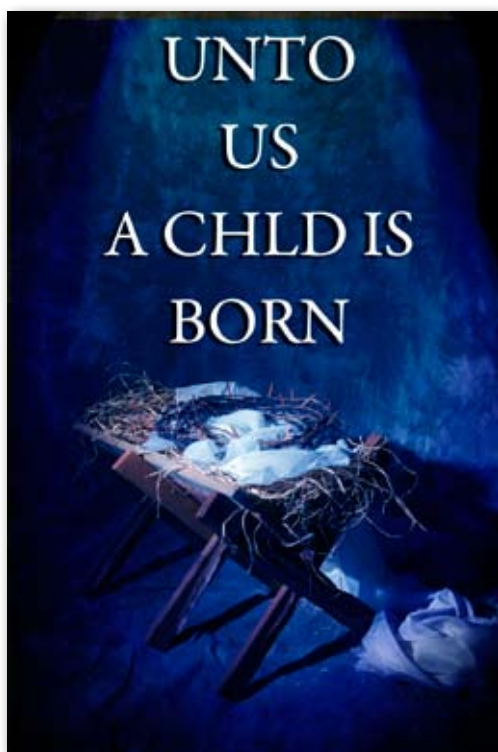


THRIVE!

Issue #7

celebrating the stories and milestones of Calvary Church

November 2010



UNTO
US
A CHILD IS
BORN

*"For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his
shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
-Isaiah 9:6, N.I.V.*

I recently uploaded my Christmas music playlist onto my Ipod. I reasoned that if the Christmas commercials were already running and the stores were already filling their aisles with Christmas goods, (skipping

right over Thanksgiving this year, are we?), then surely I could start listening to Christmas music.

So, when I heard our December teaching series was based on the names given to Jesus in Isaiah 9, I immediately began humming "For Unto Us A Child Is Born" from Handel's Messiah. Because, after all, I had already been listening to Christmas music since holiday commercials replaced political ads on November 3rd. It was on my brain.

I don't know if you've ever listened to this very majestic piece of music, but it proclaims to the listener the exact words given to us by the prophet so long ago: Expect a child; a child who will understand and counsel us; a child who is not just mighty, he is the mighty *God*. This child will open the door for an eternal relationship with the Father, and this child will bring real peace. Tall order for a little baby, I'd say.

Having just come through the study of *Crazy Love*, I have been wrestling with how to love Jesus in this Crazy manner, and now here comes Christmas to remind me that Jesus loved us like crazy first. So I have decided to slow down and revisit Christmas through this fresh perspective. To contemplate this point in history where the everlasting creator of this massive and intricate universe squeezed His mightiness into the flesh and bones of a human baby and dropped Himself onto this small dot called Earth, to do for me what I could not do for myself. Seriously. That is CRAZY.

I hope you'll join us as we celebrate the wisdom, strength, love and hope that came down when Jesus was born. And I hope it will help us all get just a little more "crazy-in-love" with such an amazing Savior.

-R. Mauck

Holiday Events

WORSHIP TEACHING SERIES:
*Based on the names of Jesus found
in Isaiah 9:6*

December 4-5: Wonderful Counselor
December 11-12: Mighty God
December 18-19: Everlasting Father
December 26: Prince of Peace

CHRISTMAS EVE:
Coming Home For Christmas
Celebration Services at 4 and 6 pm
Childcare for 0-3 provided

COMMUNITY HOUR CLASS:
Advent Conspiracy
Meeting in the Chapel at 10:30 am
from November 28 - December 19

Note that there is no Service on Saturday, December 25.

January 1-2, 2011: Regular service schedule resumes.
Saturday at 6 pm and Sunday at 9 am.

No KidZone programming December 26 or January 1-2, 2011.

OUTBREAK: IT'S CONTAGIOUS



Big things are happening in Middle School Ministry! In order to keep pace with the ever-changing needs of our students and their families, Calvary Student Ministries' programs have evolved in new and exciting ways. One such program is Outbreak, Calvary's middle school outreach program.

This year, Outbreak has transformed from a midweek get-together into a primetime Friday night celebration for all middle school students and their friends. With a new day, time, and format, Outbreak has undergone a positive makeover, refreshing the program for a new generation of Outbreak goers. A highlight of the new Outbreak is the Grand Prize Game. The Grand Prize Game is just that, a game that features a grand prize. Students sign up to participate in the game each month at the beginning of Outbreak, and are randomly drawn from the sign-ups to play. The games have been challenging and fun, from a three person trivia contest to a five-member team eating contest. The prizes have been well worth it: the past three Outbreaks have yielded an airplane ride for two students from Doug Jones, a limo ride for 11 students from Jim Mott, and a \$75 Amazon gift card.



Marissa Castillo, Raelen Gipple, Eric Klein, Alex Askam, Caleb Hammond take their Grand Prize Ride in the Mott Limo

While fun games and grand prizes are wonderful to take part in, Outbreak still prominently features a spiritual component. At the end of every Outbreak, a lesson from the Bible is shared with the group, teaching students different Christian truths and ways to follow Jesus. Outbreak is designed specifically for students to invite their friends to have fun and to hear about Jesus. So encourage our middle school students to take part!

Outbreak meets once a month on Friday night, 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The next Outbreak will be on December 17th, and will be an "Ugly Christmas Sweater" theme. Next semester, Outbreak will be on the last Friday of the month on the following dates: January 28th, February 25th, March 25th, and April 29th.

NEW PASTOR POSITIONS

At the business meeting held October 31, 2010, the membership of Calvary voted in favor of the Leadership Board's recommendation to change the by-laws of the Calvary Church Constitution as follows: *The existing pastoral positions of Executive Pastor and Senior Pastor were removed, and replaced with two new positions: Teaching Pastor and Lead Pastor, with Pastor Dan Schoepf moving into the Teaching Pastor position.*

Members then voted to select five persons to serve on a Search Team to find and recommend a new Lead Pastor to the membership of Calvary.

The Lead Pastor Search Team asks for your prayers as they begin the process of finding the right person to fill this position at Calvary!



DOUG JONES



RANDY GIPPLE



BARRIE BARLOW



NATE ORVIS



ANDY EMMERT



TONI ELLER



PAUL REED

Lead Pastor Search Team

THE BEST MINISTRY YOU MAY NOT BE ATTENDING:

A CLOSER LOOK AT CALVARY UNIVERSITY



Paul Zobel answers a question during a recent Calvary University class.

One of the greatest blessings that God has given me over the past 15 years is a solid understanding of the key truths of the Bible. But this was not always the case. I can remember the early days of my Christian life when I had very limited understanding of what the Bible teaches, and each time I heard a sermon, I walked away with more questions than answers.

As I started to mature spiritually, I realized that the lack of my biblical knowledge was becoming a major hindrance to my faith and service to God. So, I started looking for ways to grow and learn more about what the Bible really teaches. One of the best ways I found to learn the truths of the Bible was to attend classes where people with solid biblical knowledge taught about various topics (such as finances, forgiveness, theology, books of the Bible, etc.) and I could learn from them and ask whatever questions I had. These classes made me realize I had a lot to learn, but once I started to see the truths of the Bible come alive, I had a strong desire to continue studying the Bible. My desire to study God's word

eventually led me to go to Seminary and receive three years of intensive biblical training. After that, I was finally able to see how the Bible all fit together and see how having an understanding of God's Word can make a huge difference in my spiritual walk with God. While I understand this may not be the path for everyone, I know there are people who want to learn their Bible and find out more about the spiritual truths of the Bible.

So what about you? How are you doing with your pursuit to read, learn and understand the Bible? Does my story of wanting to learn more about the Bible, but not being sure how to begin, sound a little familiar to you? Are you taking the necessary steps in your life to learn everything you can about the greatest book ever written? If you were to take a basic test on the truths of the Bible, would you get a passing grade? If you encountered a big trial in your life, or had questions about what to do with your life, or a friend asked you to defend your faith, would you be able to form the biblical answers to please God in each of these situations?

For those of you who would like to grow in your knowledge of God's truth, there is a ministry at Calvary that can help you! You may not have heard of it, and it may be the best ministry you may not be attending

– Calvary University.

Calvary Church started Calvary University to help people learn their Bible better and teach people the truths of the Bible.

The idea for Calvary

University formed after reviewing a church survey taken two years ago. One of the most frequent requests that came from the congregation was to have more opportunities to learn God's Word, and for more opportunities for people to go deeper in the Bible. The ministry of Calvary



Calvary University Q & A:

What should I expect to learn? The classes are intended for anyone who wants to learn. Classes are designed for both the person who is just starting to explore the Bible and for someone who has a solid understanding of the Bible. The classes will grow and stretch all types. A teacher leads the class through the topic and there are people at all levels interacting and discussing the class topic.

Who will be my teachers? Several of the teachers are either pastors on staff at Calvary (Dan Schoepf, Bruce Martin, Scott Mauck) or other trained teachers (Nate Orvis, Paul Zobel, Bill Harden, Chris Hoffman).

What are the expectations for the classes? Bring your Bible and be ready to learn. There is a small fee for each class (Financial Peace has a larger fee) and there will be handouts to review as a class. While we hope you can attend every class, we understand you may not be able to make all the classes.

What are some of the classes that have been offered? Developing a Biblical Worldview (The Truth Project), Old Testament Survey, Rules for Interpreting the Bible, Genesis, and Basic Bible Truths.

Is there child care? Yes, childcare is provided in the KidZone area.



NEW THIS YEAR

Financial Peace University will be offered as part of Calvary University on

Wednesday evenings!

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Sunday Morning Community Hour Class

November 28 - December 19, 2010

Meeting in the Chapel at 10:30 am each Sunday
Taught by Scott Mauck



The story of Christ's birth is a story of promise, hope, and a revolutionary love. So, what happened? What was once a time to celebrate the birth of a Savior has somehow turned into a season of stress, traffic jams, and shopping lists. Is this what we really want?

Advent Conspiracy will challenge you to :

[WORSHIP FULLY]

It starts with Jesus. It ends with Jesus. It's a season where we are called to put down our burdens and lift a song up to our God. It's a season where love wins, peace reigns, and a king is celebrated with each breath...

[SPEND LESS]

We like gifts. Our kids really like gifts. But consider this: How often have you spent money on Christmas presents for no other reason than obligation? You'll be challenged to re-think *how* you give...

[GIVE MORE]

God's gift to us was a relationship built on love. We're drawn to the idea that Christmas should be a time to love our friends and family in the most memorable ways possible...

[LOVE ALL]

When Jesus loved, He loved in ways never imagined. By spending less at Christmas we have the opportunity to join Him in giving resources to those who need help the most....

The Best Ministry You May Not Be Attending...
Continued from Page 3

University is really a direct response to the hundreds of people who wanted a more in-depth understanding of the Bible.

Calvary University is offered as a supplement to the large group services and your small group community experiences. It is designed to fill in the gaps in your Bible knowledge, and give you opportunities to take greater responsibility for your own



spiritual growth. The design of Calvary University is to provide a classroom setting where adults can study and learn more about various topics, in an interactive group. The goal is to help Christians better understand the Bible and learn how to apply the Bible to their lives.

Sign-ups for the Winter 2011 classes will begin in December. Brochures are available at the Information Center or you can contact Scott Mauck at 563-263-3367 or scott@calvaryonline.org.

GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM

FEBRUARY 11-19, 2011



We will be sending 25 adults to help the people of Guatemala gain access to medical and dental care, as well as construction of community buildings. Each year our team returns with amazing stories of how God is at work in the lives of the Guatemalans, and the lives of the team members who go to serve.

And YOU can help send them! The team is seeking prayer and financial partners. You may donate online at the Calvary website (Follow the Departments tab to the Missions page) or via the regular offerings. Just note "Guatemala Mission" on your check memo line.

And you can begin to pray for the team even now, as they prepare for their trip. Pray that God will open doors, take care of the details and do His work in and through each team member!



2011 TEAM:	
Jeff Allgood	Debra Moncivais
Linda Allison	Luz Moncivais
Rebecca Belzer	Jeanne Mott
Todd Bermel	Cheryl Nichols
Craig Butler	Michelle O'Connor
Ellen Emery	Larry Pitzer
Barbara Gipple	Danielle Schmidt
Andrea Hoepfer	Andrea Schmidt
Matthew Hoepfer	Rob Schmidt
Mark Johnson	Andrew Shelangoski
Bruce Martin	Kristin Tolle
Tim McFadon	Edna Valenzuela
	Kim Wiseman

Calvary University Winter 2011 Class Line-Up:

Lives of The Big Daddies: Genesis 12-50.
Taught by Dan Schoepf

Understanding Biblical Doctrines.
Taught by Paul Zobel

Using My Strengths. Taught by Chris Hoffman

How to Lead a Bible Study. Taught by Scott Mauck

Financial Peace University. Facilitated by Bill Harden