

Calvary's Unique Calling P1

Casting Vision for Supporting Local and Global Missions through Supporting the Home Base

Thesis: We are a people who join Jesus on his mission in our spheres of influence together with others. We do that by partnering with others, by equipping and sending people, and by sowing resources into what the Lord is asking us to do. Through our relationships, we are called to pastor, serve, equip, resource, support, and pray for ministries and missionaries locally and globally. The Missions Council supports Calvary in fulfilling our calling to extend the kingdom of God in the earth.

Text: Acts 11:19-30; 13:1-3; 14:26–28, The Church at Antioch

Takeaways: At the end of the next few messages...

1. I want you **to get excited** about what the Lord is doing in and through Calvary Community Church.
2. I want you **to get clarity** regarding what the Lord is doing in and through Calvary Community Church.
3. I want you **to get inspired** to support what the Lord is doing in and through Calvary Community Church.

Foundation:

1. **Every church has a unique calling and assignment from the Lord.**
 - a. Many congregations have an identity crisis. They don't know who they are or why they are here.
 - b. **"Who** are we, and **why** are we here?"
 - c. God has given Calvary Community Church a two-fold purpose based on the New Testament metaphors of the church as the Body and Bride of Christ.
 - d. Our purpose is to be a healthy body for the Master and a beautiful bride for our Bridegroom King.
 - e. To be a **healthy body** of Christ so the Master can accomplish his work
 - i. Health and beauty are always attractive. Their presence is magnetic. The same is true in the life of the church. The church is often referred to as the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12: 12-14; Romans 12: 4-5; Ephesians 4:11-16). Jesus Christ has committed to us his reputation and his work.

- ii. God often works through the principle of **incarnation**. Jesus was the incarnation of God in human flesh. He represented God's purposes; he reflected God's character; he revealed God's nature (John 5:30; John 1:14; Hebrews 1:1-3). Just as Jesus was the incarnation of God, now we, the Body of Christ, are the incarnation of God's purposes, character, and nature in this world (John 20:21). God lives in us (Ephesians 2:21-22). Christ is the head, we are the body; therefore, we have a **living union**.
- f. To be a **beautiful bride** of Christ so the Master can enjoy His people
 - i. Jesus is called the "bridegroom" 17 times in the New Testament and the church is his "bride" (Isaiah 62:1-5; Ephesians 5:25-27). The bride which the Lord desires is "holy and blameless." Our conduct and character are to be pleasing in his sight. The church, as the bride, has the responsibility to prepare the wedding dress which is the "righteous acts of the saints" (Revelation 19:7-8).
 - ii. As the bride of Christ, we are not to be content to stay in the outer courts of religious observance, but we are to enter the bridal chambers of our "bridegroom." There we are to love and embrace him personally and intimately as our husband. Worship is one of the loving acts of the bride toward her heavenly groom (Song of Solomon 1:1-4). Christ is the bridegroom, we are the bride; therefore, we have a **loving union**.
- 2. **Every church is called into being by the will of God and is built by the Lord Jesus** (Matthew 16:18).
 - a. *Matthew 16:15–19 (NIV84) 15 "But what about you?" [Jesus] asked. "Who do you say I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*
 - b. What man builds, man has to sustain. What God builds, God will sustain, empower, and resource.
- 3. **Every church is to get built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets with Jesus as the chief cornerstone** (Ephesians 2:19-22).
 - a. *Ephesians 2:19–22 (NIV84) 19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles*

and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

- b. Some churches are built on a foundation that is not big enough to support the super structure which God wants to build. To build on the pastoral, evangelist, or teacher anointing is inadequate for what God is doing.
 - c. For the church to accomplish its purpose, we need to build on **apostolic vision, power, and character**, and on **prophetic revelation, insight, and discernment**, with everything coming under the leadership of Jesus.
4. **Every church is designed to be the dwelling place of God** (Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 5:5).
- a. *1 Peter 2:4–5 (NIV84) 4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*
 - b. We want God to be at home in us individually and corporately.
5. **Every church has a God-giving vision, calling, and assignment from the Lord.**
- a. **Calvary's vision:** to labor to establish people in intimacy, community, kingdom.
 - i. Establish people in intimacy with God.
 - ii. Express true Christian Community.
 - iii. Extend the kingdom of God in the earth.
 - b. **Calvary's calling:** to join Jesus on his mission in our spheres of influence together with others (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).
 - c. **Calvary's assignment:** to touch people locally and globally with the reality of the kingdom of God in the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).

History of our involvement in local, national, and international missions.

Since our early days, Calvary has brought a tithe to the Lord of our tithes and offerings by giving to support world missions.

In the beginning, we were very active in reaching our local sphere with the good news of Jesus. Many people came to Christ and were baptized.

All along the way, we have been very active in our Jerusalem—Greater Houston—blessing and serving the purpose the Lord together with other ministers and ministries here.

And, our youth ministry sponsored and led summer youth and adult mission trips to the Valley of Texas from 1983 – 1989. We were called to help FBC Mercedes, which was an older congregation, reach their neighbors through VBS.

During the early days of Calvary, God brought Tim and Belinda Smithwick to join us. They had been involved with YWAM in missions to the nations. For several years, Tim and Belinda leaned in like happy elephants sowing vision, seed, and testimony for world missions. They were casting vision for Calvary doing more than just giving money to missions. They were encouraging Calvary as a local congregation to participate in world missions through sending and serving.

In 1987 at a staff retreat, the Lord told us to stop just giving our money to local and global missions, and to start sending people to the mission field, pastoring those we sent, and mobilizing mission trips.

Our first mission field was Lativa in December 1990. And, we are still involved in Latvia to this day.

That first missional effort has exploded to include sending and supporting people and ministries all over the earth.

What has the Lord been doing in and through Calvary Community Church locally, nationally, and globally through the years? (Impact)

1. **Our calling has always been to serve God's purposes beyond ourselves, not just building a local church.**
 - a. We have resourced other pastors and churches through friendship, ministry, and mentoring. Other pastors have sought our counsel, prayer, and insights.
 - b. We participated in the **Whole and Healthy Children Initiative** by partnering with the vision of changing the trajectory of children for good by partnering with local schools (Hairgrove Elementary Partnership with Copperfield Church).
2. **By the grace of God, our vision has always included sharing what the Lord is doing in our midst with others.**
 - a. We have given away what God is doing in us through Ministry Team Training, Spiritual Awakening Conferences, corporate prayer in our area and in the region, and the list goes on and on.
 - b. We celebrate the impact for the kingdom of God globally through relationships, ministries, missionaries, and mission trips.

3. **Through our different ministries, the Lord is using and empowering Calvary to reach, disciple, train, and transform people locally and globally.**
 - a. We want to recognize and celebrate what we are doing together and the impact we are having locally and globally.
 - b. **Missional giving and support.** Please remember that we are missional both through our church budget and through our missions giving. **Most of us are not aware that we are missional locally and globally through supporting our home base and regular budget.**
 - c. **Pastoring 3 congregations at Calvary.** We are pastoring three congregations in this home base: Calvary, Children’s Ministry (reaching the unreached), and Youth Ministry (reaching the unreached).
 - d. **Hosting 3 congregations using our building:** Calvary, IPUL, Greater Works Int’l. On the weekend of Oct. 11 – 12, we saw how God uses our facilities and resources in an extraordinary way.
4. **We are here to extend the kingdom of God in the earth, not to build our own kingdom.** Let’s look at what the Lord is doing through Calvary in the area of local, national, and international missions.

What is the Lord doing in and through Calvary Community Church today in the area of missions?

Budget from 2024

Evaluation of Investments Strategically	Budget	Perc' of total budget
Gifts to Local Missions	36,600	32%
Gifts to USA Missions	9,600	8%
Gifts to World/International Missions	54,800	48%
Funds for CCC admin' exp'	5,040	4%
Over/ (under)	7,460	7%
	106,040	100%
Note: We served as a pass through for missions that more than doubled total gifts to missions, mission trips, and missionaries.		

Budget from 2025

Evaluation of Investments Strategically	Budget	Perc' of total budget
Gifts to Local Missions (includes UBA and SE)	47,250	37.5%
Gifts to USA Missions	5,400	4.3%
Gifts to World/International Missions	68,400	54.3%
Funds for CCC admin' exp'	4,920	3.9%
Over/ (under)	0	0.0%
	125,970	100.0%
Note: We served as a pass through for missions that more than doubled total gifts to missions, mission trips, and missionaries.		

Next week, we will share in more detail the amazing scope of what we are doing locally and globally.

Today, I want to introduce you to a few people whom we partner with and support through our **Missions Council**.

Calvary's Missions Council: The Missions Council works with the Senior Pastor to support the missions ministry of Calvary by developing the missions budget, praying for our missionaries, and making prayerful decisions on the requests submitted to the council. Through the Missions budget, we support missionaries, organizations aligning with our vision, and trips to express kingdom ministry. Our missions ministry touches people locally, nationally, and internationally to express the gospel of the kingdom of God. **Members of the Missions Council** are Lynda Gilpin, Jeanne Hughes, Evelyn Owens, Magan Yarbrough, and Jeff McGee.

We are called to join Jesus on his mission locally and globally. We do that by partnering with others, by equipping and sending people, and by sowing resources into what the Lord is asking us to do.

Through our relationships with ministries and missionaries, we are called to pastor, serve, equip, resource, and support ministries and missionaries locally and globally. The Missions Council supports Calvary in fulfilling our calling to extend the kingdom of God in the earth.

1. **Matt and Liz.**

- a. Matt and Liz (RN) serve as Director and Nurse with Wycliff in the South Pacific. They have led the Pacific Orientation Course (POC) in Papua New Guinea, which is a Bible-less area.
 - b. They equip and train new missionaries and their families as they transition into ministry in the South Pacific region.
 - c. Wycliff helps to translate the Bible into the heart language of people so that they can know and worship God. And, they help the Word of God come to life in a way and in experiences so that they experience the love of God.
2. **David and Misti Carter.**
- a. Release the Kingdom Ministries is now entering its 31st year in full-time youth ministry. They continue to work in the Fort Bend County Juvenile Detention Center where David serves as a Chaplain. David and his volunteers service approximately 5,000 kids a year sharing a clear presentation of the Good News of Jesus Christ. They provide Bibles and teaching materials for all the students. Any child being arrested in Fort Bend County is presented with the Gospel on a weekly basis. The students are between 10 and 17 years of age.
 - b. David and Misti also head up a deliverance ministry as a subsidiary to RKM called "Catch Fire," where they focus on inner healing and deliverance.
3. **Eric and Wendy.**
- a. Eric and Wendy have been with [Beyond](#) since 2002, when the organization was called **Mission to Unreached Peoples**. They spent their first 6 years serving in China, and then served in the US offices from 2008 - 2019. Beginning in 2020, they are back in the field working among the Muslim Unreached People Groups of SE Asia.
 - b. In this region, [Beyond](#) works to catalyze Disciple Making Movements (DMM) which rapidly advance Gospel Communities within their people group. In this context, Eric and Wendy focus not just on planting churches, or making disciples, but on making disciples which reproduce rapidly and form reproducing churches.
4. **Suzanne** (no picture).
- a. We can't show you Suzanne's picture for security reasons.
 - b. Suzanne participates in legal recourse and rescue of Muslims who have converted in Middle East. And, they help Christians who are experiencing persecution.
 - c. Because of her expertise, she speaks at the United Nations and other significant gatherings.
 - d. The ministry of which Suzanne is part of also advocates in restricted nations according to their own legal code to protect and support

Christians who are being imprisoned, losing their property, and experiencing other persecution and loss because of following Jesus.

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Ministry Time:



Matt and Liz



Misti and David Carter



Wendy and Eric Eldridge