

THRIVE!

M A G A Z I N E

Issue #2

celebrating the stories and milestones of Calvary Church

July 2009

Welcome to the 2nd Edition of THRIVE!

THRIVE! is a quarterly newsletter from Calvary Church. Our goal is to keep the Calvary family aware of the events and celebrations that happen around here, and the majority of this issue contains articles that are **SENDING** in nature. We've seen groups and individuals head around the globe this spring, and it's important to catch a glimpse of what God is doing in the hearts and lives of both Calvary folks and the people they've met here and in cross-cultural experiences.

You'll also find a schedule of upcoming events for the next quarter, as well as a smattering of other news items. As always, there are no "reporters" for this publication, so we rely on you to let us know what's happening in your world. In order to be considered for publication, news should be sent to joanne@calvaryonline.org.

Find additional information about Calvary Church at the Information Center in the Commons, and on the web at www.calvaryonline.org and unleash.calvaryonline.org.

UNLEASH: BAPTISM



Pastor Dan baptizes Diane Prill on June 21.

A Whole Lot of Splashing Going On!

Although the weather didn't cooperate very nicely with our plans for an outdoor baptism at the Muscatine Aquatic Center on June 21, it didn't stop 39 people from making a public expression of their faith in Christ. While the rain poured outside, the celebration went on for over an hour inside the Calvary auditorium as men, women and children demonstrated their commitment to Jesus. Those who were baptized included:

Edward Aguilar
Mantay Biah
Steve Borchert
Joy Carter
Cody Connor
Lucas Connor
Eugenia Cooley
James Dixon, Sr.
Greig Duo
Regan Edkin
Benjamin Fortenbacher
Luke Fortenbacher
Guillermo Galarza

Jessie Gomez, III
Kodi Goodwin
Trina Goodwin
Nicholas Hayes
Kyle Hoffman
Kaeley Hogan
Kim Hogan
Rebecca Hogan
Tanner Hoon
Fletcher Hopkins
Marthaline Johnson
Padriac Justus
Joshua Karkosh

Kasey Lee
Jason Liegois
Laura Liegois
Robert Lincoln
Oscar Lopez
Macey McAtee
Caleb Norton
Hayley Norton
Richard Paulsen
Diane Prill
Jared Roumfort
Michael Simester
Donne Wagner

UPCOMING EVENTS

CALENDAR

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august :: september :: october :: november 2009

Date	Event	Description	Location	Time
AUGUST				
2	LATTE DA	Coffee and connecting for women	The Hearth	10:30 AM
	MUSIC ON THE LEVEE	ALP Concert - Free event!	LeClaire Park Davenport	7 PM
14	CD RELEASE	ALP CD Release Concert	Redstone Room Davenport	8 PM
22-23 29-30	NO KIDZONE	There will be no Kidzone or Middle School Bible Study the last two weekends of August.		
28	PRAYER EVENT	Gatekeepers	Space 5	6 - 8 PM 8-10 PM
SEPTEMBER				
6	WORSHIP IN THE PARK	Summer's End Celebration!	Weed Park Bandshell	10:00 AM
13	LATTE DA	Coffee and connecting for women	The Hearth	10:30 AM
14	SALAD SUPPER	Fall Kick-off event for all women!	Calvary Commons	TBA
25	PRAYER EVENT	Gatekeepers	Space 5	6-8 PM 8-10 PM
OCTOBER				
	OUTBREAK RETURNS	Our Wednesday night Middle School event resumes. For those Grades 6-8.	Student Ministries Center	6:30 - 8 PM
NOVEMBER				
6-7	WOMEN'S RETREAT	"Every Day Matters"	Stronghold Conference Center Oregon, IL	TBA
12, 13 & 15	GREENLIGHT THEATRE PRODUCTION	A large musical is planned	Calvary Auditorium	TBA

DELTA BOND...THEN AND NOW



Then...

"...the institution which has probably created more good will for the gospel than any other single project in Nigeria is the SIM eye hospital started in 1943 by Dr. D. M. Hursh. It is the only one of its kind in all West Africa, and patients come from great distances. Beyond the personal contact with patients, it indirectly arouses a receptive attitude toward the work of missions.

"I knew that one nurse, Delta Bond, has been there since the hospital was opened; so I asked if she had done any cataract

operations—with a doctor around, of course.

"A few,' she grinned; '—maybe a thousand."

-Taken from Run While the Sun is Hot

Now...

Delta Bond is now 90 years young and looking to escape the Florida summer heat where she resides at SIM's Retirement Village at Sebring. She was born and grew up in the Muscatine area, and returned for a few weeks to enjoy her home town and beloved Mississippi River. Her story is an amazing account of God's grace and His ability to do much more with any of us than we can imagine. Following 40 years of service in Africa, she moved to a hospital ministry in Alaska for ten years before "retiring" in Sebring.

After spending the month of May at an extended family reunion in southern Illinois, she enjoyed the month of June in Muscatine, hosted by Elsie McNeill and Carolyn Brooks. A gathering in her honor was held on Wednesday, June 10, where she was greeted by old and new Calvary acquaintances. Having been given a proper dose of Muscatine hospitality, Delta set off on the next leg of her journey on July 1, heading north to Michigan.



FAREWELL, ANGELA!

Angela Dieckman, no stranger to cross-cultural experiences and investing in the lives of others, is saying good-bye to us in mid-July to prepare for a teaching position in a Muslim nation located in northern Africa. Angela's job will entail working with preschoolers in an international tri-lingual educational system. (She gets to handle the English end of things!)

A tireless and gifted administrator, Angela served on the Cross-Cultural Team at Calvary for four years, and also helped bring the college-level class "Perspectives" to Calvary a year ago. As a veteran of short-term trips to Croatia, Malaysia, Senegal, Guatemala (and others) and a year stint teaching high school in Hungary, she brings passion and experience to the table as she prepares for this long-term assignment.

Those with questions, or who have an interest in being on her prayer and financial support team, can contact her at 563-299-8625 or flimany@gmail.com.

The Calvary Leadership Board

The Calvary membership recently elected Steve Thiering and Randy Gipple to join the Calvary Leadership Board, and re-elected Bruce Arentson to another term. The slate of candidates is selected by a Nominating Committee and presented to the eligible voters at an annual meeting. The remainder of the Board is comprised of Tom Allen, Chair; Doug Jones, Dan Martin, Tom Norton, and Rob Schmidt. Steve and Randy will fill positions vacated by Larry Emmert and Nate Orvis, who are rotating off the Board after the completion of their terms.

The responsibility of the Leadership Board is to see that Calvary Church achieves its mission (why we exist) and stays within certain boundaries in the process. This requires a big picture perspective. The Board also maintains an active connection to the "moral owners" of the church—Christ and the people who actively attend; and the "legal owners"—the active membership; as well as the unreached community.

The Calvary family is encouraged to pray for the staff, Board and other leaders as we continue to "Connect people with God to become fully committed to the Cause of Christ."

UNLEASHING IN ASIA

When World Venture, an organization that assists churches in global ministry, called Calvary Church seeking a well-traveled, missions-knowledgeable risk-taker, Dave Schmidt fit the description perfectly. A recently retired businessman with more than a dozen trips to China, journeys to Turkey, Guatemala, and many other countries on his résumé, this full-time Calvary volunteer was delighted to take on a brand new challenge. Dave's assignment: to give business advice and attend a Bible conference in a "dark" country in Southeast Asia recently devastated by Cyclone Nargis. The country, Myanmar (formerly Burma), lost between 100,000 and 1,000,000 people in the 2008 disaster. According to Wikipedia, the government stopped counting casualties, and the actual death toll may never be known.

Dave was accompanied on the trip by Dr. Jeff Allgood. The two of them also served on Calvary's initial evaluation trips to Guatemala and Liberia. Jeff's task in Myanmar was to assess medical needs and determine how those might be addressed in the future.

WorldVenture workers support themselves with jobs while reaching out to people who do not know Jesus. These workers are required to find ways to earn a living in the countries to which they are placed, and in Myanmar, benefitted from the insight Dave's business background provided. Dave focused on sharing Godly business principles based on Biblical examples with workers and local business people. Dave and Jeff also attended a Bible conference with 300 other people in Yangon (Rangoon), the capital of Myanmar. This nation is ruled by an authoritarian military dictatorship. While government officials knew of the conference they did not interfere with the scheduled events. One or more officials were present at a rooftop celebration with 300 participants, and reportedly enjoyed the guitar music. Dave said, "Even with the Myanmar Government oppression of the people, we were able to worship

freely during the Bible conference. We also visited a Bible College in Yangon with over 200 students. They invited us to return and teach at their school."

The duo also signed up for a guided Buddhist tour which took them on a 9-hour bus ride covering 90 exhausting miles. Dave pointed out that communication in Myanmar is difficult due to the government's desire to control the flow of information. A cell phone, for example, costs \$2000: \$50 for the phone itself, and \$1950 in government fees. The Internet is available, but the \$1000 per month charge prevents most people from having access to it.



Jeff (L) and Dave (R) overlooking Hong Kong

Macao was the next stop for Dave and Jeff. This former Portuguese colony now belongs to China, and has become the new casino capital of the world. The tiny island (9 square miles) is home to three missionaries supported by Calvary, each of whom is nearing retirement (with hopes that God will provide replacement workers in the near future). Jeff and Dave spent several days talking to English Language Clubs, conversing with individuals and groups. They openly shared the Gospel, with considerable emphasis on the parables, and focused on relationship building with the people they met.

After a brief stop in Hong Kong, Jeff returned to Muscatine while Dave flew to mainland China. Dave's passion for the Chinese people was developed during a dozen business trips to this country. He described how the people's minds were stolen from them during the repressive Communist regime of 1949-1989. Their abilities to analyze, reason, express themselves, and make decisions were eroded because freedom of thought was forbidden for forty years. Since Tiananmen Square (1989), a new China has emerged, fueled by university students' insistence on more freedom. Today's China reflects the influences of western capitalism, business, television, and culture. China continues to evolve and is now open to westerners.

Dave has researched the practice of Christianity over the years and supplied many surprising insights that seem to contradict common perceptions about China. Dave's observations include:

- Bibles are openly available in most bookstores! More Bibles are published in China than in any other country. (Amity Printing in Nanjing is the world's single-biggest producer of Bibles.)
- Christian bookstores operate undisguised.
- The government KNOWS that the people we call "workers" are actually Christian missionaries and ignores these folks as long as there are no problems.
- Books by Rick Warren, John Piper, and other Christian authors are being translated into Chinese.
- While there are continued reports of Christians being persecuted in China (and Myanmar), there was no evidence of this during Dave and Jeff's trip.

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WEST AFRICA SCRAPBOOK

liberia: may 14-23

Dan Schoepf, Scott Mauck, Andy Landers, Jill Cawiezell, Bruce Arentson, Jamie Hopkins, Don Lampe, Caleb Mann, Ben Rivera, and Brody Smock



Students using the cups purchased by our KidZone Christmas in Africa drive!



- Children at the Prime School received medical check-ups
- Library shelves were built
- A conference for local pastors was held
- A visit to the agricultural efforts in the Interior was made
- Interviews were conducted with local small business owners



senegal: March 27 - April 5

Dan Schoepf, Carolyn Brooks, Lorrie Lampe, Mona Askren, Joe Barton, Debbie Barton and Angela Dieckman



Ministering to missionaries on the front-lines.

MEET THE BOARD: ROB SCHMIDT

Rob Schmidt is completing his first year of serving on the Calvary Leadership Board. He has felt this year has been an awesome experience and has placed him on a new learning curve!

Rob was raised in the Muscatine area. Upon graduation from Muscatine High School, he received an Agriculture-related scholarship for Livestock judging. Western Illinois University would be where he would spend the next four years earning a degree in Agricultural Science. He worked in the Agricultural field for some time, but has worked as a sales manager for Hoffmann, Inc. for the past 11 years.

Rob lives in Wilton with his wife Andrea, daughter Shelby, and son Kaleb. They have resided in Wilton for 7-8 years. Andrea has started her own photography business and keeps very busy with two teenagers. Shelby just turned 16, and she performs regularly with the Calvary Song and Dance team among her other numerous activities. Kaleb is 13, and loves snowboarding, skateboarding, 4-wheeling, football, baseball, wrestling, and track.

Rob first came to know Christ when he was 11 years old but really got serious about following Him shortly after he married. Rob has served around Calvary Church in numerous capacities. He has enjoyed leading adult small groups, and between Nate Schroeder and Scott Mauck he was



The Schmidt family: Rob and his wife Andrea, son Caleb and daughter Shelby.

the interim high school youth leader. He worked in the 1 & 2 year old nursery for quite some time. Guatemala was blessed with Rob's service & compassion twice. He was an assistant construction leader with Tom Allen on the first trip and then the construction leader on the next trip.

When Rob was nominated to the Calvary Leadership Board, Tom Allen really encouraged him to serve. This first year of service with the board has found Rob learning to discern what his role is. It has led to asking a lot of questions and learning

to think about what is best for the entire church body and how do we connect with the 30-40 thousand people in the area who do not attend a church. Rob asks God to work through him and the other board members to be good stewards of the church's money, time, and of the facility.

Rob feels it has been an interesting dynamic to see where God is directing Calvary to go and what his role is in that journey.

Calvary is grateful to have Rob Schmidt and his family "unleashing relentless love to our broken world."

Mercy Ship in Cotonou, Benin, West Africa



In May of this year, dentist Barb Gipple spent two weeks with *Mercy Ships—Africa Mercy* in Benin, West Africa.

Read more about her experience on the Unleash Blog: unleash.calvaryonline.org.

congratulations. . .

- To Torbor Krua, who recently became a U.S. citizen. He is taking the name of his grandfather, so his new name is Torbor Marshall Gore. Torbor hopes to go into Law Enforcement.
- To Joe Mann, who recently competed in The Race Across the West, biking 769.2 miles in 2 days, 21 hours. He was forced to drop out of the race 275 miles short of the finish line in Taos, N.M., due to saddle sores. (No doubt!) Joe's Mann Powered team was comprised of Crew Chief (wife) Connie, sons Christopher and Caleb, and family friend, Eric Furnas.

- The Church is growing rapidly—the best estimate says there are approximately 70 million Christians in China.
- Christianity does not replace an established religion. China has been without religion of any kind since 1949.

Dave spent time in two mainland cities: Xiamen, on the southeast coast near Taiwan, and Chengdu, near the base of the Himalayas. Inland Chengdu is less westernized than Xiamen, and workers there are discrete and have not experienced any difficulties.

It was in Chengdu that Dave experienced his “biggest defining moment” as a Believer. He was asked to speak at the government-approved Three Self-Help Church on Easter. He had no restrictions as to topic and chose to share his own story with the 100 people in attendance. He told his listeners that the world is desperate without God’s saving grace and described how the blood of Jesus has broken the chains of sin. For these people the chains were their inability to think, to analyze, to reason, to pray. Now, however, those chains are broken and they are free to know and share in Jesus’ love and forgiveness. Dave said he was overwhelmed that an “old guy from Iowa” could share the gospel with people in China. He walked away humbled, realizing that some of these people had never before heard this message.

During his interview, Dave recounted how he had served as a team leader during his first twelve trips to China, helping companies develop sound business principles. On this most recent trip he wanted more than business or adventure. He wanted to tell people about Jesus.



Dave after speaking to the Three Self-Help Church on Easter Sunday morning in Chengdu, China

Dave wonders how his experiences could impact Calvary Church. He dreams of kids born and raised here in Iowa, “Unleashing around the world, to people who do not have opportunities to learn about Jesus.” He ponders what God would have him and his wife Gale do. Dave’s prayer is that God will use the groundwork established by this Calvary mission evaluation trip for His glory and kingdom, impacting people both here and in Southeast Asia with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. China is Calvary’s fourth mission gateway. (The others are Muscatine, Guatemala and Liberia.) In the near future the Calvary Mission team will be evaluating next steps concerning China. Exciting opportunities lie ahead!

READY TO GO? GUATEMALA 2010



This issue of *Thrive!* is packed with pictures and stories from recent trips to West Africa and China. Calvary is also committed to our continuing work in the country of Guatemala—and we have an upcoming short-term mission trip for any adult who is ready to unleash beyond our borders. The dates are **February 12-20, 2010**.

While in Guatemala we will...

- Participate in construction projects
- Give medical and/or dental assistance where needed
- Interact with both Christians and non-believers
- Minister to village children
- Spread the love of Jesus
- Worship in Guatemalan churches
- Catch a vision for the Guatemalan people

The team will be led by Bruce Martin and Jeff Allgood. Brochures are available at the Information Center, or via download from the Calvary website (follow the ‘things to do’ tab to the ‘adults and families’ page.) For more information, contact Pastor Bruce at 563-263-3367 or bruce@calvaryonline.org.

THE "ROOSTER" TALE

May 3, last year dawned rainy and windy. Our threesome was on a 'special hunt' set up by Serve Outdoors—a group devoted to both sharing God's creation with people with disabilities and the mentoring of today's youth. Andrew Tressel, age 14, and his dad Rod, of Ankeny, Iowa, were to be my charges that weekend. The hunting match was made by Al Smith, Director of Serve Outdoors. Only slightly slowed down by his wheelchair, Andrew was ready for the adventure, saying, "It's not just getting one [turkey], it's the WHOLE experience." I was impressed with this youngster, wiser than his years. Andrew had an infectious smile and an attitude to go with it.

As we sat at midday in a pocket of timber—the wind howling overhead—conversation turned to turkey hunter habits. I mentioned to Andrew that turkey hunters will sometimes take a nap in the blind and it was OK if he wanted to. The mention of this 'habit' was met with the push back, "That ain't gonna happen, Cork!" Well then, maybe the guide will get a little 'snoozin' in. "If I drop off and a bird comes in, just touch my knee and I'll wake up quietly," I told him. As the afternoon rays warmed my Matrix, the turkey gods took me elsewhere. Soon I felt a hand on my knee... "Do you see one?" I asked quietly, as I slowly opened my eyes. The response was a reproving, "No Cork! You're snoring!"

The rest of the day passed with only an occasional hen showing up and a lot of hunting conversation in the blind. Later, when Andrew removed his head net I noticed that the hair on top was at attention. "You look like a little banty rooster... I think that should be your nickname – "Rooster." "Rooster" and "Cork"...what a pair!" Though we had no luck that day, the three of us put together a game plan to change farms tomorrow.

3:30 AM came early with prep work to be done—two double-bulls to set on their ground covers, 5 decoys to place, chairs to position, a spot for the wheel chair to be decided on and various other sundry details were fixed as I unloaded the Bad Boy Buggy in the pre-dawn darkness. (Did I mention all the decoys have names? Idle hours in the blind, you know... Andrew knew each one

by "Bob," "Jake," "Henryetta," "Mabel" and "Ileane"...because she does, sometimes.) I headed back to the farm buildings to retrieve Rod, "Rooster" and the wheel chair. Rod and I wheeled "Rooster" onto the ground cover and place the blind over top of him. Rod's comment the previous day was, "Cork, when you dropped that blind over Andrew for the first time, I have never seen a smile like that on his face before...thank you!" That had put a lump in my throat and a tear in my eye, to say the least...more of the 'whole experience,' as Andrew would say.

Was there goblin' at dawn? You bet!! But, as the morning progressed, it became less frequent. A return trip to Ankeny was set for 11 AM—time was getting short. I remember praying, "Lord, is there a turkey for this young man that you have allowed me to spend time with?" The answer was quick and short..."Yes! But you'll have to wait." Well, we were down to the last hour of the last day. I had just about exhausted my callin' bag o' tricks, when "Rooster" said, "I see one!"..."Where?"..."over in the trees"..."I don't see him"..."keep lookin', you'll see him," he said. Finally...a hen...a tail fan... then that beautiful snowball emerged from the timber. He saw the decoys, and his demeanor changed dramatically, and leaving the hen, with fire in his eyes, he was gonna "kick Bob the decoy's butt"...or so he thought.

The 60-yard fan-dance was quickly accomplished and he was in "Bob's" face! "Andrew, get your gun up...take the safety off!" The gobbler's tail ruffling had covered the sound of our movements. His dance took another turn—then he was looking right at us at 7 steps. I quietly said, "Take him whenever you want." The silence of the morning was broken by an unnerving "click"....do we have a gun malfunction? The "tom" had a startled look in his eye. Had he heard our muffled conversation or that..."click?" I was getting frantic. Silently I urged, "Anytime Andrew!....shoot him.... Shoot Him.....SHOOT HIM!!!!" The little 20-gauge finally barked and Ben Franklin's proposed national symbol flipped over."Put the safety on Andrew!" A positive "click." I flipped the blind off and headed for the bird.



The Prize!

Then came what Andrew called the 'Cork Flop'. I've received wounds from birds in the past; this day was no exception. A limb-hanger spur entered my palm, and carry a scar today that proves "Rooster's" gobbler hangs on his bedroom wall. As stillness settled over his bird, Andrew arrived, wheeled down by his Dad, with that infectious smile all over his face. I was laughing, and crying, proud and humbled all at the same time, and I was thanking the Good Lord on top of it all! I had to get up and head over to the decoys to gather up my emotions. After a few moments I returned and placed the regal bird on Andrew's lap and stepped back. It was picture takin' time!

I've heard "the Cuz" say there are four stages in the life of a hunter. #1) First you have to get one #2) You have to get the most #3) You have to get the biggest one and #4) You want to enhance wildlife and share it with others. How soon you advance through these stages depends on the individual. Some never make it all the way through. But, this day, I witnessed a new hunter (Disabled? I think not) enjoy the sunrise of stage #1... and this guide was looking back from the sunset of #4. It didn't get any better.

If you'd like to have the experience of a lifetime, or learn more about Serve Outdoors, contact Al Smith, Director of Serve Outdoors, 417-491-4457 or 641-777-9484. And if you'd like to hear the rest of Cork and Rooster's story, you'll have to catch Cork and ask him for more!