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CALVARY CALLER | FALL 2025



INTO HIS
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CALVARY
BAPTIST TUPELO

*Calvary Caller:
Into His Harvest*

A Publication of
Calvary Baptist Tupelo
Fall 2025

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Calvary Baptist Church is located in the heart of downtown Tupelo, MS. With small groups, local, national, and international mission trips, and special events throughout the year, there are many opportunities for all ages to **COME TOGETHER—** to **connect, serve, grow,** and **go** with us for the glory of the Lord. We invite you to join us in worship!

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever."

- Ephesians 3:20-21, NKJV

COME SERVE GO
TOGETHER

INTO HIS HARVEST—

“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.’” -Matthew 9:36-38

A simple explanation of these verses encourages us to participate in the harvest and in the good work the Lord has in store for us.

Jesus was “moved with compassion.” The word *compassion* is more than a feeling that arises when you witness or understand another person's suffering. It often prompts action. Jesus saw the needs of those around Him, and it affected Him deeply—all the way to the core of His soul. Jesus saw that they were “weary and scattered.” *Weary* means “severely troubled.” *Scattered* means “downcast and helpless.” They were, “like sheep having no shepherd.”

The people needed *help, leadership, and hope.*

Jesus asked His disciples to pray for more laborers for the harvest: “While the harvest is plentiful, the laborers are few.” It's interesting that Jesus uses the word *harvest*. The harvest represents people ready to respond to the Lord. We are to pray for more people to be moved with compassion and to answer the call—to go into the harvest and gather the fruit of the Kingdom of our Lord.

In this edition of the quarterly *Calvary Caller*, you'll read about ways our church family has shown compassion. You'll read about workers going into the harvest and serving the Lord in all walks of life. You'll also find several opportunities to be a part! May you be encouraged to pray for more workers, to have compassion—and to join in the work of the Kingdom of our Lord.

Keeping Our Eyes on Jesus,



Bro. John Boler
Pastor



The HARVEST
TRULY IS
*P*LENTIFUL

MATTHEW 9:36-38



SUNDAY *Services*

SUNDAY SCHOOL SMALL GROUPS - 9AM

MORNING WORSHIP - 10:15AM

He Who Is To Come: A Study of Matthew 24-25 (Aug.-Sept.) & The Joy Of Giving (Oct.)

EVENING WORSHIP - 6PM

Continuing our study of the Book of Jeremiah

STUDENTS | DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS - 6PM

6th-12th graders divide into small groups - 3rd floor Youth area

KIDS | MISSION MOMENTS & BIBLE DRILL - 6PM

ages 4yrs.-5th grade meet in C107 "The Big Room"

WEDNESDAY *Bible Study & Prayer*

FAMILY SUPPER - 5PM

*\$10 each Adult plate, \$5 each Kid plate; \$30 Family MAX
Make reservations or call in regrets by Noon each Monday!*

ADULT BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER - 6PM

Heads Up Eyes Open: The Priority of Daily Prayer

STUDENTS | WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY - 6PM

5:30PM Hangout - 3rd floor Youth area

KIDS | WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY - 5:45PM

5:30PM Check-in/7PM Check-out, both in the Gym

WORSHIP CHOIR | REHEARSAL - 7PM

Typically meets in the Choir Room

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Logan Blackburn
Profession of Faith



Melissa Privett
Pictured with son Neil



Brenda Smith



The Thomasons
*Welcome Jay—Associate Pastor
of Missions & Outreach*



ONLY *God* WRITES STORIES LIKE THIS

JAY THOMASON

One of my favorite accounts of Jesus meeting people where they are can be found in Mark 5.

Jesus had been teaching the crowds in the Galilee region and tells His disciples to get into the boat and go to the other side of the lake with Him. A little context will tell you that this area is called the Decapolis—a place that no Jew would have wanted to go. Gentiles lived there and would have been considered unclean. The disciples had to be wondering "what is Jesus thinking?!" When you read the scripture, you realize that Jesus took them through a storm to a less than desirable place in order to *change one man's life*. The man was dwelling in a graveyard, cutting himself with stones, screaming night and day, and could not be contained, even with shackles and chains. He was a bad man that no one could do anything with.

But God—Jesus, the God-man, changes things.

Notice in Mark 5:10, the demons were doing the talking for the man as they had power over him. The man under the possession of the demons was begging not to have to leave the area. Once Jesus set the demoniac free, we see in Mark 5:18 that the man was clothed, in his right mind, and was begging Jesus for permission to go *with Him*.

Jesus changes things when man cannot.

On June 5, 1991, my mother received a phone call late in the night that my father was in jail. He had been arrested for embezzlement. My grandparents drove from Greenwood, MS, to Beebe, AR, to pick us up. My mother began packing and we left our home at 2:30AM. Life had crashed all around our family. Having been recently diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy and struggling to wrap her mind around providing for four young children, my mother found herself in a place of shock and despair.

The very next Sunday, on June 9, we went to North Greenwood Baptist Church. There, I was introduced to the youth minister, and my mother was introduced to our new pastor. They were the ones who met us where we were in our pain and who patiently walked the extra miles with us.

The week after it was announced that I would be joining the staff here at Calvary, I received a text message from my very first youth minister—the one who met us where we were in our difficult time. Her name? Lisia Pegues Cannon. Many of you long-time Calvary members will remember Lisia, as she grew up in this church. We briefly messaged back and forth and she shared with me some details that had us both praising the Lord for how He works.

In 1982, Lisia graduated from Mississippi College. The day after her graduation, Dr. John Armistead called and asked her to be Calvary's interim youth minister for the remainder of the year. Lisia would sense God's calling on her life to ministry during this season, and she ended up going to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Calvary paid for her seminary education, and then, encouraged and supported her when she went to Thailand as a Journeyman missionary with the IMB (International Mission Board).

Lisia would end up taking me on my very first mission trip in the early 1990's. She had organized a trip to come to work with Calvary. My first mission trip was because of the ministry of this church. And now, over thirty years later, I am serving as the missions pastor. How neat is that! *Only God* can write stories like this.

Another Calvary connection that continues to impact my life is Dr. Jim Phillips. Bro. Jim served here as the Associate Pastor from 1986 until December of 1990. In June of 1991, Bro. Jim became my pastor at North Greenwood Baptist—the same church where Lisia Pegues was my youth minister! Through the years, Bro. Jim preached my sister's funeral and both of my grandparents'. He once noticed the tires

on my mother's car were worn thin, and he told her to go to the shop to get a new set of tires. Bro. Jim has always had an eagle-eye for ministry opportunities. I have learned much by watching him serve and love so faithfully. Both Bro. Jim and Lisia continue to be active voices of love and encouragement to our family thirty-four years later.

Through the years, I would go on my first mission trip, preach my first sermon, and go off to Mississippi College all because of the influence of these two individuals who were living out their calling by serving Jesus. When they met me, I was a twelve-year-old boy whose father had just gone to prison and whose mother had been diagnosed with a disease that would challenge every aspect of her life.

Tho this season of life introduced me to pain, it also helped me find my place of comfort belonging at church with God's people. Even now, if I am not with my wife and boys, I still want to be at church with God's people.

I have enjoyed a life that would not have been what it is today without the love and ministry of Lisia, Bro. Jim, and the faith-family of North Greenwood Baptist Church. I wonder if North Greenwood would be the place that it has been to me, and so many others, if it were not for Calvary?

I heard it said once that we often look for the big explosive moments in life to see if we are having a positive effect in our world. We would do well to challenge that line of thinking and see that the biggest returns on our investments often come from the "nickel and dime" deposits of everyday *faithfulness*. What you do today makes a difference today *AND* tomorrow.

Calvary ministered to me before I ever knew who she was and now, I get to be a part of this church family and have the opportunity to serve the church, who long ago, served me.

Dear Church family, do you see the full circle?

God writes the *best* stories! No matter what you have faced in the past, or may be walking through today, remember: God is writing *His* story on the pages of your life. Some chapters are hard, but we can trust and know that all of them are for our ultimate good and His glory! (Romans 8:28) Thank you for being the church that you were in the 1980's that molded and shaped those who would minister to me. Thank you for being the church that has sustained a faithful witness and ministry. I am ready to see God's next chapter of the story of Calvary Tupelo. 🙏

A PLACE TO SHARE YOUR STORY

HEATHER DEATON

Grief is messy and it affects us in so many ways:

- Emotionally

I've felt completely alone in a room full of people.

- Physically

I've never been more exhausted in my life.

- Mentally

I lived in a fog for months.

- Spiritually

I felt disconnected from God's purpose for my life.

It's okay that grief is messy—there's no straight path for working through all the aspects of grief. You can be "okay" one minute and sobbing the next. There is also no "right" way to grieve. The grief journey will look different for everyone. There is not a deadline for working through grief and healing.

We will all experience some type of grief in our lifetime.

For me, talking through how I felt was where I found the most healing. I was able to find a GriefShare group where I could express my feelings in a safe environment with others who were hurting like me. I did not feel crazy anymore. I didn't feel alone in my grief anymore. I felt seen, heard, and validated in my pain. I learned that I was going to be okay.

Having a place to share your story is important. If you are grieving, I invite you to join us for GriefShare here at Calvary. It will help you find healing and support while pointing you to the One who will sustain you on this journey.

If you are walking the grief road too, *keep going!* 🏠



Take a picture of this QR Code and click it to learn more, view the schedule, and register for GriefShare.

Pointing to the One who will sustain you—

GriefShare® Support Group

6–7:30PM Mondays | CMC

beginning Aug. 11

For Men & Women ages 16+

All sessions are stand alone — join at anytime!

Register at calvarytupelo.com/events

Led by Heather Deaton & Ellen Johnston

CREATING A SPACE FOR WORSHIP

JOE GILLEY

"And he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs" - Exodus 35:31-32

The media ministry plays a role in each area of our mission to *Come, Serve, and Go Together*. By utilizing technology—audio, video, lighting—we open the door for someone to use their God-given talent and creativity in worship. Together, we enhance the in-person and online worship experience and broadcast the Gospel far beyond our church walls.

Our goal is to meet people right where they are—physically and spiritually—by creating a high-quality, distraction-free environment where everyone can encounter God. We use media and production to not only connect with our church family, whether you attend in-person or watch online, but to also reach those who may be searching for a church home.

In Exodus 35, Moses gave the Israelites God's instructions for building and preparing a Tabernacle for worship. The Israelites responded eagerly, coming together to offer their gifts and talents to create a sacred space for worship. In the same way, our media ministry seeks to rely on the Lord to fill us with the skill and knowledge needed to create a worshipful environment that meets people where they are.

Since the early days of Calvary, we have used technology to expand our reach and share the Gospel through media.

In the not-too-distant past, this included a successful, professionally produced television broadcast supported by a full team of camera operators and production volunteers. We've built on that foundation and continue to broadcast our services weekly on CTN (Christian Television Network). However, back then, there was a lot more live television and a lot less social media. As times have changed, so have tools and technology we use.

As technology constantly changes, we're continuously growing and improving the quality of our livestream. Not only is it recorded and used for television broadcast, the livestream is also shared across digital platforms like Calvary's app, website, Facebook, and YouTube channel. We're reaching more people than we realize!

I believe God has given us a vision of several opportunities to continue expanding our reach and creating a worshipful environment that meets people where they are. We're prayerfully working on launching a podcast—a series of professionally produced video and/or audio recordings that are available on demand. This has been on the hearts of our staff for some time and would provide another valuable tool to reach countless people—including each of you—with biblical teachings and testimonies to strengthen your walk with Christ. We're also continuing to focus on producing consistent, high-quality, cinematic recordings to

highlight moments in our worship services and provide personal, intentional invitations to ministry events.

In addition, we desire to make some improvements that will create a smooth, balanced, and uniform audio experience that is free of distractions for everyone in worship—from the balcony to the floor—and for those watching or listening online, on television, or via podcast. We hope to incorporate some pieces of equipment—such as additional speakers and new lighting throughout the sanctuary, updated mixing and lighting consoles, and higher-quality cameras.

While there are several needs as we continue to grow and implement this vision together—some more immediate than others—I'm thankful for the ways that God continues to provide. I am so encouraged by the amount of support we've received and invite you to keep praying for this ministry. Just as the Lord equipped the Israelites to create a space for worship, I trust God will equip you with every skill needed to serve—we'd love to have you on the team! Pray about how God might use you to serve Him through the media ministry and beyond. I am confident that regardless of your skill level or experience, God will bless your servant's heart and equip you as we seek to magnify Christ together! 🏛️



DISCIPLESHIP WHAT & WHY

COLTON HORNER

What is discipleship? Have you ever thought much about it? In modern church life, the term “discipleship” is used so often that it can be easy to miss the depth of all that it implies.

In J.T. English’s book, *Deep Discipleship*, he explains that discipleship has two primary and preliminary parts: the *why* and the *what*. These two things must be well-understood in order to embark on the journey of discipleship effectively. Since March, our Calvary Student Ministry has been walking through a series called “What it Means and Why it Matters.” In this series, we took different terms related to faith and church life and explained what those terms mean and why they are important to us as believers. This is the structure that English follows in his explanation of discipleship. Before we can have a strong understanding of what discipleship is, we need a fundamental understanding of why it matters.

When we talk about discipleship in the context of the local church, it is natural to immediately think of things like small groups, men and women’s ministries, effective programming, and well-structured Sunday school. These are very important components in the discipleship process. However, none of these capture the true depth of the concept of discipleship. As a church, we want a fundamental understanding of the reason behind all of those things. Once we establish our *why*, it becomes much easier to establish our *what*.


The *why* for discipleship is very simple—it’s not about effective programming, though that is important; it’s not about simply “learning more” in terms of gaining information as believers, though that has value, too. The *why* is actually much bigger than those things! As English puts it, our primary purpose for discipleship, or our *why*, is to point believers “toward the infinite beauty of the Triune God.”

What does this mean? The goal of discipleship is simply *Jesus* Himself. It is to know Him, to love Him, to behold Him

correctly and to respond to Him with both submission and zeal. The goal is to love God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind—this, according to Christ’s words in Luke 10:27, is the most important thing we could ever do. This is our *why*! It’s the reason for discipleship. To disciple effectively is to lead believers toward a deep, rich love for Jesus that affects absolutely every area of their lives.

That leads us to our *what*. The *what* is where the rubber meets the road—where the *why* is put into action, where faith proves itself by its works, and where the followers of Jesus embrace their *why* and take practical steps toward growth. This is where the important elements of small groups, men and women’s ministries, Sunday school, and other discipleship opportunities come in. These programs and activities are designed to nurture the growth of believers.

It is essential to remember that the goal of Christianity—and the call of the Great Commission—was never to simply make Christians. The goal has always been to make disciples. The beautiful truth about discipleship is that the Church is the primary pathway God provided to use in that process. So, get involved! If you want to be a disciple who loves Jesus deeply, the Church is the tool that God designed to build that in our lives. There are countless opportunities at Calvary through small groups such as discipleship groups, Sunday school, Calvary Table, and many others. We must take advantage of what God has made available to us through His Church for the purpose of Spiritual growth.

When we understand God’s deep love for us, and our deep *need* for Him, we can begin to understand the *why* of discipleship behind the *what*. And we can move in unity toward a deeper love for Jesus. 

MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS

MATTHEW 28:19-20

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”



MEET THEM WHERE THEY ARE

KIM EDWARDS + YREKA TEAM TESTIMONIES

Elizabeth Hamm, Jeanne Burkhalter, Rob Edwards, Edgar Bedolla, Sadie Buchanan, & Curtis Prehn

Missions with Calvary Baptist Church never let me down! God always shows up and shows out—and 2025 has been no different! This summer, seven of us boarded a plane and headed west to serve in a small town in the northernmost part of California, a town that feels not much different than Tupelo, MS. Yreka, with a population of around 7,600, is surrounded by some of the most beautiful scenery I've ever seen. It's a small town filled with friendly people doing life together and enjoying a community rich in eclectic history—known as the gateway to gold mining and a hub for nearly every outdoor adventure you could imagine. Unlike our city, Yreka doesn't have a thriving church on every corner or a community that exercises evangelism openly. But, the Lord is blessing these wonderful people with a NAMB-backed (North American Mission Board) replanted church that, as of June 8th, was officially established as Living Valley Church. Pastor Taylor Benton, his precious wife, Hannah, and their two children, Hope and Caleb, are full of energy and a pure joy to be around! This family is most assuredly a family in ministry together and a blessing to the Yreka community.

Elizabeth Hamm's Testimony

Isaiah 40:1-9 speaks of comfort for God's people, the removal of obstacles, God's faithfulness, the fading nature of earthly things, the eternal power of God's Word, and the command to go up a mountain and lift your voice to proclaim, "Here is your God!"

A church planter and his family need that comfort. It can be a lonely job and an extremely difficult calling—especially with an active one-year-old and an almost four-year-old. They are the only ones on church staff at the church replant we served. The theme the Lord impressed upon our hearts that week was "Meet them where they are." And we did—in so many ways. We embraced every opportunity to love on the pastor's family and the Living Valley Church family. We babysat, painted, cleaned out and up, did yard work, etc.

Obstacles were removed, and paths were made straight. We helped with a festival for three days, and God provided "the shady side of the street" for our tent—especially meaningful as we were 7,500 feet closer to the sun than in Mississippi! We had

just enough sugar to make cotton candy for the greater-than-expected crowd. Not to mention, our Southern accents were welcomed with curiosity which gave us all the opportunity to share about Living Valley Church, Pastor Taylor, Hannah, Hope and Caleb.

The fading nature of earthly things stood in contrast to the eternity of God's Word. The beautiful mountains and fauna were a perfect example of God's natural revelation. However, even the majesty of mountains and minerals cannot fill the void that mankind searches to fill... "only Christ in us, the hope of glory" can do that.

And so, we met people where there were: on a mountain, in a valley, and on the street—in faith—sharing the hope of glory and planting eternal seeds.

Paul's words from 1 Corinthians 9:19–27 pricked my heart as we traveled to Yreka, and I shared what they meant to me during our team's first morning devotion. The Holy Spirit really seemed to echo this Truth to each of us in those first few days. As Christ Followers, we are called to meet people right where they are—not just where they are physically, but spiritually and personally. Paul wrote, "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some" (1 Cor. 9:22). Paul's words challenged us to find connection points with others that would allow the message of Christ to be most comfortably and easily received, right where they are. The manner of each connection would look different from encounter to encounter, but we trusted God would work that out ahead of us.

The Bible shows this kind of relational intimacy over and over through Jesus: in His conversation He had with the woman at the well; in the meal He shared with many tax collectors; in His compassion for those suffering from illness and evil spirits who ran to Him in desperation; in the quiet instruction He gave Nicodemus; in the gentle words He shared with His follower, Thomas, in the middle of his doubt. Jesus met each person right where they were.

When we pray for opportunities to share who He is, the Lord aligns each moment according to His perfect plan and provides all the words we need.

The first example of meeting people right where they are came on Day One. We had the opportunity to share the Gospel with a man who introduced himself simply as "Shasta Steve." This eccentric guy strolled up to us as we waited for the Bentons to arrive at Bunny Flat Trailhead, at the base of Mount Shasta. He shared with us stories about his life spent

at the mountain—first as an employee, then as a volunteer—and told us about the recent loss of his wife. He also told us about the death of his beloved cats, who he buried on the mountain. Shasta Steve, who lives out of his car, explained to us that countless people come to the mountain each year searching for both meaning and purpose in life with hopes to fill a void. After a lengthy conversation, we all connected with him enough to ask, "Hey, can we pray with you?" He gave an awkward smile and said that many had prayed with him before—and he'd never turn it down.

I am just grateful for every encounter I have with the unhoused and how the Lord shares with me clearly that He is with them, that each person carries an important story, that His love extends to all, and that our primary purpose—wherever we are—is to meet people where they are and point them to Jesus. Shasta Steve's heart was big and his kindness extended to everyone. But his struggle was with his "dabbling" in walking with Christ. He shared with us that "Christ is in my heart," while handing us a crystal from the mountain and saying, "This will help you return home safely."

There were several people we encountered on Mount Shasta that mistakenly sought life's purpose, answers, and peace in the creation rather than the Creator. As we took in the breathtaking mountain views, and later in the week, the incredible waterfalls, I can almost understand the temptation to be drawn in. I had to intentionally remind myself to give glory and honor to the One who created it all and allowed me the privilege of admiring and enjoying His awesome Work.

During our time serving alongside Living Valley Church in Yreka, we were asked to help run a booth for both a music festival and another city festival to help the church connect with the community. At the music festival, we made cotton candy and passed out cards with information about the church. At the city festival, we did the same—plus worked a photo booth and helped kids with a "panning for treasure" activity. Each event gave us opportunities to talk about the Lord, Living Valley Church, and how happy we were to be in Yreka to meet people right where they are. We even felt like we were becoming Yrekans—just as Paul said he had to "become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some." And it was awesome!

We were blessed with opportunities to serve not just as Calvary folks, but as Living Valley folks. That is what missions is all about: submerging yourself in the community you want to reach and loving on them as if you were staying

a lifetime. The truth is, Christ put us on the earth with that in mind: “We love because He first loved us” (1 John 4:19). With every person we met, we found connection. And through each of those moments, we felt closer to the Lord. We began to understand His plan was going to happen—above all else—in His perfect timing.

Jeanne Burkhalter's Testimony

At the music festival, when we were told to put up our shade canopy right next to the massive speakers for the music groups performing on the stage, my thoughts were, “Oh no, what a nightmare this is going to be! Did anyone bring earplugs?” But once we were set up, the Lord gently turned my selfish thoughts to His compassion. Our position made it hard for people to miss us, and I was humbled as I looked over the growing sea of people—from all ages and walks of life—that we'd soon be interacting with.

What a joy it was to extend a hand full of cotton candy with a smile or engage someone waiting in the line with a flyer about Living Valley Church! And the music? Well, I actually enjoyed it! Oddly enough, it gave the person spinning the cotton candy onto the stick a rhythm to work with that aided them in mastering the art of serving cotton candy!

The Golden City Days Music Festival was located on two of the streets in the center of town and brought a mixture of both brief and long conversations. Though the church's photo op—designed as a mockup mine entrance complete with hard hat, dynamite, and a Minecraft pick—was primarily geared towards children, I found I could also use it as a conversation starter to engage other people. I'd jokingly suggest that they let me take their picture in front of it, too! Many people would sweetly smile, wave me off, or ignore the offer. But, when anyone hesitated, I would ask if they were visiting Yreka or if it was their home. How wonderfully this question would lead to some deep and touching talks! As only the Lord can arrange divine encounters, He brought Dwalla by late Sunday evening as the crowds were dwindling. She was on her way



home from Walmart and had heard the music, so she stopped to see what was going on. As I explained why I was in town from Mississippi helping a local church, her eyes lit up. She told me she played the organ at a church in a nearby town. That led to her sharing that she was recently widowed and deeply missed her husband, her best friend. I explained that I, too, am a widow and asked if she would mind if I prayed for her, right then. The Lord did amazing things in her heart as we stood in the middle of the street in Yreka that evening—and He did amazing things in my heart, too.

Sunday's worship service at Living Valley was absolutely amazing! While the crowd was certainly smaller than Calvary, the voices lifted in praise were loud and bold for Him. There is something so neat about experiencing a different church's service! It breaks

you out of your normal routine and you tend to lean in a little more than a normal Sunday. That is definitely a confession—and something I know I need to work on. In Matthew 5:13, Jesus says, “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.” Lord, help me to stay salty—and to always have fire in my belly for You.

Rob Edwards' Testimony

The most memorable moment for me was on Sunday morning—seeing Living Valley worship in the very room where we began renovations last year. As Pastor Taylor spoke, I looked up at the smooth ceiling that Payton Marshall and I had scraped the old popcorn finish off of last summer. Now, with the renovations

complete, that same room is being used as a temporary sanctuary! I felt a sense of completeness that the fruits of our team's labor from last year, along with the following mission teams that picked up where we left off, have allowed for a newly renovated space for Taylor to teach the Gospel message.

Edgar Bedolla's Testimony

I was touched by the faithfulness of the members of Living Valley Church. The choir of three came to practice Tuesday in preparation for the upcoming Sunday service. Seeing their commitment to keeping their small choir together reminded me that the Church is not bound by the walls of a building, but by our shared commitment to fellowship and serve Christ faithfully.

The final three days of our mission trip in Yreka were spent in the church house itself. The building that Living Valley resides in was packed to the hilt with overflowing cabinets, storage bins, and unused rooms. Similar to every church over fifty years old—Calvary included—there was a need to make decisions on everything: from old files to even older curriculum, from unusable office materials to old, tattered furniture. As often happens, the past had allowed the accumulation of delayed decisions and fears of “we may need that someday.” It's not easy to go through every file, every stack of papers, and every closet of a building that once housed two churches and a school. Taylor shared with me a lesson he had been taught years ago: “A hoarding church is a dying church.” That stung a little! So, we met Taylor and Hannah right where they were and jumped in. We tackled yard work on the property and we created a functional workroom, pastor's office, and a combined storage and tool room—all ready for ministry!

Our spirits shifted over that two-day period! What began as overwhelming, yet determined, energy became a sense of joy, gratitude, and excitement as we watched progress



unfold. As Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:26–27: *“Therefore, I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.”* We were exhausted by the end of the week—long days, sore arms, quick nights, and big tasks. But through it all, we focused on doing things well, as the Lord would have us do. We each had moments of feeling stretched, but we lifted one another up, encouraged the Bentons, and focused on what that space would mean for the members of Living Valley Church: a place to prepare Sunday School lessons, men and women's bible studies, and outreach and worship services.

Sadie Buchanan's Testimony

“I count it all Joy” (James 1) to have had the privilege of serving alongside Calvary's Yreka Mission Team. Our mission was to support NAMB missionaries, Taylor and Hannah Benton, church planters of Living Valley Church in the community of Yreka, CA.

I was amazed to see how much restoration had already been accomplished through previous Calvary mission efforts—yet it was clear that much more needed to be done. It is always a God-thing when the impossible becomes possible! Through the gifted, skilled, and talented men and women of Calvary, I witnessed an awesome transformation as projects were carried through to completion. (Only pictures can capture the essence of that restoration!)

I'm deeply grateful to have been a part of this ongoing outreach through Living Valley Church, and to witness firsthand how God is reviving, renewing, and restoring a strong missional presence in this community through His Church.

My personal reflection of this mission: We, like Jesus, came down from the mountain (remember Shasta Steve?), got out of the boat (or in our case, the plane & rental van), and met people right where they were—just as the Scriptures say Jesus did.

To God Be the Glory!

It was difficult to come home after a week of truly feeling like Yrekans, Living Valley Church members, and family to the Bentons—every encounter blessed my heart! I always learn a little something special from the Lord during a mission trip. This summer, He reminded me of the importance of being determined and dedicated to giving our very best while serving others. As Jesus said in Matthew 25:40: *“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”*

Curtis Prehn's Testimony

Seeing Taylor and Hannah's love for the people of Yreka was seeing the love of the Lord in action. Knowing they've been in the area for several years showed me the patience of the Lord in bringing the lost to Himself. Even though our Calvary team was miles and miles away from Tupelo, worshipping with the Living Valley congregation allowed me to experience the greatness of the presence of the Lord! Truly, there is nowhere on earth we can go where the Lord is not already there.

After our week of serving on mission in Yreka, it is evident the Lord brought 1 Corinthians 9:19–27 to our attention not only to prepare our hearts for this mission, but to bring it home. Meeting people where they are, quickly pointing them to Jesus, serving selflessly, and giving our best for the sake of the Gospel is truly an honor.

¹⁹ For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; ²⁰ and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; ²¹ to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; ²² to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. ²³ Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you. ²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. ²⁵ And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. ²⁶ Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. 🏠



Yreka, CA Mission Team - June 2025: Curtis Prehn, Elizabeth Hamm, Jeanne Burkhalter, Rob & Kim Edwards, Sadie Buchanan, Edgar Bedolla

YOU
DID IT
FOR ME

MATTHEW 25:40

“...Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

THE LORD WILL PROVIDE

GENESIS 22:14

*And Abraham called the name of the place,
The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day,
"In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided."*



JIREH

HAILEY WAMPLER

+ Excerpt of Testimony by Conner Mathis

"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." -2 Corinthians 9:8

Jehovah Jireh, the Hebrew name for God meaning, "The Lord will Provide" (Genesis 22:14), was the unplanned yet recurring theme God placed on our team's hearts in Malawi. Nearly every hour of the trip, this was a constant reminder for us and provided us with endless moments of praise that God is, indeed, our Provider.

Looking back, the Lord provided even before the trip. After many months of praying and nearly two years of thinking about going to Malawi, the Lord provided an open door for me to go when I heard that our church would be going in the summer rather than during the school year. I sought the Lord, and He answered. Not only did He answer, but He gave me encouragement as we prepared for our trip. Through the blessing of trip scholarships (some anonymous), those who purchased t-shirts for my fundraising, and both

the prayer and support of my family and church family, the Lord met me where I was in every moment preparing for this trip. He provided.

Not only did the Lord provide before our trip, but more importantly, He was the Provider throughout the whole trip. Here are just a few examples of just how powerful, how faithful, and how loving God was to provide:

God provided a brick building for the starting day of a church that formed as we began sharing the Gospel hut-to-hut. To have a brick building was unheard of because typically, for the first couple years of a new church, they meet under a tree. But the Lord provided! It was evident we should name this church "Jireh Baptist Church" because the Lord provided for its first gathering in a way that none of us would have ever thought.

God provided families and individuals for us to share the Gospel with. If someone asked me what the highlight of my trip was, it was probably a moment during hut-to-hut evangelism. While sharing the Gospel to a family of twelve who lived ten feet from a mosque, an Islamic temple, the Lord started working in their hearts and they began asking deep questions. After almost thirty minutes of questions, they prayed to receive Christ! The Lord provided! Over the next couple of days of evangelism, here are just a few more ways our team saw God provide: God saved drunk men and women, a Witch Doctor (who used evil to treat illnesses), an evil Chief, a blind woman, and a 111-year-old woman who had been in pain for fifty-five years. It's hard to put into words but it's a true picture of the Gospel—the Lord met each of these, now our brothers and sisters in Christ, exactly where they were—He opened their eyes and hearts to receive Him as Lord and Savior.

God provided a meal for 1000 orphans and widows in three different villages. But, during each of the feedings, there were times I thought that there wasn't going to be enough food. The lines were as long and as far as we could see. In fact, in one village, I can remember thinking it didn't make sense that a bucket full of food that was prepared for 300 people would suffice. I looked up and there were 200 people left to feed and over half of the bucket was gone. But the Lord provided! For all three orphan and widow feedings, the Lord provided enough food for each person to eat for the first time in a week. It's also special to know that God provided the cost of these feedings through Calvary Kids' VBS mission offering. Seeing the Lord work in this way was incredible

God provided a huge crowd of people who attended a soccer game where the Gospel would be shared during half-time. Over 2500 people circled around Conner Mathis as he began to share, through a translator, the Good News to many who had never heard it before. Afterwards, over 500 people raised their hands, publicly announcing to be saved—some crying as they prayed.

A lot of the stories mentioned are straight from the Bible, which is mind-blowing to me. The Lord provided a church building, many families to share the Gospel with, enough food to feed 1000 orphans and widows, a crowd of 2500 people to hear the Gospel at the soccer game, and so many other things that were not mentioned.

Praise God for *that!*

Conner Mathis' Testimony

When trying to put the mission trip into words, it's tough. There are only a few that truly capture the experience—and one of them is life-changing. Many different moments will stick with me forever, but the first that comes to mind is the feedings. I've never experienced anything more humbling than handing food to those kids. They were so grateful that they would bow down to us as they received their food.

The presence of the Lord was felt throughout the entire trip! So many experiences were clearly God-driven—like when we helped start a new church with a building, something that has never happened in a village before. You could just tell that the village wanted to hear the Word of God. By the first Sunday, the congregation had already outgrown the space!

This trip will forever be in my mind, and I am so grateful I had the opportunity to go. If you've ever thought about going on a mission trip, I highly encourage you—go. It will change your life! 🙏



Malawi, Africa Mission Team - July 2025: Dana Walker, Sherry Smith, Jim Davis, Nyanza Steward, Joy Kellum, Pastor Mclean Chimwenje (CMN Partner), Kim Edwards, John Boler, Hailey Wampler, Conner Mathis



MALAWI 2025



UPCOMING

Sign-up for events and view upcoming opportunities in the [CBC Church App](#), at [calvarytupelo.com/events](#), or visit the Connect Table outside the office.

AUGUST

- 5 REC. NIGHT**
Rec. Nights are full of fellowship and community—pickleball, basketball, corn hole, disc golf, & more!! Invite a friend and come hang out with us 6–8PM on August 5 in the Gym. We pray this is one of many Rec. Nights to come!
- 11 GRIEFSHARE - with Heather Deaton & Ellen Johnston**
We all experience grief, and having a place to share your story is important. Join us for GriefShare on Mondays at 6PM in the CMC. It will help you find healing and support while pointing you to the One who will sustain you on this journey. Be sure to RSVP. Participant Guide cost: \$20.
- 14 WOMEN'S "BEHIND THE FINE" - with Dottie Estess**
Hear Dottie Estess' testimony of God's faithfulness—a chance to go deeper into the question of "How are you?" and to go "Behind the Fine" at 6PM on August 14 in the CMC. Please RSVP so we know how to prepare.

SEPTEMBER

- 7 COMPELLED BY LOVE: PICNIC OUTREACH**
CBL is a monthly opportunity for all ages to Come, Serve, & Go Together for the glory of the Lord! This month we will gather for our annual Picnic Outreach and fellowship meal at the park! Bring a friend and join us on September 7 at Veteran's Park 5–7PM.
- 16 LADIES' BIBLE STUDY - with Charlotte Busby**
Standing On The Promises is a 7-week study of Biblical characters who trusted God's Word and acted. We'll also hear personal testimonies. Even in moments of uncertainty, TRUST God's promises—our theme is based on Hebrews 10:23. Invite a friend and join us Tuesdays in room A103 (Sept. 16–Oct. 28).

OCTOBER

- 26 CALVARY 90 PRESENTATION**
Following Worship on Sun., Oct. 26, join us for a fellowship luncheon and presentation of phases 2 & 3 of our Calvary 90 Project! We'll hear from the Stewardship & Adhoc Committees and a presentation by McCarty Architects.
- 29 TRUNK-OR-TREAT OUTREACH**
Join us for one of our biggest outreach events of the year—lots of great fellowship, food, live music, and fun at our annual Kids' Trunk-or-Treat on Wed., Oct. 29 5–7PM. This event takes place in our parking lot and playground areas. All church members are encouraged to serve!



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

9:00AM Sunday School
10:15AM Worship Service
5:00PM Compelled By Love (first Sundays)
6:00PM Evening Worship
Student Discipleship
Kids' Missions & Bible Drill

MONDAYS

8AM–2PM Weekday Education (M–F)

WEDNESDAYS

12:00PM Moms In Prayer via Zoom
5:00PM Wednesday Night Supper
5:30PM Kids' Check-In
5:45PM Kids' Worship & Bible Study
6:00PM Adult Bible Study & Prayer
Students' Worship & Bible Study
7:00PM Worship Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAYS

9AM–4PM Mother's Day Out

*Full schedule provided weekly in the bulletin, church-wide emails, and the Calvary app.



DOWNLOAD OUR APP



Sign-up for events, watch sermons, follow along with us on our daily Bible reading journey, and more—all in one place!

AUGUST 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL + Calvary 101: New Mbrs. 10:15AM WORSHIP + Sunday School Promotion 5PM COMPELLED BY LOVE	4 6:45AM STU. BREAKFAST Prayer Breakfast Resumes Weekly @Jack's - W. Main	5 Weekday Edu. Open House 6-8PM REC. NIGHT	6 5PM SUPPER Resumes 5:45PM KIDS' KICKBALL 6PM BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER 7PM KIDS' PARENT MTG.	7	8	9
10 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP + Kids' Leaders' Luncheon 6PM WORSHIP + Kids' Missions/Bible Drill Resumes	11 First Day of School - Weekday 6PM GRIEFSHARE	12 10AM SENIOR ADULT RALLY @FBC Tupelo 5:15PM IMPACT TRAINING for S.S. teachers, leaders, etc. MS Baptistist led @FBC Tupelo	13 5PM SUPPER 5:45PM KIDS' WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY Resumes 6PM BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER	14 First Day - Mother's Day Out 6PM BEHIND THE FINE with Dottie Estess	15	16 10AM MOMS IN PRAYER KICK-OFF BRUNCH
17 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP 6PM WORSHIP 7PM STU. PARENT NIGHT	18 6PM GRIEFSHARE 6PM DEACONS, PASTORS, & SPOUSES DINNER @Parkway/BC - Speakers: Bro. John & Elizabeth Boler	19	20 5PM SUPPER 6PM BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER	21	22	23
24 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP 6PM WORSHIP	25 6PM GRIEFSHARE	26	27 5PM SUPPER 6PM BUSINESS MEETING BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER	28	29	30
31 7:15AM (6:15 Volunteers) OUTREACH BREAKFAST 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP No Evening Service						

SEPTEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED	2	3 5PM SUPPER 5:45PM KIDS' KICKBALL 6PM BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER	4	5	6
7 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP + Kids' Worship Spotlight 5PM CBL FELLOWSHIP @Veteran's Park <i>Margaret Lackey - Week of Prayer for Missions</i>	8 6PM GRIEFSHARE	9	10 5PM SUPPER 6PM BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER	11	12	13
14 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP 6PM WORSHIP	15 6PM GRIEFSHARE	16 9AM LADIES' BIBLE STUDY	17 5PM SUPPER 6PM BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER	18	19	20
21 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP 6PM WORSHIP 7PM STU. PARENT NIGHT	22 6PM GRIEFSHARE	23 9AM LADIES' BIBLE STUDY	24 SEE YOU AT THE POLE Prayer@Your School 5PM SUPPER 6PM BUSINESS MEETING BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER	25 10AM CALVARY FRIENDS 55+ Fellowship Luncheon	26 COMMUNITY TAILGATE @Tupelo High	27
28 7:15AM (6:15 Volunteers) OUTREACH BREAKFAST 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP 6PM WORSHIP	29 6PM GRIEFSHARE	30 9AM LADIES' BIBLE STUDY				

OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 5PM SUPPER 5:45PM KIDS' KICKBALL 6PM BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER	2	3	4 10AM NURSERY SOCIAL
5 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP + Kids' Worship Spotlight + OCC Kick-off 5PM COMPELLED BY LOVE	6 6PM GRIEFSHARE	7 9AM LADIES' BIBLE STUDY	8 5PM SUPPER 6PM BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER	9	10	11
12 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP 6PM WORSHIP	13 Fall Break Week No Weekday Edu. M-F 6PM GRIEFSHARE 6PM LCBA ANNUAL MTG. @Calvary	14 9AM LADIES' BIBLE STUDY	15 5PM SUPPER 6PM BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER	16 No Mother's Day Out	17 KIDS' FAMILY CAMP Camp Armstrong	18 KIDS' FAMILY CAMP Camp Armstrong
19 Family Camp Returns 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP 6PM WORSHIP 7PM STU. PARENT NIGHT	20 A Week In The Word: Help us complete the reading of God's Word in one week! 6PM GRIEFSHARE	21 9AM LADIES' BIBLE STUDY	22 5PM SUPPER 6PM BUSINESS MEETING BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER	23 10AM CALVARY FRIENDS 55+ Fellowship Luncheon	24	25
26 7:15AM (6:15 Volunteers) OUTREACH BREAKFAST 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP + Luncheon & Presentation: Calvary 90 Phases 2 & 3	27 6PM GRIEFSHARE	28 9AM LADIES' BIBLE STUDY	29 5-7PM TRUNK-OR-TREAT OUTREACH FELLOWSHIP Calvary Parking Lot	30	31	

COME SERVE GO
T**GETHER**

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