mind: to share Jesus Christ with a dying world and to pray for each caller that calls in. I have been blessed by the other saints’ love of the Lord, knowledge of God’s word, and prayer life. I go to minister to others, but always come away feeling recharged. The invitation to participate is open to anyone who is saved. All you must do is attend one training session to learn to operate the telephone system. Truly we are reaping where we have not sown! Please contact me for more information.

Through Trials

By Tara Workman

Through dark valleys we've traveled to come to the light.
Through fires we've come to be cleansed.
Covered with Your blood and righteousness we are made white as snow.
Clear away the dross and debris to make us look more like Him.

Through trials He leads us to strengthen our walks.
Through trials His grace sustains us.
Be a light for Him to all in the darkness.
Show His mercy and peace as you do.

Golden candlesticks, on fire, ablaze
We shine throughout the world.
Go out, show love, His Son
For His word commands it.

Lord, help us to love You with all that we are.
Lord, show us how to be more like You.
Created in Your image, Lord, grow us.
I thank you for Your forgiveness.

Lord, help us to remember,
Never let us forget
All that You have done and yet to do
Lord, I wait patiently for it.

Through dark valleys we've traveled to come to the light.
Through fires we've come to be cleansed.
Covered with Your blood and righteousness we are made white as snow.

Note of Appreciation

By Tim and Melissa Pasagui

From teachers to helpers, builders to painters, organizers to trash taker-outers,
we thank you for your sacrifice.

The Children's Ministry is blessed to have such faithful servants.
To God be the glory!

Visit our Website

www.CalvaryChapelSavannah.com

You and your family and friends can visit our church website at

<http://www.calvarychapelsavannah.com/media.php>

where you'll find all of Pastor Dan's recent Wednesday night and Sunday morning messages.

We also now have video of his Sunday messages online at

<http://www.calvarychapelsavannah.com/video/>

Future Contributions

We will print short testimonies, reflections, original stories,
or poems which encourage, edify, or uplift our readers.

Contact Susan Maxon if you would like to submit something original for the next issue.

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| Trumpet Call Editors: | Pastor Dan & Susie Tuttle Susan Maxon |
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To those readers who were not around for the inaugural issue of the *Trumpet Call* in 2005 and are wondering about the name: in Old Testament times a trumpet was made from a ram's horn. Called a shofar in Hebrew, it was sounded to praise God, call the Hebrew people to worship, proclaim the presence of Jehovah as well as announce festivals and holy days. We pray that our *Trumpet Call* will be used for all those things for us. And perhaps we may get to hear the sound of the "last trumpet" call. For when Jesus returns, the Bible tells us that "*the trumpet will sound...*" 1 Corinthians 15:52.