

FALL 2024

CALVARY **IN** ACTION

CONNECT SERVE GROW

INSIDE:

How we live and
carry the Gospel
to our community
and the world.



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Message from Pastor Ryan

Jesus' resurrection changed everything! It was the signpost of new beginnings and glorious hope. As a church, we are motivated by the promise of resurrection, and dare say gloriously hopeful about the future. All of this seems at odds with the times we live in because we experience the tangible nature of hopefulness in real time, whether in our bodies, families, or the world. So, what do hope-filled lives look like?



Hope-filled people are motivated by reality, not wishful thinking! As the hooks of death plunged Jesus headlong into that tomb that is not where he stayed. His resurrection is a statement across the earth and sky that death is not the end! This is a promise that what happened to Jesus will happen to us. So, our hope is anchored in a real event in history that gives us a glimpse of what is coming!

Hope-filled people are people of action. Hope inspires us to act in the world because we believe that whatever we do, we do for the glory of God. So, we believe that our generosity and sacrifice matter and everything is seen by God. Hope helps us see the future even when it's not bright because we know we are making a difference.

As a church, we want to be seen as hope-filled people with a commitment to "make disciples of all nations" as we go, baptize, and teach Jesus' commands. My prayer is you would be encouraged as you read about ways we are responding as hope-filled people in our community and around the world and would realize that the hope of Jesus Christ can help us move forward into the world.

Lord Bless,

Ryan

Calvary in Action: **LOCALLY**

Family Ministry

Calvary Kids and Calvary Youth exist to provide a safe place for kids to build relationships with one another and be taught Gospel-centered teaching. We do this by making our time with the kids engaging and fun, but also taking the time to have deeper discussions about being a disciple of Jesus.

As part of Calvary Kids and Calvary Youth, we desire to partner with families in ministry. We believe that parents are the primary spiritual leaders of their children and ought to be the ones who train them in the ways of the Lord. However, that can sound daunting to a lot of people who feel overwhelmed and don't know where to start. Our goal is to come alongside parents and give them the resources they need to disciple their children well.

We want to encourage parents to grow in their relationships with the Lord so they can pass down a rich and thriving faith to their children. Deuteronomy 11:18-19 says, "Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."



Our desire is to see parents that walk with the Lord so closely that talking about Him day in and day out is natural and commonplace. We have compiled many resources to encourage and build up parents. These resources can be found at calvarystp.org/parents.

We plan to provide parenting events, book studies and focus groups throughout the year. We also love to get families together so they can build relationships and encourage one another. Research indicates that people who have strong relationships in the church tend to stay in the church. This is true for adults, but especially kids. By encouraging families to fellowship regularly and build strong friendships with each other, they are impacting the next generation.

We are also always looking for partners in Family Ministry! Do you desire to help lead the next generation? We have volunteer needs in both Calvary Kids and Calvary Youth. To find out more about volunteering email: family@calvarystp.org.

Love our Schools

Nine years ago, we read that Campbell Park Elementary had received an “F” grading score and they were looking for community partners to help them improve. After meeting with the principal to hear how we can come alongside them, we learned that providing “Lunch Pals” for the students was one of their greatest needs. Lunch Pals develop friendships and are a positive role model by meeting with a child once a week during the child’s lunch time.

Over the past several years, our Lunch Pals Outreach has expanded to include other schools in our community. Is there a school close to your home or work where you can give one hour a week to make a lasting impact on our next generation by becoming a Lunch Pal? Our children need the support of caring adults more than ever! One of our Lunch Pals, Tiffany, says: “These students just need someone who will listen to and encourage them... You just need to show up and be consistent. I have



had the same lunch pal for 6 years and it has been a blessing to see her grow! If you are interested in being a Lunch Pal, we can get you training and support.

Another part of Love Our Schools is to provide school uniforms, encourage staff through various ways, and supply Christmas gifts to families in need.

For more information on becoming a Lunch Pal, contact Kathy Regan at **727-471-1428** or **kathyregan@calvarystp.org**.

Change your lunch plans – Change a child’s life.

- ▶ Be the difference – help a child reach their full potential.
- ▶ Be a friend to a child who could benefit from an additional caring adult.
- ▶ Be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community.

Calvary in Action: **LOCALLY**

Assisted Living Facility

Calvary Chapel, St. Petersburg: Bringing the Church to the Assisted Living Facility

At Calvary Chapel, St. Petersburg, we are blessed to have a vibrant and dedicated team of volunteers who serve our local community in various ways, one of which is through a weekly ministry at a nearby Assisted Living Facility (ALF). Every Sunday, from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m., a dedicated team brings worship, teaching, and fellowship to residents who are unable to attend church due to physical limitations. The time is brief, but it is meaningful and it reflects Jesus' greatest commandments from Mark 12:30-31: to *"love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself."*

Many ALF residents feel isolated, but their desire to worship the Lord remains strong. When they requested that the Word of God be brought to them, our church responded eagerly. Now, each week, a group from Calvary Chapel prepares and delivers a Bible teaching, offering spiritual encouragement and hope.

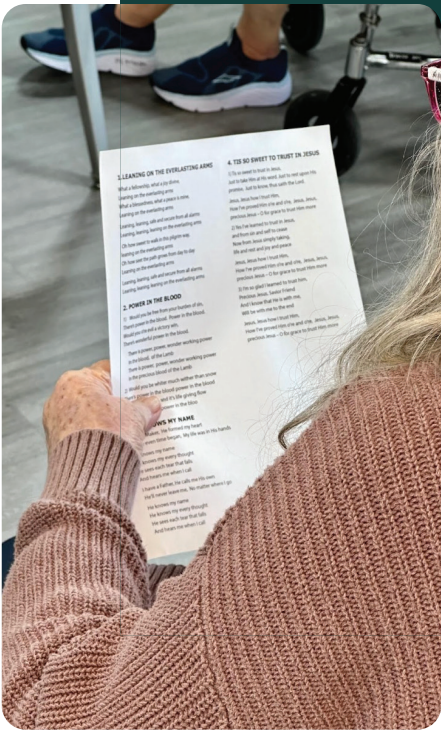
Others on our team offer hospitality, prayer, and companionship, ensuring the residents feel loved and supported. Their efforts provide meaningful connection and renewal for the residents, which helps to lift their spirits and fosters a sense of community.



This ministry is a powerful expression of how we live out Christ's command to love our neighbors. By serving the ALF residents in their most vulnerable moments, we remind them that they are valued and cared for.

If you would like to join us in this ministry—whether through leading music, helping with setup, or simply spending time with the residents—please contact David R. at david@calvarystp.org.

Your involvement can make a lasting impact as we continue to share Christ's love with those who want to worship and can't come to church.



“Being raised in a small town and a Christian home in the early 60s, my parents insisted that we visit the “rest home” every few months to sing for “the people.” I did so grudgingly, never realizing how God was shaping my life. Now I understand that I was ministering to a sometimes-overlooked part of the Body of Christ.

Flash forward 60 years, and I find myself ministering to the same need at the ALF down the street from Calvary. I see the elderly woman with tears in her eyes, who can no longer speak but can still mouth every word of the worship songs we sing. I am blessed, along with her, as we do church together.”

-Wendy M.



Calvary in Action: **LOCALLY** **Women of Heart**

The Women of Heart ministry was birthed out of a great need for a member of Calvary Chapel in 2002. At that time, various women rallied around this member by organizing meal plans, cleaning schedules, and even visiting schedules.

Over the years the group grew larger, and the handwritten schedules and calling system was replaced with digital schedules and an email system, allowing it to become more efficient and what it is today. Women of Heart has 109 members who are notified of various needs. The most common need is providing meals to people who are recovering from surgery, bringing home new babies, or losing close family members. We also occasionally send out requests for other needs.

The great thing about being a part of the Women of Heart team is that it is at your own discretion – if you can bring a meal or help with another need, that is wonderful! But if you can't meet the need, there is no pressure or obligation. It is a privilege to see how quickly the Lord moves the hearts of women. Meal plans are usually filled up within a few days and the miscellaneous requests are usually filled quite timely as well. We give glory to God for providing such faithful, generous women who are eager and ready to help others in times of need. This group certainly is a movement of the gospel of Jesus.

For more information or if you want to be a part of serving the community, please reach out to Christie Jones:

christiejones@calvarystp.org

"It has not only blessed our stomachs, but it was such a great blessing for me to get that little visit from these lovely ladies! It's made my recovery so much easier. I praise our Lord Jesus for sisters like you all."

"Thank you for all the help you gave my son. It truly blessed his heart and mine. God bless you and this ministry."

"I wanted to let you know how truly blessed and thankful I am for the meals! It has been so helpful this week! What an awesome ministry."





Calvary in Action: GLOBALLY

From India to the World

The “V’s” Journey of Faith and Media Mission

At Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg, we believe in fulfilling the Great Commission, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all nations. It is with great excitement that we introduce you to a missionary family who embodies this calling—Jose and Sarah “V,” along with their three children, Zohara, Zuwená, and Jaden. The V family have answered God’s call to minister to the people of India and the global Indian diaspora through an innovative and powerful mode—visual media. Their story is one of faith, perseverance, and grace in the face of tremendous hardship, and now, Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg is privileged to partner with them in this important mission.

A Journey of Faith in India

Jose and Sarah both come from India, a nation with a rich history but one that is also deeply entrenched in a multitude of spiritual beliefs. Jose was raised in a traditional Indian home but came to know the Lord in his early twenties. After encountering the transformative power of the Gospel, Jose felt a burning desire to share the message of Christ with his fellow countrymen. Sarah, similarly developed a heart for her own people after her conversion to Christianity. Together, they began ministering in India, enduring hardships and trials that tested their faith but also saw God’s power working through their efforts.

In 2016, one of the most remarkable moments of their ministry occurred in Mumbai. Jose was called to pray for a 20-year-old Hindu man named Devendra, who suffered from stage IV leukemia. Hopeless and ready to give up on life, Devendra found new hope in Christ after Jose shared the Gospel with him. Miraculously, Devendra was healed, both spiritually and physically. Today, Devendra is a vibrant believer who shares his testimony in the villages and slums

of India, proving that God is still working miracles in even the most desperate situations.

Despite seeing many come to faith in Christ, the V family faced relentless opposition. Anti-Christian sentiment grew, and the couple endured threats, attacks, and constant pressure to stop their ministry. Yet, they continued to witness the Lord's hand guiding them through these trials, growing a thriving church in Navi Mumbai and ministering to countless souls.



The Call to Visual Media

As their ministry grew, Jose and Sarah recognized the unique challenges of sharing the Gospel in India. India is home to more than 1.4 billion people, with hundreds of languages and a rich cultural diversity. Yet the Gospel has struggled to penetrate many communities due to language barriers, spiritual traditions, and the geographical vastness of the nation.

In response, the V family began exploring ways to reach more people beyond the traditional church setting. They found an answer in visual media—television and internet videos. These platforms have allowed them to share Christ with millions across India and beyond. Through their ministry called “Simply Bible,” Jose and Sarah teach the Word of God verse by verse, bringing the truth of

Scripture to people in their native languages, including Hindi and English.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when in-person church services were restricted, the Lord opened an incredible door for their ministry. They were invited to preach the Gospel on a Christian television channel, which reaches millions of viewers across India. Since then, they have expanded their broadcasts to multiple languages, and their episodes are now viewed by millions, spreading the message of hope and salvation to people who may have never stepped foot inside a church.

From India to St. Petersburg

The V family's journey to the United States came at a time when the dangers where they were became too great to ignore. After enduring multiple threats, including a kidnapping attempt, and facing severe financial difficulties, they felt the Lord calling them to move to a place of safety where they could continue their ministry. Through the guidance and support of their missions organization, Intensive Care Ministries, the V family arrived in the United States in May 2023, carrying with them nothing but their faith and the mission God had placed on their hearts.

Since arriving in Florida, God has connected them with our

church here at Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg. Under the leadership of the CCSP missions director, Calvary has partnered with the V family to help them continue their ministry to India from a safe base in the U.S. With the help of our church family and the local community, they have been able to record and broadcast new episodes for their television ministry, reaching millions of viewers in India and others throughout the world.

As Jose explains, "We never imagined we would end up in St. Petersburg, but God had it all planned. Calvary Chapel has become our home, and we are excited to see how the Lord is using this partnership to reach even more people with the Gospel."

Partnering with the V Family

Jose and Sarah V's journey from the streets of Mumbai to the shores of St. Petersburg is a testimony to God's faithfulness and the power of the gospel. Their story reminds us that even in the face of persecution and trials, God's grace is sufficient, and His work will continue. But this mission is not one they can carry alone. They need the prayers and support of their church family.

As a church, we have the opportunity to partner with the Vs in a meaningful way—to help

spread the Gospel to one of the largest and most spiritually needy people group in the world. Whether through prayer, financial support, or personal involvement, you can play a part in bringing the light of Christ to millions of people.

The fields are ripe for harvest.
Will you answer the call?



HOW YOU CAN HELP →

Pray

Pray for Jose, Sarah, and their children as they continue to adjust to life in the U.S. and face the ongoing challenges of their ministry. Pray for protection, strength, and wisdom as they reach out to millions with the message of Jesus.

Give

Your financial support is crucial to the success of their ministry. By partnering with the V family, you are directly helping to fund the production and broadcasting of Gospel-centered teachings that have the potential to change lives for eternity. You can give directly to the V family through <https://donorbox.org/jose-victor>, knowing that your support is making an eternal impact.

Connect

If you have skills in media production, graphic design, translation, or any other areas that could assist in expanding their ministry, we invite you to get involved. Reach out to our missions team for more information on how you can be part of this life-changing mission, email:

david@calvarystp.org



Calvary in Action: GLOBALLY

Evangelism and Discipleship in a Closed Country

Since moving to Southeast Asia in 2012, Julie has had the privilege of serving in a “closed” country where traditional missionary work is not allowed. Before coming here, her time at Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg prepared her for this journey through classes, mission trips, and a growing understanding of God’s heart for the nations. Now, she serves as a teacher in a government-run university in a country that is closed to missionary work. Her occupation there gives her the opportunity to build relationships, meet practical needs, and share the love of Christ with future generations. In that culture, building relationships

takes time, but after over 10 years, she is beginning to see the fruits of this labor. One example is Luke, a student she met early on who was one of the few believers in her faculty. As she and her team walked alongside him, Luke grew in his faith and even began sharing the Gospel with his classmates. encounter in this country.

New Christians there often face persecution, sometimes being forced to leave their villages if they refuse to renounce their faith in Jesus. The country also struggles with poor education and an underdeveloped healthcare system.

Because of its ethnic diversity, unity among believers is difficult, but we trust in God to overcome these obstacles.

The work here requires patience, perseverance, and a deep reliance on the Holy Spirit. We invite you to partner with Julie through prayer and to consider financially supporting this work.

Despite the challenges, God is moving powerfully in this nation, and we trust that His light will

Prayer Points:

- ▶ Pray for strength, wisdom, and courage for the missionaries.
- ▶ Pray for open hearts and opportunities to share the gospel.
- ▶ Ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance and protection over those serving in hostile areas.



Support Information for Julie:

<https://www.elic.org/donate>

Select: **Support a Teacher**, use teacher code: **j205**





Calvary in Action: GLOBALLY

Investing in Bible Translation in Southeast Asia

At Calvary Chapel, St. Petersburg (CCSP), we are deeply committed to the life-changing power of God's Word. One of the ways we live out this commitment is by supporting Bible translation efforts in Southeast Asia, specifically in partnering with Wycliffe missionaries who dedicate their lives to making Scripture accessible to unreached communities. While some, like Ethan and Camille Riechenbach, are directly involved in the translation work itself, others such as Ken and Sheila Nelson, and Sean and Rebekah C (the C family)

provide essential support through roles in medical care, teaching, facility management, and editorial leadership. This mission is a team effort requiring diverse skills and dedication.

Ethan and Camille's journey with Bible translation began by immersing themselves in the Agob culture in Papua New Guinea, learning the language firsthand to accurately translate the Bible into the tribe's native tongue. Bible translation is a labor-intensive process that can span decades, often requiring multiple

generations of missionaries. Ethan serves as the lead translator, while Camille, a medical doctor, provides healthcare to the local community. Their work is sustained by a vast network of support from both local and global partners, ensuring that no aspect of the mission falls solely on one person. Beyond the translation work, others like Ken and Sheila Nelson ensure the entire operation runs smoothly. They manage logistics,

oversee the mission base, and care for the daily needs of both the missionaries and the local community. The C family plays a pivotal role by leading a Bible translation editing team based in Southeast Asia, working to translate the Scriptures into another Southeast Asian language. From managing administrative duties to educating children, every member contributes to the mission's success.





As we continue to support these missionaries, we ask you to join us in prayer. Please pray for the Agob tribe, for favor with local leaders, and for unity among the translation teams. Pray for the Reichenbachs, Nelsons, and the C family, asking God to provide them strength, peace, and wisdom as

they continue their vital work of bringing the Gospel to those who have never heard it.

Together, we trust that God will use these translations to touch lives and transform generations for His Kingdom.

Support Information:

<https://www.wycliffe.org/partner/missionaries>

Ethan & Camille Reichenbach Ministry #398864-RG

Ken & Sheila Nelson Ministry #242829-RG

Sean & Rebekah Conklin Ministry #284440-RG

Missions Training – *Perspectives*

Missions Training–Perspectives



What if you could be part of God's greatest story—the story of His work to reach every nation, tribe, and tongue? What if your life, right now, could play a key role in His global purpose?

Perspectives is a transformative fifteen-lesson course designed to open your eyes to God's heart for the world and your place in His mission. Through a dynamic and multi-faceted learning experience, you'll discover how God is fulfilling His promises to make His name known among the nations. The course invites you to explore this grand narrative from four distinct perspectives: Biblical, Historical, Cultural, and Strategic.

The Biblical and Historical perspectives lay a solid foundation, showing how God has been at work throughout

history to spread His glory to every corner of the earth. These sections ignite our confidence in God's unwavering commitment to His mission, from the dawn of time to today. The Cultural and Strategic perspectives, on the other hand, bring this mission into the present, reminding us that we are part of an urgent but attainable task. These lessons challenge and equip us to partner with God in ways that are both practical and impactful.

God has a unique and vital role for each believer in His global mission. Perspectives isn't just about global missions—it's a Scriptural call to action, clarifying how your life fits into God's larger story. You have the opportunity to join Him in His work of blessing all peoples, and He delights in your willingness to respond.

Now is the time to step into your role in God's unfolding plan. Will you accept His invitation to be part of a mission that spans history and reaches the nations?

For more information regarding Perspectives of Missions, email: **david@calvarystp.org**.



PLUGGING IN

Life Groups

Where Faith and Community Grow

The early church thrived by meeting in small groups, creating a foundation of faith and community that sustained them through every season. At Calvary Chapel St. Pete (CCSP), we continue this Biblical tradition through Life Groups.

Why Join a Life Group?

In our busy lives, we all need a place to grow deeper in our faith and build genuine, lasting connections with others. Life Groups provide that space—a place where we intentionally create opportunities for our spiritual roots to grow deeper, our faith to flourish, and our sense of belonging to be strengthened. In these small, intimate gatherings, we study the Bible, pray together, and share in life's joys and challenges.

The Power of Community

Within these groups, you'll find encouragement, support, and accountability in your walk with Christ. Whether you're facing a personal struggle or celebrating a victory, Life Groups are a community where you are known, cared for, and strengthened as you journey with Christ. As we gather, we're reminded of the early church in Acts 2:46-47:

"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

Meeting Together Matters

Gathering as believers isn't just a nice idea; it's essential to our spiritual growth. As Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us, we are called to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds" by not giving up meeting together. Our fellowship strengthens us, encouraging us to live out our faith in a way that makes an impact on our families, workplaces, and communities.



How to Connect and Join a Life Group

1. Find a Group

Discover a Life Group that fits your needs and schedule.

2. Reach Out

Contact the group for details, location, and any up-to-date information by visiting: calvarystp.org/groups

3. Grow Together

Experience life-giving fellowship and spiritual growth with a group of believers.

Gathering—It's What We Do. Connecting—It's How We Grow.

Don't walk this journey alone. Consider joining a Life Group today and experience the joy of growing in Christ together.



PLUGGING IN

Ways to Get Involved at Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg

At CCSP we believe that spiritual growth happens best when we're connected and serving together. There are many ways for you to get involved in our church community, whether through service, small groups, or special events. We encourage you to take that next step and find where you can use your time, talents, and heart to make a difference!

The primary way to learn about serving opportunities or to join a small group is by visiting us online at **calvarystp.org**. There, you will find a wealth of information on ministries, events, and ways to get plugged into church life. If you're unable to find what you need online, please feel free to reach out to the church office at **office@calvarystp.org** or call us at **727-577-7705**. We are always happy to help you find your place here.

Our goal at CCSP is to support you as you grow in your faith, deepen your understanding of God's Word, and discover how you can invest in God's kingdom. Whether you're interested in serving in a ministry, joining a Life Group, or attending one of our upcoming events, there's a place for you to connect.



Upcoming Events

BRIDGEWORK THEATRE CO.



Seek

THE NATIVITY STORY

Bridgework Productions

Don't miss this year's exciting performances! We'll be presenting a special Christmas production, followed by a powerful Spring show—both designed to inspire and encourage. Be sure to check our website: calvarystp.org for dates and ticket details as these events approach!

We look forward to walking this journey of faith with you!

Hebrews 10:24

*"And let us consider how we
may spur one another on
toward love and good deeds."*



CALVARY CHAPEL
ST. PETERSBURG