

## Celebrating Calvary's History P1

### Extending the Kingdom of God in the Earth

**Thesis:** We are a people who join Jesus on his mission, together with others, in our spheres of influence and in the nations. We want to celebrate what God is doing in us and through us to extend the kingdom of God in the earth.

**Text:** Matthew 9:35-38; Acts 14:26-27

*From Attalia they [Paul and Barnabas] sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. 27 On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles (Acts 14:26–27).*

**Intro:**

In September 2022 at our Anniversary Weekend, we are celebrating our rich history and anticipating our promise-filled future.

In the next few messages, we want to tell the story of Calvary's history in God. In Part One of these messages, I want to celebrate the fact that God called us to join Jesus on his mission in the earth together with others. That means that this church began because God birthed Calvary to express his nature and his will. We were created to be a community that embraces and expresses intimacy, community, and kingdom.

Since the beginning of Calvary, we were called to extend the kingdom of God in the earth, starting with NW Houston and Greater Houston. Another way of putting it is that our calling as a church has involved joining Jesus on his mission in NW Houston, Greater Houston, our state, our nation, and the nations of the world (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).

During the first years of the church, we were more effective at making converts than making disciples. Because of our tradition, we knew how to grow a church.

Jesus says in Matthew 16:18, *"I will build my church..."*

From 1982 to 1985, we were reaching many people, baptizing many converts, and growing the church. In 1985 God got our attention. (*Reach Five in '85.*) Because we had a huge backdoor problem and were not growing like we anticipated, Pastor Steve went on retreat to seek the Lord. God said to Pastor Steve: "I want my church back. I have seen what you can do. Now, I want you to see what I can do." Pastor Steve came back

from retreat and shared with us what God said. We abruptly changed everything so that we could seek the Lord together.

1. **Overview of our history:**

- a. **The Beginning Years, 1982 - 1985:** growing and reaching; overlap of Kingdom and Intimacy.
  - i. God birthed Calvary in September 1982.
  - ii. Before and after our church start, we were going door to door in our area.
  - iii. We were reaching many unreached people.
  - iv. Our youth ministry took Mission Trips to the Valley of Texas each year from 1983 – 1989.
- b. The whole church was engaged in reaching people for Christ.
- c. In 1985 God got our attention and began to make course corrections in our lives.

2. **We are living into Three Stories.** And, these stories express our mental model of transformation. God uses all three areas of our vision to transform us.

- a. **My story.** Intimacy. 1985 - 1988.
  - i. ***Establishing people in intimacy with God.***
    1. Outcome: awareness.
  - ii. We were desperate for God and began seeking God together.
  - iii. God used some resources in our lives:
    1. *Power Evangelism* by John Wimber.
    2. *Ordering Your Private World* by Gordon MacDonald.
    3. Influence of John Wimber and the Vineyard movement (compassion and worship).
  - iv. Pastor Steve started having personal times of silence in private through contemplative prayer as he sought the Lord.
  - v. **Corporate times of silence** (1988). Later, Pastor Steve went away to a conference and God said that he was “carving out times in our service to touch people.”
  - vi. We started praying for the sick. People were coming from all over to be touched by God.
- b. **The Story.** Kingdom. 1988 - 1996.
  - i. ***Extending the kingdom of God in the earth.***
    1. Outcome: alignment and action.
    2. Missions, corporate intercession (in Calvary, in the community, in Greater Houston), prophetic, power ministry, Spiritual Awakening Conferences, Refreshing.
  - ii. **Ministry Team Training** (Ephesians 4:11-13). We are not here so that the clergy does all the work. Leaders are given to the body

- of Christ to equip every person to do the works of Jesus and to partner on mission with the Lord Jesus.
- iii. **Summer service of encounter.** One summer service in 1989 lasted from 8:00am – 2:00pm. Seventeen people gave their lives to Jesus with no preaching or worship.
  - iv. Influence of Mike Bickle and Kansas City Fellowship/ IHOPKC (prophetic and intercession).
- c. **Our story.** Community. 1997 - the present (we are still learning about community).
- i. **Expressing true Christian community.**
    1. Outcome: authenticity.
    - ii. Prophetic word from Bobby Conner to Pastor Steve in the early 1990's: "You are going to make a big splash in community."
    - iii. God begins to take us deeper into meaningful relationships.
    - iv. In 2010, Faithwalking took our vision to levels of intentionality that I didn't think were possible.

### **Celebrating what God is doing through Calvary in the area of missions and extending the kingdom of God in the earth.**

Today, I want to highlight some ways that we are joining Jesus on his mission locally and globally.

### **Celebrating and casting vision for what we are doing in the nations.**

1. The Send on May 14 asked partnering to mobilize people to one of **5 mission fields**: HS, universities, vulnerable children, communities, and unreached nations.
2. **Calvary, we rejoice because we are involved in all 5 of those areas.**
3. The Lord has called us to be a sending church, which partners with the Lord to extend the kingdom of God in the earth.
4. We are a sending church which develops people from within and deploys them to join Jesus on his mission in their spheres of influence with others.
5. **The sending church, as described by UBA Pathways:**
  - a. Disciples people from within the congregation
  - b. Equips them for their works of service
  - c. Sends them (affirms, blesses, and releases them) to express the gospel in various ways
  - d. Supports them in the tasks they were sent to do

### **Celebrating and reporting on gifts through Latvia for Ukraine relief support.**

1. From Evelyn Owens: Thank you for your gifts and support. We raised funds to send to **Pastor Inese** and to **New Generation Church** to help fund relief efforts in the **Ukraine**.
2. Evelyn Owens posted a video on the Latvia-Ukraine Group and on the Calvary Group Page from Pastor Inese, her son Ed, and a pastor from Ukraine. The pastor from Ukraine was back in Ventspils to get more supplies.
3. Thank you so much for your help and continuing interest and support for our Latvian friends and their ministry to the Ukrainians.

### **Celebrating and giving an update on our ministry to Myanmar.**

1. **Share about the history of how the Lord called us to get involved in Myanmar.**
  - a. Since 2009, we have had the opportunity to partner with the Lord Jesus on his mission to save, heal, deliver, and encourage the people of Myanmar.
  - b. We have partnered with Pastor David in reaching back to the Baptist and Evangelical Church in Myanmar.
  - c. We have partnered with Pastor John as they minister to the unreached and villages in several states in Myanmar.
2. **Share the impact on the nation.**
  - a. We are equipping pastors, missionaries, church planters, and followers of Christ to join Jesus on his mission in their nation of Myanmar.
  - b. We are imparting gifts, training, and practice so that people are equipped to proclaim and demonstrate the good news of the gospel of the kingdom of God in their context.
  - c. We have blessed orphans and vulnerable children.
3. **Share the blessings of traveling to Myanmar each year since 2009 and giving financial support to the work there.**
  - a. Through the years, you have given generously so that we could send a team to minister in Myanmar.
  - b. And, you have given over and above the funds needed for our trip expenses so that we could meet the needs presented to us by Pastor John and Pastor David.
  - c. Because of your generosity for our trips each year, we usually had between \$15,000 and \$40,000 to provide water wells to desperate villages; build small structures to serve as the missionary's home, church, and school for the community; resource these ambassadors with small motorcycles for their ongoing missional efforts to

surrounding villages; provide small solar panels and batteries to give light for night services; meet desperate humanitarian needs; provide clothing and food for orphans; and the list goes on and on.

4. **Share the opportunity of raising support for Pastor John and the ICC missionaries, pastors, and church planters.**
  - a. **Here is another significant opportunity before us. We have been funding about 30 missionaries, church planters, and teachers on the Immanuel Calvary Church (ICC) mission team which works with Pastor John Cung.**
  - b. Until 2020, most of those funds came from generous donors outside of Calvary. Because of different circumstances, those financial resources were no longer available. So, in 2020, I shared with you this need.
  - c. Over the years, we have given \$100 per family to help these indigenous missionaries reach their communities and villages for Jesus.
  - d. **Calvary Mission Funds Gifts:** Out of our Calvary Missions funds, we give a total of \$1,400 monthly and \$16,800 annually for Pastor John and the ICC mission team.
  - e. **Annual Goal:** In addition to the giving from Calvary Missions, we seek to raise \$2,000 monthly and \$24,000 annually to meet the total monthly and yearly needs of Pastor John and the ICC mission team.
  - f. **Challenge Goal:** In 2021, we hoped to increase that amount to \$150 per family per month. That would be \$1,800 per missionary family annually.
  - g. **Calvary, you stepped up in a big way for 2021 and helped us meet the Annual Goal of \$24,000 for 2020 and 2021.**
  - h. **Thank you to everyone who has been giving to Myanmar Missions.**
5. **Share about the current monthly support needs.**
  - a. Here is where we are now.
  - b. We have the opportunity to step up and meet the **Annual Goal of \$24,000 for 2022** and the coming years. **Our dream would be to meet the Challenge Goal, but we want to start by meeting our Annual Goal.**
  - c. **So, we are looking for generous partners to take on monthly or annual giving to support a missionary or a missionary family.**
    - i. Our monthly goal is \$100.
    - ii. If you can give \$150 per month, that would be awesome.
    - iii. Or, you can give any amount which the Lord enables you to give to help meet the needs of the ICC missionaries.
    - iv. For online giving, use [Myanmar Designated Gifts](#).
6. **Share about the current support crisis needs.**
  - a. As you know, the military coup in February 2021 changed everything.
  - b. Throughout Myanmar, the military has been killing people, destroying bridges, businesses, and infrastructure, burning villages and shelters, and turning the nation upside down.

- c. Each month we receive new emergency requests from our friends in Myanmar.
- d. We have been able to meet these emergency needs out of the tithe to Myanmar Missions from our *Forging our Future* offering last year. Thank you for your generosity.

### **Extending the kingdom of God in the earth:**

#### **The sending church develops people from within and deploys them outside.**

I want us to think about what we are doing locally and globally. I want us to reflect on the impact and influence that we have had and are having. We are discipling people and equipping them for works of service. Then, we are sending and supporting them.

#### **I want to celebrate what the Lord is doing in and through Calvary Community Church to send people into the harvest fields outside of this body.**

In our mobile culture, **some of this sending and supporting has taken place as people have moved to other churches or communities.** A whole list of people come to mind who have shared, and are sharing, with their new churches and communities out of the DNA of what they learned and experienced here at Calvary. In recent months, some of these friends have asked for permission to use our small group materials, prophetic materials, and Ministry Team Training Materials in various settings.

**The Lord has also identified and raised up people to go intentionally from our midst through the years, again, both locally and globally.** Here is a current list of some of those people:

1. Eric and Wendy working with Beyond Missions to reach the unreached.
2. Ana, working among refugees in Europe.
3. Chase and Megan, working among peoples in restricted access countries.
4. Daniel and Marlene DeJesus, working to disciple people locally and in the Philippines internationally.
5. Angela Petry and Olivia Buckles, and many others, serving with the International House of Prayer in Kansas City.
6. Gene and Rene Haub, Family Life Ministries.
7. Kathy Vosburg Miller, Crosswalk Center, Houston's hopeful re-entry discipleship hub for those who have been imprisoned.
8. Hairgrove Partnership Team, connecting Calvary, Copperfield, Church, and Hairgrove Elementary so that we change the trajectory of children for good.
9. Missions Teams going to nations like Latvia and Myanmar.

**The list of people whom we have disciplined, equipped, sent, and supported increases when you consider what **you** are doing in **your spheres of influence**.**

**That is worth celebrating!**

**And, I want to celebrate what the Lord is doing in and through Calvary Community Church to empower us partner with Jesus on his mission in and through our congregation.**

1. You are sharing with neighbors, friends, and family, inviting them to experience the presence and power of the Lord here in our services, small groups, and ministry activities.
2. You are welcoming and loving people who are showing up in our services and ministries as the Lord draws them through the web site, banners, invitations, or divine reminders.
3. Our Children's Ministry is reaching children on Sunday mornings, Wednesday nights, and through special events. For example, we are running about between 30 and 50 children on Wednesday nights in our Kids Club and Summer Bash ministry. Most of those children are from the community. Kids Club is the primary place where they are learning about Jesus.
4. Our Youth Ministry is reaching between 35 and 50 youth on Wednesday nights. For most of those young people, Wednesday night Youth Ministry is the primary place where they experience the love of Lord and his people. Youth are coming to Jesus and getting disciplined through our Youth Ministry. We just saw 9 youth come to Christ at the Experiencing God's Presence Camp in June.
5. We are partnering with ministries locally and globally to demonstrate and proclaim the gospel of the kingdom of God. Here is a short list (it is not exhaustive): Somebody Cares, Care Net Pregnancy Center, India Gospel Outreach, Union Baptist Association, Loving Houston, Faithwalking, Brotherhood Biker Church, Ap. Mosy Madugba and MPN International, and many, many missionaries across the earth.

What you see on Sunday mornings is just a small part of the impact and influence we are having in the harvest fields with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Calvary, we have much to celebrate. To God be the glory for letting us join him on his mission in the earth.