

്ക് calvary chapel fort lauderdale



ANNUAL REPORT

#### **HOW THE STORY GREW**

SECTION ONE | 5-16

## ADVOCATE FOR THE VULNERABLE

SECTION TWO | 17-28

God has called us to speak and act for those who have been broken, hurt, and abandoned. Read stories about how your generosity is advocating for the vulnerable in our community and around the world.

## RAISE THE NEXT GENERATION

SECTION THREE | 29-36

The great commission calls us to make disciples of all generations! See how God is moving in the hearts of the next generation to expand His kingdom.

## MOBILIZE MISSIONAL LEADERS

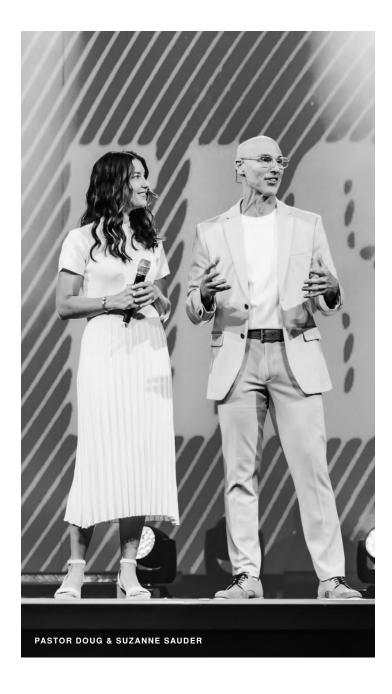
SECTION FOUR | 37-42

Discover how God is mobilizing the men and women of this house to share the hope of the gospel—FOR THE ONE.

#### **YOUR GENEROSITY STORY**

SECTION FIVE | 43-49

PASTOR — DOUG SAUDER





Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.



## A LETTER FROM PASTOR DOUG & SUZANNE SAUDER

The last words of the Gospel of Matthew changed the course of human history . . .

You see, Jesus has given all believers a mission: to "make disciples of all nations." He calls His followers to bring this good news of salvation to all people from every corner of the world. Seems big and daunting, doesn't it? Impossible even. But guess what? This mission isn't impossible, because the God who makes all things possible has given us a promise, too: "And surely I am with you always."

#### NEXT YEAR, WE'LL CELEBRATE 40 YEARS OF MAKING DISCIPLES IN SOUTH FLORIDA AND BEYOND.

And as we look back on what God has done over this past year—and the last four decades—we see just that! With every story, statistic, outreach, baptism, and salvation, we see, more than anything else, the God of the impossible working through people like you who chose to take up the call and accept the mission.

Thank you, Calvary family, for obeying God's call and joining us on this amazing adventure! Thank you for your prayers, sacrificial giving, and service. Together, we get to look back and celebrate all God has done to reach people and change lives, communities, cities, and beyond.

We pray as you read through this year's Annual Report, you'll be encouraged to see that your investment into the kingdom through your time, talent, and treasure has made a tremendous impact, not just this year, but every year since Calvary Chapel Fort Lauderdale first opened its doors. May the reminder that God is still doing the impossible here and now breathe fresh passion and excitement in you for the mission!

We can't wait to see what the Lord does this year and beyond, and we're so honored to be on this mission with you.

Dry & Sugar Sol

We love you!

In Christ,

## HOW THE STORY GREW

ONE **SECTION** THIS YEAR IN REVIEW This year, we've seen the Lord use every financial act of generosity, no matter how big or small, to reach our community and change our world in new and unique ways. Each number listed here has an individual story and represents a life changed.

# YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN."

**—MATTHEW 6:10** 

#### **HOW THE STORY GREW**



#### **HOW THE STORY GREW**

#### **LIVES CHANGED FOREVER**

1,035

people started a relationship with Jesus

886

people rededicated their lives to Jesus

1,335

people publicly declared their faith through baptism

18,841

people gathered weekly in person across Calvary's 11 campuses or online to worship Jesus



#### **GROWING IN GROUPS**



**735** 

total groups

8,564

attendees

**691** 

group leaders

#### **SERVING TOGETHER**

5,644

volunteers faithfully served across campuses

715

average volunteers per week



#### **DIGITAL DISCIPLESHIP**

In Acts 1:8, Jesus calls us to be His witnesses "to the ends of the earth," which means we must go where the people are to share the gospel and make disciples. In order to do that, like Paul, we must "become all things to all people so that by all possible means [we] might save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22). In our world today, the ends of the earth are within reach through online spaces.

Below you'll find stats and stories of all God has done through Digital Discipleship at Calvary.



#### SOCIAL

#### 6357K

**Facebook Followers** 

Social Media Engagement

**G**244K+

**Facebook Engagement** 

Social Media Engagement

**21.3K** 

**Instagram Followers** 

**Social Media Engagement** 

**104K+** 

**Instagram Engagement** 

Social Media Engagement

#### **CALVARY ONLINE**

**□**23K+

YouTube Subscribers

**□**3.9M

YouTube Views

**Calvary Online** 

Calvary Online

7,454

Average weekly online service views (including all social media, Roku, website, etc.)

**Calvary Online** 

55K+

On-demand sermon views

**Calvary Online** 

#### **DEVOTIONALS & RESOURCES**

8,815

Subscribers to the Calvary Devotional (approximately 336,386 devotionals read)

**Devotionals and Resources** 

42K+

People who visited Resources.CalvaryFTL.org from 150 different countries

**Devotionals and Resources** 

65K+

Mobile resources app launches

**Devotionals and Resources** 

#### YOUVERSION BIBLE APP

1.3M+

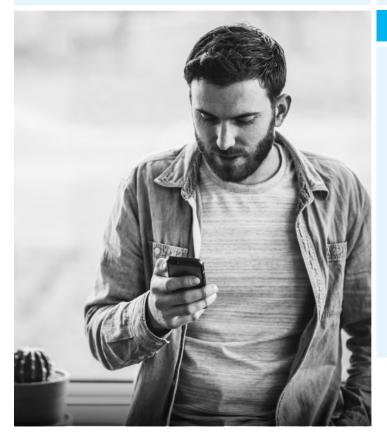
Subscriptions over the last 12 months (July 2023–June 2024)

YouVersion Bible App

**674K+** 

Completions over the last 12 months (July 2023–June 2024)

YouVersion Bible App



#### **YOUVERSION TOP PLANS**

HOLY BIBLE 96%

of 5,280 subscribers completed Christmas: 25 Days of Peace

Top Plans by Completion Over the Last 12 Months HOLY 93%

of 26,333 subscribers completed Married Couples: Developing Healthy Spiritual Habits

Top Plans by Completion Over the Last 12 Months HOLY 81%

of 17,553 subscribers completed Made For This: A Study on Identity, Belonging, and Purpose

Top Plans by Completion Over

Get Connected at Calvary









#### TAKING GROUND: CALVARY DOWNTOWN

#### GOD'S RENEWAL IN DOWNTOWN FORT LAUDERDALE

We serve a God who loves to take broken things and make them new. This is the work of redemption that Jesus accomplished for us on the cross, and this is the work we get to continue as His people! Our newest Calvary campus is an example of God's kingdom work continuing here on earth. In the spring of 2023, HOPE South Florida and Calvary renewed partnership efforts to serve local families and individuals experiencing homelessness. As God opened one door, He made another dream a reality: starting a Calvary campus in downtown Fort Lauderdale!

For the last year, Calvary Downtown has grown into a vibrant and intimate gathering of people from all over South Florida. Joanna, a woman who found Calvary Downtown just by passing by on the sidewalk, felt led to come in and ask for prayer, and she has been a part of the family ever since! She started serving

with HOPE South Florida and found belonging and purpose. While serving, Joanna met a high school girl named Tiny and invited her to church. Tiny had come to follow Jesus in the summer of 2023 but hadn't found a church community to be a part of. She says finding Calvary Downtown was an answer to her prayer!

Campus Pastor Mike Leger expressed, "God's brought together a diverse group of people who have a common desire to love others. It's humbling to watch God do something that's beyond our control and be able to jump in and ride the wave He's creating!"

Through your giving, you make supporting church plants and the community around you possible. To learn more about how to get involved with Calvary Downtown, visit *CalvaryFTL.org/Downtown*.

#### **HOW THE STORY GREW**









## CHRIST-CENTERED EDUCATION

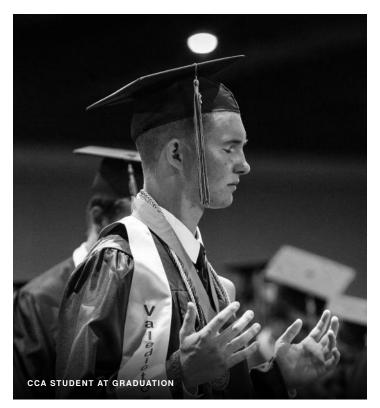
#### **ADVANCES ACROSS SOUTH FLORIDA**

For the past 24 years, Calvary Christian Academy (CCA) has been investing in the next generation by equipping tomorrow's leaders to be world changers for Christ. Within the last five years, God has opened the doors for CCA to bring this mission of disciple making beyond the walls of its Fort Lauderdale campus to the communities of Hollywood, North Miami, and Boynton Beach. By expanding the Christian school footprint in South Florida, more children have ultimately been able to experience the power and love of Jesus Christ in an environment that prepares them to glorify God spiritually, academically, and socially.

When Jesus called us to make disciples of all nations, He also instructed us to teach them everything He commanded. Christ-centered education is one of the most powerful ways for students to be mentored and equipped to lead a life that honors God and leaves an impact on the world around them. This is what CCA is doing for students across South Florida. Through Christian education, we're reaching our community and changing our world!

Do you want your child to grow in their faith while being equipped for their future? To schedule a tour of one of Calvary Christian Academy's campuses, visit *CCAEagles.org/Campuses*.

#### **HOW THE STORY GREW**





Calvary Christian Academy is proud to be part of educating the next generation through high-level, Christian-based curriculum and discipleship.

## CCA® NEW CAMPUSES

#### CALVARY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY NORTH MIAMI | PRE-K-8TH GRADE

After hearing about the success Hollywood Community Church had in its partnership with Calvary Christian Academy in transitioning its school to Calvary Christian Academy Hollywood, David Chase, the senior pastor at Northwest Baptist Church in North Miami, reached out to CCA's leadership team to discuss preserving Christian education on their property after 50+years of serving the community.

As a result of much prayer and seeking God's direction, a decision was made for CCA to assume their school's operations. This led to Calvary Christian Academy expanding into Miami-Dade County with the launch of Calvary Christian Academy North Miami in August 2023!

"Families are relieved and happy that Christian education is continuing on the campus," said Kris Hughes, CCA North Miami's principal, who has served at CCA for 15 years.

Similar to the impact on CCA Hollywood's campus, Pre-K-8th grade students at CCA North Miami have been presented with expanded spiritual, academic, and social opportunities.

#### CALVARY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY BOYNTON BEACH | PRE-K2-PRE-K4

The story of Calvary Christian Academy Boynton Beach began with a vision from the Calvary Chapel Boynton Beach team. They dreamt of using their facilities to create a preschool that would offer an excellent education and biblical foundation to students in the area. In August 2023, this dream came to fruition through the founding of Calvary Christian Academy Boynton Beach.

Through the biblical curriculum, children ages 2–5 can develop a strong foundation in God's Word and, at times, bring the hope of Jesus to their own households. Eric, a parent of two students, shared how the CCA staff loves his children with the love of Jesus. "God has shown Himself to us more through our boys who are learning more about Him. We love CCA and look forward to continuing our boys' education in a loving, Christian environment!"

CCA Boynton Beach's Preschool Director, Monica Cosenza, has lovingly led this preschool community and set an example of what it means to be ministry focused, even beyond the classroom. Monica shared, "Our faculty and staff have developed relationships with parents which often leads to us praying with them, providing aid when needed, and pointing them to resources."

#### **HOW THE STORY GREW**

#### IN THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR, CALVARY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY:

new campuses launched in the Fall of 2023: Calvary Christian Academy North Miami (K-8th) and Calvary Christian Academy Boynton Beach (Pre-K2-Pre-K4)

Spanish Immersion classes offered



2,881

students educated across both CCA Fort Lauderdale and CCA Hollywood

300+

middle and high school students served local communities in the Bahamas and Mexico on mission trips

students served as mentors to other students in local schools

CCA STUDENTS AT NORTH MIAMI CAMPUS

1 of 19

schools nationwide to earn Exemplary Accreditation from the Association of Christian Schools International. This designation recognizes the school's commitment to Christian education and improvement across all its campuses

## ADVOCATE FOR THE VULNERABLE

**SECTION** WHAT IS AN ADVOCATE? An advocate is someone who speaks up on behalf of another who cannot speak for themselves. Jesus became our advocate by speaking and acting on our behalf to provide a way for us to be forgiven and restored to God. Now, we also get to play a role in advocating for the vulnerable around us. We believe God has called us to speak and act for those who have been broken, hurt, and abandoned. Through Christ, we become a voice for the voiceless and bringers of hope through His gospel! God has called us to speak and act for those who have been broken, hurt, and abandoned. Read stories about how your generosity is advocating for the vulnerable in our community

and around the world.

## DEFEND THE WEAK AND THE FATHERLESS;

#### UPHOLD THE CAUSE OF THE POOR AND THE OPPRESSED.

RESCUE THE WEAK AND THE NEEDY;

DELIVER THEM FROM THE HAND OF THE WICKED."

-PSALM 82:3-4

#### CALVARY HOUSE FOR MEN AND WOMEN

#### A 30+ YEAR LEGACY

#### A GOD-GIVEN BURDEN IS BORN

In 1990, just five years after opening Calvary Chapel's church doors, there was a sense of God calling us to care for the vulnerable, the marginalized, and those struggling with addiction. Mark Davis, one of its first leaders, said, "At the time, there was a Christian organization called the Fort Lauderdale Rescue Mission that shut down. They were the main Christian resource for those struggling with addiction and recovery, and we saw those who were in the program scatter and not have a place to go, so we felt God push us to create a space for those who didn't have that free resource anymore."

With a call to help those in need, Mark and several others came together to create Calvary House, a free residential program that aims to support men and women seeking freedom from addiction. It started with finding a safe, welcoming neighborhood on the edge of town where men could enter the program. After about seven years, an opportunity arose to acquire a triplex, where they moved and grew the ministry.

#### **GOD OPENS DOORS FOR EXPANSION**

Calvary House continued to expand and disciple men in South Florida through its unique program. Mark explained, "At the start, it looked similar to what Calvary House does now, but it was simpler. All the guys in the program were required to have jobs and go to church together every week; there were daily discipleship and recovery group sessions. It was essential for us to build a strong sense of community with these men and give

them the foundation they needed to find freedom through Jesus." From there, Calvary House evolved its partnership with Calvary Chapel to create a more holistic experience. "The men in charge of The Grill and facilities teams at the time decided to partner with us and make sure these guys had a sense of purpose. They gave them jobs and a schedule to follow each day and taught them how to make their lives better while in the midst of recovery. It allowed the men to learn new skills and expand their community."

In 2010, God opened the doors to create a similar program for women struggling with addiction. The current Calvary House for Women Director, Shannon Nelson, explained, "There was such a need for women to have the same space that was created for the men in our community. Having Calvary House for Men to build off of was groundbreaking for the girls who come through this program. Women walking through recovery have different needs and are often walking different recovery journeys. I feel blessed to be able to serve these women in this way."

#### KINGDOM IMPACT OF CALVARY HOUSE

The impact of Calvary House goes beyond helping men and women in their recovery journey. Since the program started in 1990, over 1,100 residents have graduated and an astonishing 1,800 men and women have given their lives to Jesus.

#### ADVOCATE FOR THE VULNERABLE

#### PHASE 1

#### **CALVARY HOUSE INTRODUCTION**

During phase one, the goal is for residents to detox, get introduced to their housemates, and attend an Alpha class where they'll learn the basic principles of who God is, why He loves them, and how He has a greater plan for their lives. Throughout this phase, residents develop the fundamental disciplines needed to carry them through their recovery journey.



#### PHASE 2

#### **MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT**

Phase two is all about assisting each resident with mental health counseling while maintaining their regular work schedule, house chores, and community groups. This is a time for them to work with a licensed therapist in order to help get to the root of what's holding them back.





#### PHASE 3

#### **INNER HEALING**

The goal of phase three is to take what they've learned through counseling and go deeper. Each resident takes a class called Bondage Breakers. The goal of this class is to move from being aware of their issues to working through healing and finding freedom. This phase is sometimes the hardest but often the most rewarding part of the program.



#### PHASE 4

#### SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Phase four prepares residents to transition well out of the program. They take everything they've learned and apply it in a leadership position as they become house leaders of their apartments. They're responsible for ensuring everyone is doing their part, which helps them sharpen their relational skills.

#### ADVOCATE FOR THE VULNERABLE



"I started using drugs when I was 17 and was in my first treatment center at 21. It took me ten years at Calvary House to finally stop running. I truly believe God has called me to be a part of Calvary House for Women. Since I've been here, I've learned who I am in Christ and who God says I am. I've also learned how to feel again and to be a healthy mom for my son Mason. God empowered me to get my GED, and I've reunited with my brother Michael, who has been sober for three years now. I'm now working on staff at Calvary Chapel in the Facilities Department. I never thought I'd work in a church or even be trusted at a church! God is so good, and no matter what I've done, He never gives up on me."

Ashley, a Calvary House for Women graduate



"I began experimenting with substances in college and opened a door I couldn't get out of. I wound up losing it all and hitting rock bottom. I had no job, no money, and absolutely no hope. I was completely broken with no more fight in me. One night, I cried out and Jesus came to my rescue. He gave me just enough strength to make a phone call to a place called Calvary House. Jesus used Calvary House to radically change my life. This place has taught me so much about myself over the last year. I've learned many life skills, and my character has grown in ways I didn't think was possible. God has reminded me that all things are possible with Him."

–Matthew, a Calvary House for Men graduate

If you, or someone you know, could benefit from this free program Calvary House offers or if you want to volunteer to care for the residents, please visit *CalvaryFTL.org/Recovery.* 

### TRUE HEALING MADE POSSIBLE

#### TRANSITION HOUSING

Once residents graduate from Calvary House, they move into transitional housing where they can stay for a low cost while they secure a job, save up, and prepare for success when they're ready to leave. Residents' spouses are also allowed to live with them in the transitional housing so they can work on their marriages utilizing the free counseling provided to them.

Each resident moves to each phase in their own time. Some can move faster than others; sometimes, residents might have to revisit a phase. Antony, the current Calvary House Director, shared: "Calvary House helps residents deal with the root issue of what's going on in their lives. A lot of programs out there keep their doors open only through insurance. However, most of the time, the coverage is just not enough. Most people who enter rehab by using their health insurance are only able to stay for 30-45 days, which is not long enough for people to find true healing. Unfortunately, this creates a revolving door of relapse."

Programs like this can often run upwards of \$1,000 daily for each resident. Calvary House doesn't charge a resident for anything, so they're able to walk through the healing they need and be set free from their addiction—and most importantly, walk away knowing how loved they are by God.

#### **GENEROSITY OF GIVERS**

Calvary House not only helps each resident through their recovery journey, it also helps support their families. In early 2024, a Calvary House donor made it possible for residents' spouses to receive financial support for their families while their partner was in the program. This helps relieve the stress residents feel for providing for their families and helps to keep families together during this challenging season.

Since its beginning, Calvary House has relied on the generosity of others to care for at-risk families in our community. Today, thanks to a donor who recognized Calvary House's positive impact and felt inspired to support its mission, Calvary House is building a pavilion for families to gather and enjoy monthly family days. The pavilion will provide a fun, free space for residents and their families to spend quality time together and work towards healing.

PROGRAMS LIKE
THIS CAN OFTEN
RUN UPWARDS OF
\$1,000 DAILY FOR
EACH RESIDENT.

#### ADVOCATE FOR THE VULNERABLE







## REACHING OUR COMMUNITY

#### LOCAL OUTREACH

Thanks to your generosity, Calvary has supported local churches and ministries to provide hope and relief and meet the practical needs of our community.

We partnered with local nonprofits to assist families in crisis, support those experiencing homelessness and children in foster care, and provide essential items to at-risk mothers.

Are you interested in getting involved in local outreach this year? Every month, you can serve your community and make a difference in someone's life. When you serve your city, God will change it! Find your place to serve at CalvaryFTL.org/Outreach.

#### **OUTREACH IMPACT**

9,534

pounds of food donated

**Thanksgiving Outreach** 

1,362

meals delivered to families in need

Thanksgiving Outreach

360

volunteers who helped pack, sort, and deliver food

**Thanksgiving Outreach** 

280K

given towards local church and ministry organization support

**Local Church and Ministry Organization Support** 

12K+

shoeboxes packed for Samaritan's Purse Outreach, whose mission is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children worldwide

**Operation Christmas Child** 

1,110+

backpacks given to kids from vulnerable communities to start school with all the supplies they need

Back-to-School Outreach

#### **GLOBAL MISSIONS IMPACT**

Your generosity enabled Calvary to support missionaries and organizations worldwide in 2023–2024. See how God used your sacrificial giving to make an impact around the globe.



#### **GLOBAL MISSIONS**

\$770K

sent worldwide to support our missionaries, the global church, and non-profit partners

Global Missions

\$130K

distributed to equip non-profit partners who are focused on long-term impact in a region

**Global Missions** 

\$20K

•••••

sent to support our strategic partner, the International Christian Embassy, as they brought aid to Israel

**Global Missions** 

\$10K

•••••

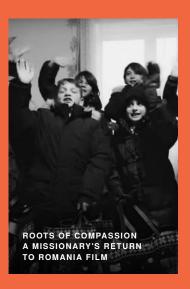
sent to Convoy of Hope to assist with the Maui fires

**Global Missions** 

#### **BIRTHDAY GIFT FOR JESUS**







#### LOCAL PARTNER: HOPE SOUTH FLORIDA

Your generosity helped expand the work of HOPE South Florida and care for the vulnerable in our community through services such as providing meals, urgent family housing, and much more! Through this partnership, God has allowed families in South Florida to change the trajectory of their lives and break the cycle of homelessness.

Watch the film here:



#### GLOBAL PARTNER: ROMANIA

Your giving supported our missionary partners, Karen and Cornel Bucur, in developing an after-school program to provide at-risk children and youth in rural Romania with support for their academic success and guarantee their rights to a high-quality Christian education.

Watch the film here:



\$284K+

received for the Birthday Gift for Jesus outreaches to reach different communities and cities, both here and around the world

#### **DELIVERING HOPE**

#### FROM NEIGHBORHOODS TO NATIONS



"I felt like God was calling me to go on a mission trip, so when this opportunity came up, I knew I had to go. I went on this trip believing He could use me to impact individuals in need. The experience gave me an uprising of faith—I'm not afraid to share the Word of God with communities, and I'm always digging deeper in the Bible."

#### -Nevaeh, Mexico mission trip



"I was invited to go on this trip to Sardina by a friend! God opened the door for me and twelve other women to go and provide acts of service to the community. We were able to trim the overgrown landscaping for a lady who was in the hospital for over a year, visit the elderly in nursing homes, and sing worship songs in Italian, which allowed us to connect with many individuals in a special way. We reminded them they were loved and not forgotten by God."

#### -Jackie, Italy mission trip



"I wanted to go on the youth mission trip to Mexico with my church because I really like to help kids who are like me and don't have as much. I know what it's like to have tough times, and I feel like I can make a difference by being there for them. Helping them meant a lot to me because I know how it feels to need help sometimes. Going on this trip was not just about helping others, but also learning more about God and making new friends in a different place."

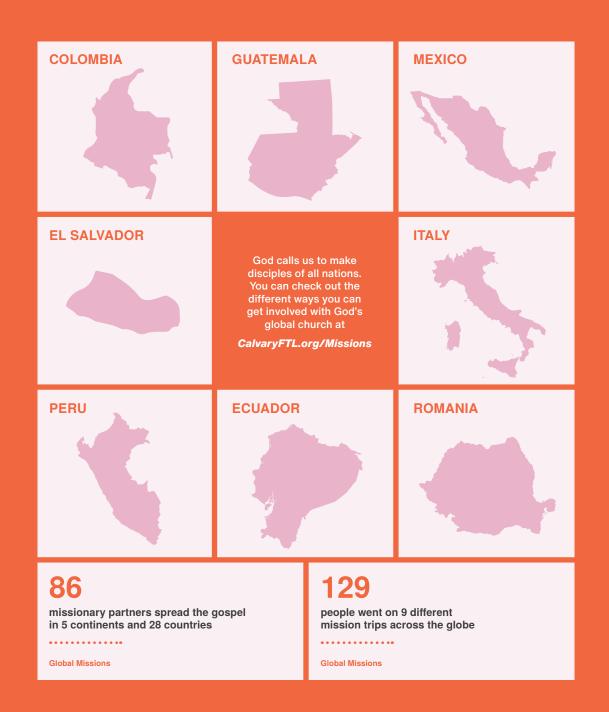
#### -Dean, Mexico mission trip



"God led my wife Janette and I to become involved with Calvary Chapel Guayaquil during the pandemic when a pastor friend asked me to teach a Zoom Bible study. It was a joy to connect with Pastor Jose and Eufemia Mero, Calvary Guayaquil missionaries, whom we've known from Calvary for many years. As the months went by, God put it on my heart and Pastor Jose's to bring a mission team to Guayaquil. Since then, God has given us the privilege to lead two teams. God used our involvement with Calvary Guayaquil to strengthen our faith and teach us many lessons. Seeing God work through such a young church so devoted to outreach has been an adventure in faith. They have weekly outreaches to two needy island communities and to a rehab center. Our Guayaquil mission trips have been very outreach and discipleship-driven, as we've ministered to the island communities, the rehab center, and thousands of students at public schools. It's been exciting to see how God brings specific people with the specific spiritual gifts needed to accomplish His kingdom work on each mission trip!"

#### -Jonathan, Ecuador mission trip

#### WHERE WE WENT



## RAISE THE NEXT GENERATION

SECTION MAKING DISCIPLES The great commission calls us to make disciples of all generations. See how God is moving in the hearts of the next generation to expand His kingdom.

# WE WILL NOT HIDE THEM FROM THEIR DESCENDANTS; WE WILL TELL THE NEXT GENERATION THE PRAISEWORTHY DEEDS OF THE LORD,

HIS POWER, AND THE WONDERS HE HAS DONE."

-PSALM 78:4

### THE NEXT GENERATION

#### **USING THEIR GIFTS TO SERVE**

Ben and Victor have known each other since they were in middle school. Their friendship grew throughout high school, but it wasn't until they graduated when they took steps together to get more serious about being involved in church. After becoming more involved with Calvary Young Adults (CYA), they built friendships with other young adults serving around the church! These experiences and relationships propelled them to individually consider other ways to volunteer and discover God's calling on their lives. Ben decided to take his next step and serve at Youth Encounter, and Victor began serving with CYA.

"When I came to Calvary, I needed to rest and be poured into, which helped me develop a heart that wanted to serve God—and not out of obligation. Over the course of the past year of serving, the Lord has shown me more about myself, my burdens, what I was made for, and how He could use me to contribute to His kingdom. When I serve others, it's simply my way of giving back to Him."

#### -Ben

"After getting involved in a group, I realized I needed to stop only absorbing church. I wanted to be part of the church and invite other people into the same community that changed my life! God has taught me through serving that the longer you put it off, the longer you exclude others from the gift of love Jesus has given you. God wants us to walk alongside Him with friends and family. He wants us to show His love to the people around us, so jump right in!"

#### -Victor

#### RAISE THE NEXT GENERATION







#### KIDS AND YOUTH IMPACT

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

-Proverbs 22:6

The next generation is the future of God's kingdom. Studies show around 94% of people who accept Jesus do so before they turn 18. Once a person reaches adulthood, that rate drops to 11% in their 20s and 4% in their 30s. That's why we're on a mission to reach the hearts of the next generation. Your faithful tithes directly impact the lives of so many kids and students at Calvary and beyond.



6,300+

first-time guests in Calvary Kids, SIX78, and HSM

Kids and Youth

145

kids went through the Salvation and Baptism class

Kids and Youth

406

kids baptized

**Kids and Youth** 

286

young adults baptized

**Kids and Youth** 

700+

students who served across all campuses

•••••

Kids and Youth

25

groups for young adults met throughout the year with over 200 in attendance

Kids and Youth



#### **RAISE THE NEXT GENERATION**

70+

average Calvary Young Adults Sunday Hangs in attendance per week

**Kids and Youth** 



275+

.....

attended Calvary Young Adults Nights throughout the year

**Kids and Youth** 

600+

families attended Parenting Talk and other parenting classes

......

Kids and Youth

1,500+

students 6th-12th grade who attended YE 2024

......

Kids and Youth

650

kids from 1st-5th grade who attended Kids Conference 2024

**Kids and Youth** 



At Calvary, our desire is to partner with parents to train their children to know and love Jesus so they have the foundation they need to become disciples. Because of this joint mission, this special resources site was made for parents like you so they can equip and empower themselves as they raise the next generation.

Find content for parents of all age groups at Resources. Calvary FTL. org/Parenting.

**RAISE THE NEXT GENERATION** 

## SELAH'S STORY

Sometimes, the pain and tragedy around us seem too much to bear. Even when it feels impossible, as believers, we have the promises of Jesus to cling to—promises of hope, peace, restoration, and glory! Selah's story is an incredible testimony of what it looks like to worship God through suffering and see Him bring new life in unexpected ways.



through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames

will not set you ablaze."

-Isaiah 43:2



### A DEEPER MEANING OF RESURRECTION LIFE

Anyone who knew Selah would say she was a kind, diligent, and compassionate girl. Despite only being a sophomore at Calvary Christian Academy, Selah's obedience to God would leave a mark on the lives and hearts of many around her. When she unexpectedly went to be with the Lord on March 29, 2024, an entire community of people from around the world was changed by her story.

After a sudden medical emergency which led to Selah's hospitalization, people in the Calvary Christian **Academy and Calvary Chapel** community gave up their time and resources to support Selah and her family. The hospital was filled with people visiting to pray, worship, and comfort her family. At times, the entire waiting room would be filled just with people coming to see Selah. Her mom, Smitha, commented, "In our darkest hour, we never thought there'd be anybody else. We could've been alone, but this community stood by us and raised our arms."

On February 10, just forty days before Selah's incident, she was baptized on the beach. Little did she know her life and baptism would inspire many more to choose Christ and get baptized.

In the days following her hospitalization, people across South Florida began to pray and intercede on Selah's behalf. Her father, Jason, said their prayer life was given new meaning and depth. The night before Selah's incident, God began to prepare Jason through prayer. As he was waiting for her to finish rehearsal, he decided to pray while walking around the CCA campus. He shared, "For some reason, I felt like the Holy Spirit wanted me to just start praying for revival. I never knew this prayer would grow into how God used it. Even to this day, He just continues to answer." The week Selah spent in the hospital was Holy Week—the week leading up to Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. Despite the difficulty of this week, it certainly was holy.

From early morning prayer services at their home campus, Calvary Chapel Parkland, to student-led prayer services, to the multitude of parents, staff, and kids praying outside the school, to the constant prayer, worship, and Scripture reading in the hospital, God was using Selah to spark a revival and awaken His people. "Selah" in Scripture means, "to pause, slow down, wait, and reflect." Smitha says, "Selah lived up to her name. She loved reflecting on her life, and she also hit the pause button on everybody else's life."

Selah went to heaven on Good Friday.
And though the day was one of mourning,
Selah got to enter the presence of her
resurrected Savior with joy and complete
healing! As people paused to reflect, the
hope of Easter settled in a bit deeper.

In the days and weeks after Selah's passing, her family and CCA saw over 100 students come forward to receive and rededicate their lives to Christ. Jason said this about their prayer through this time, "When Jesus prayed for Lazarus to rise, He asked God to allow the people standing by to see Him and glorify Him. That was our prayer from the beginning: for everyone to see God's glory through a miraculous recovery . . . a resurrection.

But instead, we saw it through the school as teenagers came and gave food to doctors and nurses and as they prayed at 1am. We saw it in the CCA community, the unity of our church community at Fort Lauderdale and Parkland, and in our Indian churches. Nobody knew each other, but everybody came together and saw God's name lifted up and glorified. And even though it wasn't the way we wanted it to be, it was in the unity—it was in the prayers and in what happened after Selah passed away with so many kids' lives being changed through their baptisms."

Selah's life inspired revival. God is bringing resurrection life to more people than anyone could have imagined. He continues to work through every circumstance to bring people to Himself. We can rejoice and take hope in what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:54–57, which says, "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death is your sting? . . . But thanks be to God! He gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Will you choose to believe what Selah did?

### MOBILIZE MISSIONAL LEADERS



## HOW, THEN, CAN THEY CALL ON THE ONE THEY HAVE NOT BELIEVED IN?

AND HOW CAN THEY
BELIEVE IN THE ONE OF
WHOM THEY HAVE NOT
HEARD?

AND HOW CAN THEY HEAR WITHOUT SOMEONE PREACHING TO THEM?

AND HOW CAN ANYONE PREACH UNLESS THEY ARE SENT?

AS IT IS WRITTEN: 'HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS!'" **MOBILIZE MISSIONAL LEADERS** 

### CEDRIC'S STORY



### connect to God DEEPEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP

Nothing in this life is greater than having a relationship with Jesus, and everything in life is greater in light of a relationship with Jesus! This happens by getting to know Him and understanding His character, heart, and mind through prayer and the study of His Word!



### connect to people GROW IN COMMUNITY

In community, we learn to become more like Jesus from one another by sharing together what He shared with us. This is where we pray for and support each other, where we see the words of the Bible come alive, where we grow together . . . it's where we see the power of relationships shine!



### connect to outreach

### **LIVE WITH PURPOSE**

God invites us to be a part of what He is doing!

This is where a relationship with Jesus collides with the mission of Jesus. It's also where God uses our passions and gifts to serve others in need, impact the world, and draw people to His love.





OW DISCIPLESHIP CHANGES LIVES

Being a disciple is a journey you get to take when Jesus changes your life. What does this look like? Put simply, it means you're being changed daily through your relationship with God. As you grow in your relationship with Him, you can take what you've learned, received, and experienced and share it all with someone else!

You have no idea what impact you can make by following God's calling on your life and offering a simple invitation. This is how Cedric's life was changed forever!

"My story started at my niece's graduation. I met a friend of the family, Karina, and I talked to her a lot about Jesus. She was really open with me and engaged me in a lot of important discussions about faith. She invited me to church several times before I decided to go."

Cedric had no idea what was in store for him, but he jumped in head first. "The first time I went, I wasn't too sure, but I saw Calvary offering this new thing called Freedom Groups, which sounded like something I needed. Freedom was a really great experience for me. I met other men and had a safe space to talk about things going on in my life. It opened my eyes to much of what was missing in my life. I met with Pastor Mike Scruby at the Plantation Campus and he was really helpful to me and my understanding of what Jesus did for me, so I surrendered my life over to Him."

From there, Cedric knew attending church wouldn't be enough for him. "I began to realize I wanted to use my time to serve the church, so I started looking into volunteering. I saw there was a shortage of volunteers in the kid's ministry."

Doing something new can be intimidating, but Cedric didn't let that stop him from doing what God had asked. "I didn't have any experience working with kids. As time went on, I realized while I was teaching the kids about Jesus each week, they were also teaching me about Him. God used these kids to show me what it means to live out my faith the way He meant me to."

Because of a simple invitation to church, Cedric felt welcomed, met new people, joined a group, and started investing back in the next generation. When you take a step of faith and invest in others, you never know what God will do in their lives. The ripple effect of a simple invitation has the power to change a generation.

CalvaryFTL.org/Discipleship

### **NEXT STEPS**

### **MAKING DISCIPLES**

Since the beginning, we've had one mission: to make disciples. We believe as we continue to make space for people, God will make a way. Because of your generosity, people are able to experience a life-changing relationship with Jesus every week across all our campuses.

### **DEBBIE'S CONNECT EXPERIENCE STORY**

Connect Experience is the easy button to finding where you belong.

"For me, the highlight was seeing how God orchestrates our lives so we're right where we need to be. Although our table group seemed totally random, we all connected in so many areas, not the least of which was our love for Jesus. God showed me He cares and can be trusted with every single detail of my life, big and small."

### —Debbie

### **ROGER'S BAPTISM STORY**

Baptism is an outward expression of an inward change. It's an opportunity to publicly identify with Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

"I realized getting baptized is really an act of obedience. I felt confident in my relationship with Jesus and wanted to declare that publicly. It's like when you get married, you announce it to the world because you're in love with that person!"

### -Roger

### **ETHAN'S SERVING STORY**

When you serve, you allow God to use the gifts He gave you to impact others and give back to His kingdom in a tangible way.

"I remember the first thing God told me was to just start with baby steps. All I had to do was trust Him. Slowly but surely, all of the junk in my life started fading away as I became closer to Him. My next step was to help build community in the church. The next thing I knew, I was serving in youth and teaching other kids about God's Word."

### -Ethan

### **DIELTA'S GROUP STORY**

God uses community to shape who you are and give you a support system as you move through life. Groups are an incredible way to meet others and discover who you are in Christ.

"Through my group, I've gotten my peace back, I've found joy, and my spirit has been reignited. I feel loved by my Father. With every step in this difficult season, I've seen Him guide me and use this group to comfort me."

### -Dielta

### MOBILIZE MISSIONAL LEADERS



# YOUR GENEROSITY STORY



### **GENEROSITY BRINGS JOY**

As followers of Jesus, our giving is motivated by so many important things. It's an act of worship in response to God's gracious provision, it's a meaningful surrender to His leadership in our lives, and it's a tangible expression to the world around us of His overwhelming generosity!

# THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S, AND EVERYTHING IN IT, THE WORLD, AND ALL WHO LIVE IN IT; FOR HE FOUNDED IT ON THE SEAS AND ESTABLISHED IT ON THE WATERS."

-PSALM 24:1-2

### YOUR GENEROSITY

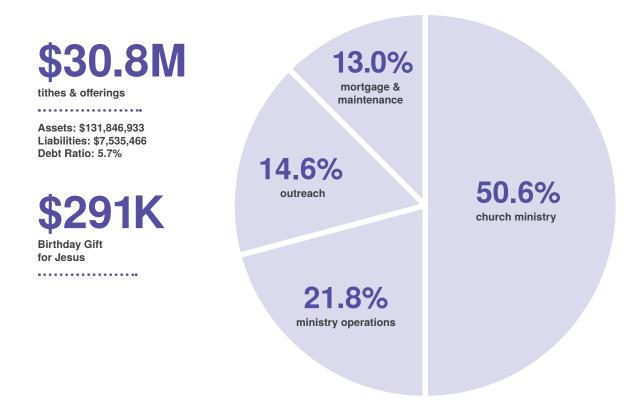
### **JULY 2023-JUNE 2024**

### **GIVER TESTIMONY:**

"Years ago, our pastor shared about the importance of tithing. Something in that teaching just clicked for us. We asked ourselves, "If God provides us with so much, why wouldn't we want to give back to Him?" Living on 90% could be enough, so we stepped back from the worry and trusted God in all His promises.

Ever since then, God has blessed us abundantly with even more time, talents, and treasure, allowing us to be a blessing to others. God continues to ask us to boldly step out to give more to Him through our church—the place we call home; the place we take classes, receive guidance, fellowship, community, and so much more. What a privilege it is to support the mission of our home church."

—Ann & John



### **HOW AND WHY**

### **TO GIVE**

The simple biblical idea behind every reason we give is this: stewardship. We're part of the beautiful story of redemption and restoration that's been unfolding since the beginning of time, and God has entrusted us in a unique and special way as His caretakers. Walking through Scripture reveals this truth so clearly:

God is the Creator and Owner of all things (Psalm 24:1-2)

God gives us the ability to work and produce wealth (Genesis 2:15; Deuteronomy 8:17-18)

God entrusts and empowers us to manage His resources wisely (Matthew 25:21)

God leverages our stewardship for His purpose and mission (Acts 2:42-47)

God evaluates our stewardship for His glory and our good (Romans 14:12)

A biblical steward is someone who properly and joyfully manages God's resources (their availability, gifts, and finances), so the Lord will be glorified, others will be blessed, and they'll be ready to give an account to Him one day. What a privilege! No matter where you are on your journey of generosity, you can always take the next step and grow in your role as a biblical steward. At Calvary, our Engagement Team is here to pray for and to encourage you through coaching, tools, and classes that help you grow in biblical stewardship.

CalvaryFTL.org/Give Engagement@CalvaryFTL.org 954-556-4499



### **ONLINE GIVING**

Go to CalvaryFTL.org/Give



### **TEXT TO GIVE**

Text GIVE to 31352

You'll receive a reply with further instructions.



### DOWNLOAD THE APP

Download the Calvary app by searching

"CalvaryFTL" in the App Store or Google Play Store.

### **40 YEARS**

### THE MEASURE OF A GENERATION

It's hard to believe, but next year Calvary Chapel Fort Lauderdale will celebrate 40 years of ministry. As with any major milestone, it's meaningful to look back and reflect on the legacy built over the last four decades.

**40 years** of praying, worshiping, and studying the Word of God together.

**40** years of serving our community, city, and world together.

40 years of baptisms and outreaches.

**40 years** of taking ground through new campuses and schools.

**40 years** of seeing lives changed through the power of the gospel.

While it hasn't always been easy or pain free, it's truly been an incredible work God has done, and we're so honored to be part of it alongside you! And the best part is we're not done yet!

Now, as we look ahead to the next 40 years, to the generation that's now being raised up, we're reminded of Deuteronomy 4:9, where Moses tells the current generation, "Do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them."

Today, let's remember all God has done in and through us as individuals and His church. Let's continue to dream, grow, and serve together and to pass on everything we've learned to those who will continue building this amazing legacy. How will you be part of this work?



# THEREFORE GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS,

BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,

AND TEACHING THEM TO OBEY EVERYTHING I HAVE COMMANDED YOU.

AND SURELY I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE VERY END OF THE AGE."

-MATTHEW 28:19-20

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