

News from Calvary



May 2018

Calvary's Mission

As God's Children, our mission is to

Know His Word,

Share His Word

and

Live His Word.

Calvary's Vision

To be a Christ-centered church, alive with worship and meaningful ministries, where the youngest to the oldest are serving and being served, growing and helping others to grow, and connecting with each other and our surrounding communities.



Serve.



Grow.



Connect.



Years ago I used to watch the stand-up comedy show, “Saturday Night Live.” One of my favorite actors from that show was the comedian Dana Carvey. Mr. Carvey used to be in all sorts of skits, playing all sorts of characters during his time on that show. Probably one of his most well-known characters was the Church Lady. The Church Lady character would usually be interviewing whatever famous actor or musician happened to be hosting the show that evening, usually giving that person a hard time. And while Mr. Carvey’s character had several quotable lines or catch phrases, there was one he would break out every so often when the guest didn’t live such a great life. That phrase being, “The power of Christ compels you.” And while that line was supposed to be a rebuke of that person’s life style, I believe that it’s one that we should think about.

Does the power of Christ, or more importantly, does the *love* of Christ compel you? Or do you take it for granted? If His love does compel you, then the next question is how is it compelling you?

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the word “compel” this way -- *to drive or urge forcefully or irresistibly*. Basically, you have no choice. You can’t imagine not doing what you are doing.

In case I haven’t mentioned it recently, I love my wife. She’s pretty awesome. And I can’t imagine not having her in my life. One of the things that I love to do is to lie next to her before she goes to sleep. It doesn’t matter if I’m going to bed then. It doesn’t matter if I’m in the middle of something. It doesn’t matter if I’m going to just get back out of bed once she’s asleep. I just really want that time of simply lying next to her. I’m compelled to do it. For me, that’s just something that I need to do. I can’t imagine not doing it.

But what about the love of Christ? Is it compelling you to live your life any differently? What does that look like for you? How are you living your life differently?

When I arrived at the facility where 25 refugees are housed, we were soon joined by seven other believers, from Iran! Some fled from persecution they faced as Christians, but the others first heard about Jesus here in Austria. It is rare that someone visits them, as they live in a remote town, so it was very special for them (and for me!). During our weekend together, we had a few spontaneous Bible studies and times of prayer together as well. Jeremy, also on staff at The Oasis, joined us on Saturday, and we got to visit the church they attend on Sunday. The Pastor was off preaching elsewhere, but my new Iranian friends had been entrusted with the key to the church, and so Jeremy and I shared a short sermon and we had a time of prayer there too. It was just the ten of us, in a 300-year-old church, but God reminded me that WE are the beautiful church, not some old building with shiny, gold-plated stone statues (photo above). The church used to be a Catholic one, but in 1940 they gave it to the Lutheran church, and then they built a bigger Catholic church across the street. I am still in touch with this group of guys through What's App, and we are going through a Bible reading plan together. Pray that they keep growing in their walk with the Lord, as they wait and wait for answers on their asylum decision from Austria (usually they are kept waiting two to three years to find out if they can stay here or not). Pray they use the time to study the Word deeply, and to keep on learning German.

A brief family update

Franz, Michi's dad, is two-thirds through his chemotherapy treatments. He is looking healthy, but sometimes his blood work shows weakness and he has to take a week off from the chemo. He will only be able to have further cancer tests after all the chemo is over, so at this point we don't know how his cancer is doing. Please pray for his healing and most of all for his salvation.

Missed Part One? Find it here.

<http://www.njdistrict.org/presidents-blog/discipleship-part-one>

4: A disciple is an active student of God's Word and builds one's life on the person and Word of Jesus Christ.

Jesus, in John's Gospel, identified two marks of a disciple: (1) "If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free...he who belongs to God hears what God says" (John 8:31-32, 47); and (2) "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35)

Jesus, toward the end of His teaching on a mountain one day, talked about people who are wise and people who are foolish. A wise person is someone who hears the words of Jesus and puts them into practice so that when the storms of life came (and these storms come to every person during this lifetime, especially the great storm of death), they are able to stand because they are built on the Rock Jesus Christ. "But everyone who hears these words and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who build his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash" (Matthew 7:24-27).

The disciple of Jesus knows that there are many important things that are part of life such as food and clothing, work and relationships with others, but that there is ONE THING that is above all others: to seek FIRST HIS KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSENESS (Matthew 6:33). Because Jesus alone has the words of eternal life, they study His words, build their lives on Him and His Word (John 6:60-69), and obey all that He has commanded.

5: A disciple does more than just master the Word, a disciple is stamped and fashioned in the mold of Jesus Christ and is a living witness to Him.

When Jesus said, "follow Me," He was confiscating the hearer for Himself. Jesus was laying claim to people in Messianic authority and with Messianic grace. The message and life of the Kingdom was to determine THE WHOLE EXISTENCE OF THE DISCIPLE. When Jesus opened His mouth and TAUGHT, He was more than a master teacher enunciating a higher system of ethics; He was the Messianic Master molding the wills of those whom He had claimed by His call.

Those who receive His mercy, He makes them to be merciful; those who know and experience His peace, He makes them to be peacemakers. They are salt and light and, as salt and light, they are to have a salutary effect upon their surroundings: salt seasons and preserves and light dispels darkness.

As they live out their new existence in Christ, their lives are to reflect the implications of their new existence: they can no longer veil their lovelessness with cultic performances such as animal sacrifice for, in Jesus, they are confronted with the God who desires MERCY and not sacrifice. The religious scribe haggled with the question "who is my neighbor?" and sought to find areas in one's life where a man did not have to love but Jesus removed every limitation from love by teaching His disciples to "love your enemies" and to "do good to those who hate you."

As Paul reflected on the life that he had received from the Lord, he described this way of life of being fashioned and molded in the image of Jesus in this way: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

What is one of Calvary's strengths?

The answer...our Praise Team's Music Ministry!



Every Sunday, Calvary's Praise Team leads us in worship. We are passionate about our music and praising our Lord! We often find that lyrics of contemporary songs connect back to favorite hymns as well as to scripture. We encourage all to join us in song as we worship and to be uplifted.

On April 22nd, we once again accompanied Pastor Kuder to nearby Crane's Mill where he was to preach their afternoon service and we provided the music. What a blessing it has been for us to share our talents and brighten the spirits of the residents there as we worship together. They comment on how much they enjoy the music and look forward to our return! We are able to spend time with our Calvary friends there: Fred Cushmore, Doris Deede, Howard Jespersen, Jean McNally and Millie Reich. We usually also celebrate communion with them after the service has ended. We, too, can't wait for our next "gig"!!

We are blessed with a wonderfully gifted Music Director, Ruth Bolger, and both the praise team and choir thank her for all her hours (and years) of hard work and inspiration!

Calvary is truly blessed...

-- Anne Daly

Those Who Serve Us:

† Altar Guild: Joyce Sapara-Grant, Esi Sapara-Grant

† Greeters:

May 6 10:00 AM Gbenga & Sike Adesokan

May 13 10:00 AM Klaus & Robin Haenchen

May 20 10:00 AM Gordon & Ruth Wickham

May 27 10:00 AM Nancy Keltner, Brian Keltner



Those Who Serve Us:

✝ Flower Visitors:

- May 6** Jaya Lakra
May 13 Joyce Sapara-Grant
May 20 Edith Conte
May 27 Anne Daly

✝ Ushers:

- May 6 10:00 AM** Gbenga Adesokan, John Ricca,
Harold Vaughan
May 13 10:00 AM Ajit Lakra, John Wickham
May 20 10:00 AM Chris Molinari, Stephen Molinari,
Gordon Wickham
May 27 10:00 AM David Eucker, Brian Keltner





BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

May 1	Richard Akers
May 1	Margaret Eucker
May 9	Walter Sieglen Jr.
May 15	Araba Sapara-Grant
May 15	Christopher Bolger
May 26	Jaire Largin
May 28	Heinz Hauser



May 23	Donald & Margaret Eucker
May 29	John & Carol Wickham