

TRUMPET CALL



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CALVARY CHAPEL OF SAVANNAH

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A Soldier Speaks of Battle

Mark Stump, back from a year's Army duty in Iraq, shares insights from the Lord.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27:1-2)

The Lord initiated David into the mind set of a warrior at a young age. As he tells Saul in 1 Samuel 17:36-37, the Lord had given him victory over a lion and a bear when he was just a boy. David doesn't give credit to his skill with a weapon or his great courage; instead, he points to the Lord as his Armament, his Training, and his Champion. The Lord is all a soldier needs. Too often, we fall into a mind set that adds the Lord into the equation of our lives only after we've factored in every worldly help we can imagine. In these instances, the Lord's promise of action and His assurance of strength and of deliverance from our enemies make for nice words of encouragement when we're in a pickle, but rarely constitute the starting point we use when facing problems. David, however, knew from experience that confidence in our God is the most practical attitude a person can carry through life.

The familiar episode with Goliath serves as an outstanding example. Having been sent to the front lines with supplies for his older brothers, David witnesses the taunting of the enemy firsthand. "I defy the ranks of Israel this day; give me a man that we may fight together," Goliath shouted (1 Samuel 17:10). He doesn't think any of the Israelites have the guts to fight him, and he has every earthly reason to believe so. Samuel's account tells us that Goliath stood a little less than 10-foot tall. He wore a bronze helmet, a 125-pound coat of bronze mail, and more armor on his legs. The head of his spear weighed 15 pounds by itself! But what he didn't have was faith in the Living God.

But Goliath the Heathen isn't alone in his unbelief, as David soon finds out. When David asks about who plans on challenging Goliath, David's oldest brother, Eliab, lashes out at him: "Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few

sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle" (1 Samuel 17:28). David has caught Eliab hanging out on the battlefield playing soldier. He may have his armor and spear, but he has no intention of stepping out in the name of the God of Israel and accepting Goliath's challenge. Eliab knows he's been found out and so he gets defensive, accusing David of shirking his duties even as he shirks his own. Eliab has forgotten God and shrinks at the prospect of battle.

David's boldness catches the attention of King Saul, who sends for him. Saul doesn't think David stands a chance against this Philistine who was "a man of war from his youth" (1 Samuel 17:33). But David isn't swayed and tells Saul about the lion and the bear, saying that Goliath is no different from them - that the Lord would give Goliath into his hand. Saul acquiesces before David's confidence in God and attempts to give David his armor and sword, which don't fit. The heavy armor and sword are a brilliant illustration of the weighty solutions that the world suggests for our problems. But David won't be weighed down by them - he leaves for the battlefield unarmored and more confident than ever while Saul sits in his command post, playing king and lacking the confidence that God will give his nation victory.

Goliath waits on the battlefield. In front of this well-armed giant stands David, a shepherd armed with nothing but a staff, a sling, five smooth stones, and his good looks (1 Samuel 17:40-42). We all know how the story ends, but this episode of biblical history gives occasion for reflection: who am I in this story? I, for one, can't say I'm always David. How often am I like Eliab, lashing out at those who would do God's work, accusing them of their foolishness or lack of responsibility? Or how about Saul, who would wait in unbelief until another comes along to do the work that God had intended for him? As we think on these things, remember God's own words spoken through his warrior-champion David: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" So let's step out and in to victory!

Titus Two Women *Virtue in a Virtual World?* By Carol Armstrong

I like the fact that my business travel affords me a few hours respite from phone and email and the opportunity to indulge one of my favorite past times, people watching. More often than not, my travel includes a spiritual journey as well.

During a recent connection through the Atlanta airport I watched a sharp looking, 20-something guy try to charm a young woman waiting for our flight. He had his best flirt on, but it wasn't working, and as she turned to move away he called after her, "Are you virtuous???" What an awesome question! It resonated with me. Both the word and the question seem old fashioned in today's culture. Certainly it's not a quality our society values or embraces the way it once did.

I shared the incident with the young women I work with when I returned, and we talked about what it means to be virtuous. Most of them never knew an America that valued or encouraged virtue, but one of them knew of a website that does and introduced me to its founder, Candace Perry. I didn't have far to go for the meeting. Candace works right across the hall in Human Resources.

In August 2002 the song *Barlow Girls* by Superchick struck a chord with Candace. Beginning with a personal website and a personal commitment to living a life pleasing to God, Candace created a community for like-minded young women to exhort and encourage one another in a Christ-centered Commitment to Purity. The site PurityGirls.com is designed for single young women ages 13 to 29, and membership is reserved for that demographic; however, it is an encouragement to Christian singles of any age.

Members must first have a personal commitment to Christ as Lord and Savior, and the site has some great links to learning about Jesus for visitors who may not have made that decision yet. Purity Girls write a personal pledge and make a commitment to Purity of Heart, Purity of Mind, and Purity of Body. The scriptural references contained within The Commitment are right on target.

The site features a forum through which members can share questions and comments on posted topics as well as prayer requests. The messages are not posted in live time however, enabling Candace and her team of 9 moderators to monitor the posts and safeguard the intent to stay on topic and be Christ centered. The team also has the ability to exclude postings and safeguard email addresses to guard against predators.

More than 800 Purity Girls from across the globe now share the commitment and encourage one another in love. One look at the website and you know

Candace makes a huge investment of time and energy in her ministry. Reading the comments of younger girls, hearing the impact of encouragement in members' lives and choices keeps her going.

Recently, a similar site designed for young men was launched called Purityguys.com and is being run by guys who have taken the same pledge to purity.

So, yes, Virginia, while there may not be a Santa Clause, there is virtue in this virtual world. It's a loving response of trust and obedience to a Heavenly Father who can be counted on to provide His best in His time for our hearts.

Guitar for Worship By Emily Avery

The idea for a Guitar for Worship class came about because I felt that the Lord was prompting me to pass along what I had learned about the guitar to others who were just beginning. I got a lot of information and assistance from other musicians, and I took an introduction and intermediate guitar class for credit through the Calvary Chapel Bible College extension at North Country Chapel. I had a desire to worship from home. Since then, God has opened up opportunities for me and has always guided the process. I can truly say that He has given me all that I have, including my new guitar. So the first thing that I told all six of the students was that if their desire was to learn to play guitar to worship God, then I believed that He would guide their desires and help them to do it.

I have been pleased to share with them such information as basic musical terms, guitar anatomy, string changing, how to play chords, creating rhythm, major scale/whole-step and half-step patterns, the Nashville chord numbering system, and how to keep it all in a Godly perspective. I have witnessed all of them grow in an understanding of what God wants them to do with this information right now. Some are just holding on until the right time. Others are branching out into new areas of ministry.

As far as long-term goals for this class, I will feel that I have succeeded when everyone who keeps with the class can play a song of their choosing on their own.

Mission Trip

On May 21st there will be a meeting after church for anyone interested in the short-term mission trip in December to Managua, Nicaragua, that Charles Wood is coordinating. Check out the Calvary Chapel Nicaragua website for more information about the destination.
<http://www.calvarychapel.com/managua/>

Celebrations

Miss Brodi Tuttle, born December 5th to Bethany and Jason, is a wonder to her big brother, Blake, and a joy to her proud grandparents, Pastor Dan and Susie.

A big congratulation to Tara Workman who graduated from Armstrong Atlantic State University on May 6 with a Bachelor's Degree from the College of Education. She will be teaching history at South Effingham High School this fall.

Herb Miller and Alicia Strader have announced their engagement to be married. Their wedding will be at Calvary Chapel on November 11th amid family and friends.

For Such a Time as This

By Susan Maxon

It is the Lord who is ultimately in charge of all things. It is He who placed the stars in the sky, and it is He who places all of creation in strategic locations. Although God has blessed mankind with free will, it mysteriously and perfectly blends with His sovereignty.

As Mordecai told Queen Esther when Haman conspired to annihilate the Jews, "Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" God continues to use individuals to enact His will.

Pastor Dan and Russ Riesinger may be influencing people for the kingdom whom they will never meet until eternity. Russ interviewed and filmed Pastor Dan for a WSAV-TV News 3 spot to coincide with the releasing of The Da Vinci Code in theaters on May 19th. Dan Brown's book has sold more than 40 million copies, and the movie, by Columbia Pictures starring Tom Hanks, is expected to influence many millions of viewers. There are board games and video games in addition to websites, media reports, and advertising to promote this soon to be blockbuster movie. Pastor Dan is adding his voice of truth to many others who are speaking out against the lies and deceptions that are woven throughout the book and movie about the alleged secret life of Christ and other falsities about Christianity.

On May 3rd during our Wednesday evening service, we watched the video, The Da Vinci Code Examined. In it apologist, Charlie Campbell, director of the School of Ministry at Calvary Chapel Vista, gives his viewers help to refute the book and movie. He uses the acronym CODES to help people remember some of the errors Dan Brown propagates, and then gives facts and citations to refute them.

*C = corruption of the Scriptures
O = origin of the deity of Christ
D = development of Sunday worship
E = establishment of the canon of Scripture
S = singleness of our Lord*

For those who missed the viewing of the Charlie Campbell video, you can watch it by clicking on the icon in the quick link section on the home page of our church website at www.calvarychapelsavannah.com.

Why is this book and movie important for us to know about and spend time thinking about? Today The Da Vinci Code is the most widely read book second only to the Bible. It has been translated into 44 languages. All this in only three years! Time magazine named Dan Brown one of the World's 100 Most Influential people. He will probably be influencing many for years to come regarding Jesus, the Bible, the Church, and the Gospel because he is claiming that his mystery thriller, though fiction, is based on historical fact that has been suppressed by the Church. Charlie Campbell believes this will be a "powerful intellectual assault on the Christian faith" that will have a "long term negative impact".

Segments of Pastor Dan's interview will be aired on WSAV News 3 one Thursday in the near future. Pray that the Lord will powerfully use Pastor Dan and Russ "for such a time as this". Pray also that God will use you to speak with people who will have seen this movie and who have questions about Jesus, the Bible, or Christianity.

Prayer Requests

If anyone in the church has a concern regarding family or friends, the Calvary Chapel Prayer Chain members are willing to pray about it. Call Susie (Tuttle) at 856-0545 to initiate a prayer request -- so she can make Pastor Dan aware of it. Then Susan (Maxon) will forward it to those on the Prayer Chain, who will discretely lift up your concern to the Lord. Remember two of God's promises: that where two or more are gathered, He will be in their midst and also that if we ask *according to His will*, He will hear us, and if He hears us, we will have that which we desire.

Neighborhood Outreach

Calvary Chapel's first Neighborhood Outreach took place on a Saturday in March after the weeklong music concerts by Life Connections International. People met at the church and split up into groups of three. The plan was not to proselytize, evangelize, or promote Calvary Chapel but simply to ask our neighbors if they would like to be prayed for.

In the weeks since Sherri Marshall's experience of knocking on doors and talking with some of the people in the neighborhood, she said that John 4:36 keeps going through her mind, "*Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are already white for harvest.*"

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To Shakila Jenkins the Outreach demonstrated that “our community is filled with hurting and empty people just waiting for someone to show them the way to true joy and true salvation.”

Emily Avery shares that she was impressed by the willingness of people to invite the teams into their homes to pray with them. She said, “We were met by a lot of honesty. People were willing to admit where they were spiritually, and what their needs were. The most touching prayer request was by a gentleman who asked us to pray that he would get closer to God. Wow, I think we all need that. I would encourage everyone reading this to step out and try praying for someone that you don't know. You will be the one changed.”

The second Neighborhood Outreach, coordinated by Mark Stump, is May 13th, and then next month on June 10th in conjunction with the third outreach, Alicia Strader will be coordinating a “yard sale” where everything will be free. During the week of June 4th you may bring items from home to the church for the giveaway. This will be a time to reach out in Christian love to the people in the church neighborhood.

Winter and Spring Fellowship

Since this newsletter is a combination winter/spring issue, there are lots of church activities to look back on, remember and be thankful for.

The ladies' Christmas Tea one Saturday afternoon in December was lots of fun. There were home-made croissant sandwiches, fresh salads, and holiday cookies along with a selection of teas, sipped from favorite tea cups. The ladies enjoyed special music, Susie's devotional, “H and m aids of the Lord”, and a birth-of-Jesus themed gift exchange.

In January after a time of worship and prayer, the ladies had an Italian Night Out at the Macaroni Grill. Then in February they began their next biweekly study using the excellent little book, Effective Prayer Life. It is packed full of Pastor Chuck's wisdom gleaned from years of ministry. During one meeting Carolyn shared that there is a big difference between being acquainted with a co-worker and really knowing him or her, and it's the same with God. To have an effective prayer life, we need to have a personal relationship with the Lord. For those of you – men or women – who would like to discover more gems about praying, there are still copies on the book table for sale.

The men have had their Saturday morning potluck Prayer Breakfast every month since December and are now studying the book of Acts. The guys have had a great turn-out for their new ministry, “Iron Sharpening Iron”, which has been meeting monthly since January for food, fun, and fellowship. The new ping-pong table and virtual golf are added attractions.

In January we had a potluck to welcome home our soldiers from Iraq and to express our appreciation for their sacrifice and duty. An all-church Valentine's Day potluck was enjoyed in February. But in March we went all out with three food fests during the St. Patrick's Week Outreach: the Mitchlers' Low Country Boil Extraordinaire, a Soul Food Supper, and an evening of Southern Sweets and Treats. The first Saturday in April was a beautiful day to picnic at Skidaway State Park and celebrate our church's 9th anniversary. Volleyball, water balloons, and horseshoes rounded out the day's activities. Watch for upcoming announcements of summer fun and fellowship.

There were lots of work days during the last several months to get the church spruced up for the St. Patrick's Outreach and to get ready for the next building inspection. The ladies' bathroom has been remodeled, Pastor Dan's vision of a cityscape is progressing nicely, and there have been many behind-the-scenes structural accomplishments. Thanks to all the volunteers!

Becki Ryan and her husband, Devon, missionaries from California with Life Connections International, blessed us in March with three concerts of original music plus Sunday morning worship and worship in Forsyth Park on St. Patrick's Day. Becki, who sings professionally, also uses her talent for evangelism, and her group was part of the prayer walk, our first Neighborhood Outreach.

In April there was a big crowd for the Passover Seder. Pastor Dan explained that Jesus and His disciples most likely were celebrating a traditional Jewish Seder during the evening of the Last Supper. Our Seder used the traditional Seder elements – including horseradish! -- to recount the ancient story, and we saw how Jesus fits into this Jewish holiday. We learned how foundational Passover is in God's plan of redemption, and that it was the sacrifice of “The Lamb” that gives it true meaning. While the Hebrews had to sacrifice a lamb and apply its blood to the doorposts of their Egyptian homes in order to be “passed over” by the Angel of Death, we need The Lamb of God's blood on the doorpost of our hearts so God's judgment of death will pass over us.

The next newsletter will be published in the early fall. Please give church-related announcements and news to Susan, and if space permits, we will print short testimonies, reflections, or original stories and poems which encourage, edify, or uplift our readers.

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