

# weekly focus: houston trip recap

BY BESS, RAQUEL, GRACE AND KIRSTIN

Thank you so much for your prayers for us as we went to work alongside our missionaries Jon and Kris Shepherd in Houston! God blessed us to be a part of sharing the Good News with so many during the week. Our prayer for the trip was that we would gain experience sharing the gospel and find a fourth soil person (based on Mark 4:20, a person who was ready to hear and receive the message of salvation and who would produce 30, 60 to 100 fold what was planted). We focused on sharing with those who have had the least opportunities to hear the good news of Jesus. Our theme verse was 2 Timothy 1:7 “For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love and self-discipline.”

The method we used was largely based on Luke 10, when Jesus sent out 72 disciples. We always greeted those we met with a blessing of peace, often saying “asalamu- alekum” which means “peace be upon you” in Arabic. We prayed for any who were sick or hurting and proclaimed, with the authority of Christ, that the Kingdom of God has come near (the gospel). We stayed as long as we were welcome in a home. When faced with rejection or opposition we were not discouraged because we know that it is God who changes hearts.

Here are a few highlights from the trip that we praise God for:

- God gave us the opportunity to share the gospel between six and 15 times each day! Many times we were invited into homes to dine or drink tea. We would pray with them, talk about Jesus, discuss the Bible and the Quran, and listen to their life stories.
- We met people from several different countries of origin with varying beliefs about God. We were amazed how many opened up their lives to us to share their struggles and faith.
- God was so faithful with the weather! We had one day of rain, but each time it rained hard we were inside so our “going-out” wasn’t hindered!
- We spent the majority of our days going through one group of apartments that continued to be very welcoming and the soil seemed prepared. There is a missionary couple who will be moving into these apartments very soon, so we were grateful to be stirring up some dust for them and looking forward to having more people to follow up with those we spoke with. We pray that God will give them boldness to share and lead them to those He has prepared for salvation.
- We have already set up a couple days to continue to intentionally share the gospel in Grand Rapids. We look forward to training others on how to do the same and to join us in ministering the good news to those who have not heard!

# congregational care

## RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED PRAYER LIST

If you have been hospitalized, or anticipate hospitalization, and would like to be added to the prayer list, please call the church office at 956-9377.

**Metro:** Donna Evans

**Meijer Heart:** Dave Curtis

**PRAYER CHAIN:** If you need prayer, contact Don & Cindy Marrell ([cmarrell@calvarygr.org](mailto:cmarrell@calvarygr.org)) at 450-9622.

## BEREAVED

We extend our Christian sympathy to Judi Bradley at the homegoing of her mother, Beverly Salisbury, on March 2.

## THANK YOU

Thank you for the prayers, flowers and cards we received for Neil’s funeral. It means a lot to us during this time to be part of such a loving church.

Roxie & Jennifer Dryfhout  
Rick & Terrilynn Anderson

## HIGH SCHOOL: SENIOR PHOTOS

We are accepting senior photos through May 1 to include in the summer issue of the *Calvary Life*. Please email photos with the full name of the student and their high school to Samantha ([sheetderks@calvarygr.org](mailto:sheetderks@calvarygr.org)).

## GRAND RAPIDS SHORT-TERM MISSION TRIP

The Grand Rapids mission trip is from the evenings of June 21 through June 23. If you would like to explore working in missions and want to learn more about homelessness in our city, this trip is for you. Applications are available online at [calvarygr.org/short-term-missions-trips](http://calvarygr.org/short-term-missions-trips) or at the Chapel Information Center.

## CHURCH CLOSED FRIDAY

The church office will be closed for Good Friday. If you have a need and would like to speak to a pastor during this time, please call the main church number at 956-9377. A pastor is always available.

March 25, 2018

9:00am & 10:45am

*Expressions of God’s Love*

Mark 8:1-21

Jim Samra, *Senior Pastor*

RESCUED  
RESTORED  
READY

## FOR THE RECORD

	Projected Offerings	Actual Offerings	Surplus/ (Deficit)
Last Week	\$ 144,986	\$ 136,483	(\$ 8,503)
Fiscal YTD Sept. 1 - Mar. 18	\$ 4,530,222	\$ 4,429,272	(\$100,950)
Jerusalem Project		\$ 173,555	

## Calvary Church

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[calvarygr.org](http://calvarygr.org)

 CalvaryChurchGR

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CHURCH

# welcome

If you are visiting today, we are glad you are here. For information about our many groups, programs and events for all ages, pick up a copy of the quarterly *Calvary Life* magazine, visit us online at [calvarygr.org](http://calvarygr.org), or stop by the Connection Point (located in the Gathering Place across from the main Sanctuary entrance). We would love to meet you! If you need hearing assistance, listening devices are available at the Welcome Center in the Crosswalk.

## coming events & announcements

### Wednesday Night Programming Note

Please note that there will be no Wednesday Night programming (including dinner) for the next two weeks due to Holy Week and Spring Break. We will resume April 11.

### Calvary Softball Looking for Players

Calvary Softball will begin the second week of May. You may play one night a week or as many nights as you would like. We will have teams in leagues located as close to the church as possible. All games are 1 hour and begin after 6:00pm and are done by 9:30pm. We are looking for men and women of all ages and skill level. You will have an opportunity to play in either Women's, Men's, or CoEd leagues. Questions? Contact Cy Jourdan ([cymiwolv@yahoo.com](mailto:cymiwolv@yahoo.com)).

### Men's Breakfast

**April 7 | 8:00am | Gathering Place**  
**Cost: \$5 (Pay at the door)**

Join us for breakfast and conversation. Our guest will be Calvary Elder, Dave Oviatt. Dave is a retired internist/hematologist. He and his wife enjoy volunteer service wherever God leads them. They have served together in Togo, West Africa, Papua New Guinea, Niger, Zambia, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Kenya.

### Calvary Students: Middle School Mission Trip Applications Due

Applications are available at [calvarystudents.com](http://calvarystudents.com) or at the Connection Point. Applications for the 7th/8th trip to Kalamazoo are due April 1. 5th/6th Grand Rapids trip applications are due May 7. For more information, contact Samantha ([sheetderks@calvarygr.org](mailto:sheetderks@calvarygr.org)).

### Blended & Blessed Livestream Event

**April 21 | 9:00am-5:00pm**  
**Room 208 | Cost: \$8**

Blended & Blessed is a one-day livestream for stepfamily couples, single parents, dating couples with kids, and those who care about blended families. Lunch, snacks and materials included. Each family will receive a copy of Ron Deal's, *The Smart Stepfamily*. Register by April 19 at [mycalvarygr.org](http://mycalvarygr.org). Questions? Contact Josh Warren at 308-6151.

### 7th/8th: Believe Conference

**April 20-21 | Cost: \$65**

**Register at [mycalvarygr.org](http://mycalvarygr.org)**

Believe is a high-energy weekend event located in Holland, MI. We will spend the night at a hotel and attend the Believe conference that is structured specifically for middle school students, and packed with powerful worship and

teaching from God's Word. While at Believe, students not only worship together but also engage in life-challenging discussions with their peers and adult leaders. As they go through the weekend, they discover ways in which God is calling them to be Kingdom workers in their schools, communities and the world.

### Michigan Men's Weekend

**April 27-29 | Cost: \$135**

**Register at:**

**[michiganmensweekend.com](http://michiganmensweekend.com)**

Calvary is co-hosting Michigan Men's Weekend, a retreat — fellowship, incredible food, fun, worship, skeet shooting, basketball, trails — as well as a time for men to encourage one another. This cross-cultural, cross-denominational event will talk about The Cost of Leadership, Bridging the Divide, Unity and Diversity, and more. Join us!

## prayer opportunities

### Pre-Service Prayer

**Sundays | 8:30-8:50am | Room 255**

Come pray with the morning's teaching pastor and other participants specifically that God would bless our morning services. All are encouraged to join.

### Boiler Room Prayer

**Sundays | 8:50-11:50am**

**Room 222 (Behind Sanctuary)**

Pray over every aspect of the service as the Holy Spirit leads, assisted by a request sheet com-

posed by staff. Questions? Contact Cindy Marrell ([cmarrell@calvarygr.org](mailto:cmarrell@calvarygr.org)) at ext. 5098.

### Mountain Movers Prayer Group

**April 1 | 8:00-8:45am | Rm 110**

Join us next Sunday to pray for our missionaries and key regions around the world. No registration necessary. Light breakfast served.

## holy week begins today

The week preceding Easter is known as Holy Week. It begins on Palm Sunday and is traditionally a week of somber reflection on the events preceding Jesus' death. **At Calvary, all regular ministry programming is canceled during Holy Week to make space for extended prayer and worship.**

### PALM SUNDAY MUSICAL · TONIGHT | 6:00pm | Sanctuary

Begin Holy Week with an Easter worship experience, *This is God*, presented by the choir and orchestra.

### MAUNDY THURSDAY SEDER MEAL & SERVICE

**March 29 | 6:00-9:00pm | Gathering Place**

Maundy Thursday registration is at capacity. Please note that there is only one event - the meal and service combined and advanced registration is required for attendance. Registration is now closed.

### PRAYER GARDEN OPEN OVERNIGHT

**March 29 at 9:00pm - March 30 at 7:00pm**

The Prayer Garden will be open overnight, providing an opportunity for you to track with the example of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, where He prayed prior to being betrayed (Mark 14).

In addition, the Prayer Garden will be open from 7:00am-9:00pm, Monday-Thursday. People will be available to pray with you in the Garden throughout the week, if you are interested.

### GOOD FRIDAY · March 30 | 7:00pm | Sanctuary

Join us for an evening of reflection that commemorates the night when Christ bore the ultimate burden for us and was crucified in order to give us peace with God. No childcare provided.

### EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES · April 1 | 7:15, 9:00 & 10:45am

A celebration of Christ's victory over sin, fear and death and of the peace and new life we can find in Him. Nursery will be provided for birth through 35 months (at 9:00 & 10:45). No children's or adult classes will meet on Easter. We encourage you to attend the sunrise service, if you are able.

A light breakfast (eggs, cinnamon rolls & fruit) will be served in the Gathering Place from 7:45-11:00am. Join us!