



Newsletter

Chaplain Ed Welsh

Isaiah 61:1

Volume 3, Issue 6

November 2003

*I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me;
I was in prison and you came to Me. Matthew 25:36*

The CIW Concert

Jesus Is The Key Ministries and CALVARY CHAPEL POMONA VALLEY

CIW Yard Concert

We had such an awesome time with you ladies last year! We are totally looking forward to seeing back this October 18th. If you who remember the last time, tell your friends and have them all come.

Featuring

- The Heather Henry Band
- e-Tribe
- Ordinary People
- The Jim Bovee Band
- Scarlet Hope
- The Gutierrez Brothers

With Special Guest Speakers:

- Pastor Carlos Ayub of Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa
- Paula Nalinger of Jesus is the Key Ministries
- Pastor Jeff Stewart of Calvary Chapel Pomona Valley
- Chaplain Ed Welsh, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Men's Central Jail

Date: Oct. 18, 2003
Where: On the Yard
Time: 9:00 am till 4:00 pm

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.....
Ephesians 3:20

In the last newsletter I asked all of you to keep the upcoming yard concert in your prayers. I want to thank you for your prayers and report back to you that those prayers were answered abundantly!

None of you were able to be there yourself and yet it is all of your support that enables us to do this ministry. So even though you were not able to be there I want to try to describe what happened so that you will get some idea what it was like to be there that day.

This was by far the most ambitious concert we have

attempted this far. Before we started I hadn't realized just how much work it would take on many levels. All the staff at the prison were great with us and really went out of their way to help make the day a success. There was a woman who was unable to get on the approved list to come in with us but still wanted to help in some way. So when everyone got there at 7:30 in the morning they were greeted with a tailgate breakfast. We were all very grateful for the hot coffee and food.

Check-in took well over an hour to get accomplished and I was really surprised how fast it went considering there were so many people with all their equipment.

Once we got in there we couldn't get the electricity to work so instead of the concert starting at 9:00 it was closer to 10:00. As time passed by I became more and more concerned as to how we were going to get everything in with the time slipping away so quickly.

The women were patient waiting for us to get set up. But I started to notice something that raised more concern for me; the expressions on many of the women's faces were very hard. None were smiling. There was a sadness in their expressions

that is difficult to explain. When the concert started it didn't take long for me to realize I was watching an amazing transformation. Once Scarlet Hope started to sing the atmosphere began to change. I started to see the faces of the women change. Some were into an attitude of worship; then there were others who just got into listening to the music.

By the time that Ordinary People got up on the stage the women had really started to get into it! The Gutierrez Brothers finished out the morning session of music. Each of them had their own style of worship and that diversity really went a long way to reaching the women.

The groups spoke between songs and shared whatever the Lord lead them to say. By the time Pastor Carlos Ayub from Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa got up to give the morning message, the women had already heard many things about the Lord from the different worship groups. The Spirit was moving in a powerful way; there were many women coming to ask for prayer and others who gave their hearts to God. It was an awesome thing to watch unfold.

It was really hot that day and there was little to no shade so it really was amazing to see them stay there for so long in that hot sun. We took about an hour break for lunch and I was really doubting if many would come out for the afternoon session because of it being the hottest part of the day.

The rap group e-tribe sure lifted the day to a new level of excitement. I'm not what you would call a rap music fan but I have to admit they were very effective in giving a powerful gospel message with their music. The women loved it.

The Jim Bovee Band and then Heather Henry with her band rounded out the afternoon session. Every group there just did an awesome job and each ministered to the women. By mid-afternoon there was a constant flow of them coming for prayer.

Pastor Jeff Stewart from Calvary Chapel Pomona Valley did the afternoon message and it was the icing on the cake!

I think maybe to help describe what it was like that day, I should include some things other people had to say.....and I would like to start with is two let-

The CIW Concert (Continued)

ters we received from women there at the CIW

"Dear Jesus is the Key:

I just wanted to let you know that the yard concert you had blessed us with was wonderful and I as well as others enjoyed it a lot.

I had been to a lot of concerts in my younger days, this one I actually enjoyed more! I never knew that Christian music could be so enjoyable and fun.

I do know that I have become a new Christian and I can't wait to get home to my family and kids and show them how peaceful and fun it really is.

Thank you to each and everyone of your wonderful bands, that will be something that will stay with me.

God Bless You All!

Sincerely Yours,

Annette

"To Jesus is the Key Ministries:

Hello my name is Melissa and because of your ministry my outlook is changed and everyday gets a little better. I have been attending the Bible Study with Paula, Lisa, CC..... "Lord, Only You Can Change Me" and wow, how true and how much He wants to. I am so excited about what God is doing in me! Now I am doing, "Lord Where Are You When Bad Things Happen" and I have been so very blessed and it just gets better every day. Through a new learned way of studying and soaking up God's word I am excited and hopeful for the first time in my life. This letter is a very heartfelt thank you to you and your ministry for the time you put into us. I want you to know it is fruitful. May God bless everything you put your hands to do.

Also the concert today was awesome, I saw lots of people saved and God is doing a great work in here! Thanks so much! I really don't have enough words to show my gratitude.

God Bless you,

Melissa"

This is what some of the worship groups had to say about the concert..

"We had such a great time at the prison. I am so blessed that the Lord could use us in such a way. I know we will never know what He did that day through us, although I know that those 2 letters are a small glimpse. Praise God. I still pray for those ladies when the Lord brings it to my mind." **Heather Henry**

"Thank you again for allowing us to be a part of such a great work there in the prison. We had a wonderful time seeing God's word and the music that was shared that day, bringing a smile to the faces of all the women that were present.. Can't wait for God to give us another opportunity to share our music with them again....." **Gutierrez brothers**

"Hey Bro, We were so blessed to come out! Thanks for having us and we look forward to working in the prison with you again soon. Lord Bless "

Steve e-tribe

"Hi Bro, First of all, thank you for even considering us for that special day of ministry. Seeing all the bands, we know that we weren't necessary (you know what I mean) but I am thankful to God that He wanted us there. Secondly, I will pass these letters from the women at the prison to the rest of the group. I know that we all love this ministry and look forward to that next opportunity. Much love in Christ,"

Rob Ogden, Scarlet Hope

This is what some of the team's prayer warriors had to say.....

" I recently had the opportunity to participate in the CIW yard concert put on by Jesus is the Key Ministries. Having never been a part of prison ministry before, I was a little unsure of what to expect, but that all changed once I was inside. There wasn't any fear, just sheer joy in see-

ing the Holy Spirit at work right before my eyes. It really is true that all God is looking for is a willing and available life and He will do the rest. He allowed me the awesome privilege of praying with and encouraging these women who are in such desperate need of seeing and experiencing the love of Jesus Christ demonstrated to them. I am so grateful to have been given the chance to do that along with everyone else who participated in the concert. For anyone who might be considering getting involved in prison ministry, I would highly recommend it. You go in with the mindset of how you can be a blessing to these women, but you come out being the one who is truly blessed beyond what words can describe." **Karen Stewart, Calvary Chapel Pomona Valley**

" I had the great privilege of being involved in the outreach at CIW on Saturday, October 18, 2003. We had a wonderful day of ministry, the bands were fantastic, the women really enjoyed all the music. The staff were all very helpful.

I had the opportunity to meet the Warden of CIW, Warden John Dovey. He mentioned that whenever Jesus is the Key Ministries comes in and does an outreach event, it has a positive affect on the whole institution, which was a blessing to hear.

My favorite part of the day was praying for the ladies. Prayer was offered whenever they wanted to come forward. At first, I let the women from our team pray, but soon I looked over and the lines for prayer were four deep with women waiting. There were people from our team praying for ladies pretty much the entire day, and I believe everyone of us who prayed had the privilege of leading at least one person to Jesus Christ. The outreach at CIW was very fruitful, both for the ladies at CIW and for those of us who went in. God Bless,"

Jeff Stewart, Senior Pastor of Calvary Chapel Pomona Valley

The CIW Concert (Continued)

"I'd like to begin by thanking my Lord Jesus Christ for allowing me to go in the CIW. What stands out in my heart is the Grace and Loving-kindness the Lord shows to us all. Some of these women have committed crimes beyond our comprehension and the Lord shows them Grace. The Lord just blew my mind on the Forgiveness He shows to us all if we humble ourselves and repent of our sins."

And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, [but] grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. John 1:16-17

Anita Diaz, Calvary Chapel Pomona Valley

"I knew the yard concert was going to be a blessing to the women at CIW but I was still taken back by how many came and sat in the blazing sun for the entire time. It's a wonder they didn't all pass out of heat stroke! When we first went out to greet them, you could sense the encouragement they felt from being acknowledged and touched by our handshakes and smiles from Jesus. Having "men who love Jesus" interact with them was such a blessing too! We had such an incredibly diverse mix of musicians and styles and yet they received each band with excitement. It was amazing that after rap music they quickly settled into praise and worship with enthusiasm.

When Ed encouraged the women to come forward for prayer, immediately the women responded at the very beginning of our day. The first person I spoke with was like a fish jumping in the boat. She walked up, started crying and told me that she was sick and tired of running from the Lord. That she wanted to give her life to Jesus and be forgiven of her sins. So, we prayed for her salvation. The Lord had been sending others to plant and water and now I was there for the time when the Lord would give the increase. With very few minutes of "down-time" women were constantly coming forward for prayer, sometimes waiting many minutes until one of us was available.

A woman accepted the Lord and then later came in tears with five other women who were also broken. They knew this friend had a life changing experience and they too realized that they wanted to get their life right with God. I asked each one individually if they were to die today, that without a doubt, they would go directly to heaven. As each one answered for themselves, it was evident that they needed to be born again. So we all prayed out loud as a group. I tried to make sure that each one knew that salvation was an individual choice and choosing to follow and abide in Christ will be an individual decision every single day. There was such joy and relief after they prayed as they happily returned to praise the Lord with the music ministers.

I was amazed that the women who were blatantly "manly" in behavior and appearance stayed for ninety percent of the six hour event! In fact, they were really enjoying everything. You know that the Word of God does not return void and it was shared through all those who shared that day!

There are so many stories to share of the opportunities to minister during this full day of events. The impact of Jesus working through volunteers is beyond our comprehension. The coordination and blending of God given talents and gifts worked together to impact lives of believers and non-believers alike. In fact, one of the band members made it a ministry to check on us prayer partners, bringing us water as she felt the need throughout the day. Without her ministry, I would have been a heat stroke victim for sure!

Warden Dovey, Community Resources Manager Randy Samson and Chaplain Woodard took extra time and effort to clear the way for this day to happen and spent much energy doing the "behind the scenes" work that we don't realize even happens. How grateful I am for their desire to meet the spiritual needs of the women at CIW.

Chaplain Ed has such a heart for God's vision in reaching the lost and downcast within the walls of correctional institutions. It took many hours of coordination to pull together this event. Yet, it is nothing he can do of his own. It took all of the prayer and financial supporters of Jesus Is The Key Ministries, the musician volunteers as well as the Pastors, church support and fellow believer ministry partners to come together as one body in Christ to reach these women in Jesus name! And that is exactly what happened on October 18, 2003 at California Institution for Women!"

Praising Jesus! **Paula Nafziger, Jesus is the Key Ministries and Calvary Chapel Pomona Valley**

As a side note, Paula is the one who oversees the group of women who go in to CIW on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays of the month.

I'll close with an experience I had with one of the women I prayed with. In tears she came asking for prayer and when I asked her why she was crying she said it was because she was getting out within a few weeks. I said I would have thought she would be happy about that. She said, "you don't understand, I have come back five times in the past three years. I am afraid of coming back where I'll never get out." It was blessing to be able to reassure her it would be different this time, She will be taking Jesus with her.

As always the Word says it best of all...

But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

Galatians 3:22 NIV

One plants another waters

In being a Chaplain I get to do a lot of things I find joy in doing. But what I like best of all is the "one on one" counseling. The opportunity to be used by the Lord and hopefully make a difference in someone's life.

Of course the best gift ever is to lead them to the Lord. It should be the ultimate goal of any Chaplain, Pastor or for that matter any Christian. But as Christians we also should know that may not always be possible. Like Paul says in 1 Corinthians, one plants and another waters but it is God who gives the increase.

You want to see fruit in everything, but that will never be. Many things we try to do will never be known till we are in glory. One thing I do know, the Lord has a way of letting you see enough to keep you encouraged and equips you so that you can also guard against the darts of the enemy. The father of lies is always striving to discourage. I recently got some of the Lord's encouragement. But to explain it I need to give some background.

A few months ago a new trustee came to work in my office. His name is Sam, somewhere in his thirties. A stocky, muscular build that makes you think of one of those guys who play in the martial arts movies. Sam is Asian and a Buddhist; so when we first met I wondered how it was going to work out for him.

It has worked out very well. Sam is a hard working guy who is always willing to help, very giving, always respectful.

As I have gotten to know him, I have come to appreciate Sam and enjoy the conversations we get into on a wide range of topics.

When you like someone it gives you even more motivation to share the Lord with them. And yet I knew ear-

ly on that it would be very difficult to do with Sam. He was willing to listen and he even seems open minded about it but he has his culture and traditions that run deep.

Proverbs 17:27 says: "*He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.*" I have started to learn to be slower to speak and try to be more of a listener. In counseling you have to listen and I try hard to remember that. There is another Proverb that addresses that; Proverbs 18:13 "*He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him*"

In a conversation we recently had, Sam told me something that really blessed me. He said he felt comfortable talking to me on just about anything. He said "I have told you things I never even told my father." I received that as a special complement. At the same time it made me long all the more to want Sam to feel that same comfort in telling everything to the Heavenly Father.

Sam's assignment as trustee doesn't require him to be in the chapel. But he does often sit in and listen to the Bible studies. Some of them spark some good conversations afterwards so I know it gets him thinking.

He has a past record and is facing some serious charges. So I often tell Sam that God is reaching out to him and that He uses the circumstances in our lives to connect to us. That makes sense to him and yet he won't go to the point of embracing it for his own.

He is a reader. He reads things from eastern philosophy one day and Christian material the next. He will read the Bible and that is where I have my greatest hope that it will bring forth the fruit.

Just today Sam was in my office and I once again began to share with him

about the Lord. It had actually been a few weeks since we have talked on the subject. And I think it has been the most open he has ever been with his beliefs. One thing I am sure of, he is searching.

They recently had a murder down in his module and it shook even the most hardened of them. Any time something like that happens you are faced with the fact of your own mortality and just how fragile life really is. Tomorrow is promised to none of us.

It gave me the chance to ask the basic question, "if you were to die today do you know where you would go with certainty?" With the things he had just been through it made that question all the more powerful.

I think for the first time today while talking to him, I was able to communicate to him that what he decided concerning eternity really mattered to me. To make the connection with someone where they believe you really care, goes a long way towards them trusting you. I believe we now have achieved that kind of bond between us.

I do see the Holy Spirit working and I know Sam is feeling that tug within his heart. One thing I have learned from this experience with Sam is that it can be very difficult to combat cultural differences; tradition can be a very real barrier but in the Spirit all things are possible.

Please pray for Sam, I am trusting that the Lord will give the increase and then.....

Philippians 1:6 He who has begun a good work in you will complete it.....

‘Go and make disciples of all nations’

In the last newsletter I wrote a piece about wanting to sometime go to Russia to do outreaches in the prisons over there. Because Calvary Vista and Calvary Pomona Valley are going this next March, I looked into the possibilities.

After talking to them at Calvary Chapel Church Planting (the ministry that organizes the Russia trips) it was becoming very clear it was not for this time.

Then I spoke to the leader of Eastern European Outreach I found out we could actually do something on an even grander scale. They would be willing to arrange everything for our team, visa's, lodging, translators and book all the prisons. I want to do it and will wait on the Lord to tell us when the timing will be right.

But something else happened in the middle of all of this that is very exciting. At one of the Pastors

devotionals at Calvary Downey I ran into Pastor Edmund Cornel from Calvary Chapel Herbourne, Germany. Actually we met out there a couple weeks in a row and shared what the Lord has been doing in our respective ministries.

Pastor Edmund told me how he has in a way inherited an existing prison ministry at his church. A prison ministry that goes into six prisons there and has been for the past twenty years.

Edmund wants us to bring a team over and do some outreaches with his church. I have a couple pastor friends who are interested in going so we are going to see if we can't put it together.

We are setting a perspective date of sometime in February '04 and we will see what the Lord is going to do. It is so like everything I have ever had happen in ministry, I plan for one thing (Russia) and the Lord opens the door for some-

thing completely different.

Going to Germany will be much less expensive and way easier to get organized. Maybe what the Lord has in mind is to have us do the one first as a way of preparing us to do the other one to Russia later on?

I think it would so neat to be able to do like Paul does at the end of so many of his epistles, where he sends greetings from all. To be able to tell the saints in the prisons of Germany that the saints behind prison walls here in America, send greetings to them.

I know I presume a lot in asking for so much prayer and it's true I do covet all your prayers. But in this matter, I really do just want God's will. If He wants this outreach to happen then He will provide the way.

Answers to Prayer

In the last newsletter I listed some prayer concerns.

1. A new prison ministry starting at CIM.
2. Opportunities to go speak at some other churches about prison ministry.
3. The Chaplain's class I have started teaching at the Bible college.
4. Desiring to do some "tent making" with a job opening up

to do some family counseling at a rehab center.

5. A new ministry ***Prison Ministry of America***

To update you on how your prayers have been a blessing.

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think...

Ephesians 3:20

(1)

The new group going into CIM is being very well received, so much

so it looks like it will be expanding even more within the next few months.

Added to that we will soon be bringing in another Spanish speaking church to do services at CIM.

(2)

The opportunity to speak at other churches has opened up in some unexpected ways. In a few weeks I will be speaking at a group of Asian churches in central California who are inter-

Answer to Prayer (continued)

ested in doing prison ministry. Just this weekend I will be visiting another church here locally for the same thing.

We will also be partnering with a church from Riverside County in a very short time. God really has blessed abundantly.

(3)

As for the Chaplain's class, it is going very well. I am really enjoying the hearts of the students that are taking the class. They have been coming in the jail working as assistant chaplains, counseling, doing Bibles studies and hopefully becoming more equipped for whatever ministry the Lord is calling them into.

The counseling position has not materialized yet, still held up in paper work. I have to rely on God's timing not mine.

I was offered a job back in aerospace recently. I had put out feelers when I started to get stressed out about support. It was kind of funny really, I am sure my resume must have looked kind of strange to the recruiters when they saw Chaplain for the LA County jail for the past three years; doesn't really match the job skills within aerospace.

I felt more than a little foolish when I had to call the people I had contacted to try and get a job and then tell them I had to turn it down. Sort of like the boy crying wolf. But I knew as soon as I got the call with the offer of the job that I couldn't take it.

I would have had to give this minis-

try up and I just can't do that. I believe I am where I am supposed to be and unless God makes it clear that I am no longer supposed to be doing this, Here is where I will stay.

(5)

Regarding the prayer request about the new ministry PMA, it is coming together better than we had hoped. There is a leadership team coming together with a vision I think the Lord is going to really bless. Other ministries that are already promising to help make this new venture a success. I will be giving more updates about PMA in the near future.

I just want all of you to know I really do appreciate your prayers.

Thank you and God bless.

All Chaplains associated with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department jail system , work on a strictly volunteer basis. There is a complete adherence to the separation of Church and State . So as a form of disclaimer, I wish to clearly state this newsletter in no way represents the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. I work with the Sheriff's Department in the spirit of cooperation for the purpose of serving the men and women incarcerated in the Los Angeles County Jail system . The county in no way compensates us for what we do as Chaplains. My support comes solely from donations made to send me as a missionary to the incarcerated .

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