

Ministry Highlights

As we begin the new year of 2012, we are celebrating our 31st year in full-time music evangelism. We are so thankful for the different places where the Lord has led us to minister in 2011 and for going the whole year in good health. *Praise the Lord!* We are grateful that God allows us to be a part of His work all around the country. We want to take the time to share with you some of the ministry highlights of 2011. This past year, we traveled over 25,000 miles across Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona and Florida, sharing our music ministry in 17 revivals, 10 concerts and 2 conferences.

During the months of March and April, we held revival meetings in the panhandle of Florida with evangelist, Rick Ingle and his wife, Betty from Denton, TX. Our first revival took place at Bellview Baptist Church in Pensacola. One of the highlights of the week was getting to know a number of the young people in the church. The students faithfully attended services each night and we met some of them who are in their youth praise band. Of course Taylor, the lead guitarist for the group, had to try out Paul's "Taylor brand" guitar. The pastor's son Joseph plays keyboard for the band. One night he and Taylor played some of their songs for us. Caleb, their drummer, took us up to the youth worship room afterwards to show us his drum set and bass guitar. On pizza night, we didn't know how good the attendance would be because of the bad thunderstorms in the area, but the students came and brought guests. After the service, a drawing was held for a \$50.00 gift card to be given to one of the guests. The winner that night was a young man who had just made a decision for Christ during the invitation. Then there was another drawing for a gift card to be given to one of the student members. Thirteen year old Jessica was the winner of the prize. She came to the platform to claim her gift and then walked over and gave it to us. At first we refused, but we could see the disappointment on her face. She explained to us that she had already decided if she won the prize, she wanted to give it to us as a love gift. WOW! That was so humbling and such a blessing to us. We accepted her gracious gift, knowing that God will abundantly bless her for her generosity. It was just another confirmation that God will provide as we follow in His direction and minister where He leads us to go. By the end of the week of revival, one lady had joined the church and on Wednesday evening four others made decisions for Christ.

Our second revival took place at Lakeview Baptist Church in Pensacola, where we had served in revival 4 years ago. Originally, we had a meeting scheduled with another church in the area but they had to cancel their plans. Although our original plan was to be somewhere else that week, God already had "divine appointments" with folks at Lakeview Baptist Church. On Sunday morning, 16 year old Matthew was saved. The chaplain from the Waterfront Mission in downtown Pensacola brought several of the residents to the Sunday evening service. One of these young men, who had surrendered

his life to Christ earlier that day at the mission, came forward to make his decision public. Also at the evening service, the pastor's 17 year old daughter, Michelle, asked Jesus into her heart. On Monday evening, 12 year old Allison came forward to rededicate her life to the Lord. Christy shared with her how she had been saved at 6 years old and like Allison, had rededicated her life at age 13. It was a new step of Christian maturity and growth to express her desire to live out God's plan for her life. Throughout the week, there were several adults who also rededicated their lives to the Lord's leadership.

The following week, we had a great time at Windy Hill Baptist Church with pastor Ricky Skaggs. We had great crowds all week and it was so much fun to be with this wonderful and loving fellowship. On Sunday morning, a 7 year old girl was saved. The next evening, 2 teenage boys rededicated their lives to Christ and a 13 year old girl asked Jesus into her heart.

The next week at Olivet Baptist Church in Milton, FL, the Lord continued to work and touch lives. On youth night, several of the young people sang during the service, and Paul was able to accompany 2 of the girls on guitar. During the invitation 3 teenagers came forward to commit their lives to Christ. That night after church a young woman who knows sign language asked if she could sign to one of our songs the next evening. She did a fabulous job signing as we sang "Shout to the Lord". She wanted to participate in the service so her boyfriend would come to church. It was the first time he had been to Olivet, and you could tell the Holy Spirit was working on him. We praise the Lord for the doors that will be opened for the church to minister to this couple, who were expecting their first child in the following months ahead. The week ended with a young husband and father of a 7 month old baby coming to Christ.

We ended our time in Florida leading the worship at a weekend mission conference at Pine Summit Baptist Church. Earlier in the month, we were able to experience first hand one of the mission efforts in the Baptist Association in Pensacola at Ensley Baptist Church. We started our revival there with 25 in attendance on Sunday morning. The small congregation was burdened for the large homeless population in Pensacola and the NLO (None Left Out) ministry was born. On Sunday afternoons they partner with 2 other churches and begin picking up homeless people in their church van about 2:30 pm. They bring them to the church for showers, fresh clothing, and a worship service topped off with a hot meal afterwards. We led the music for the worship service and Bro. Rick preached. There were over 40 homeless people there to worship with us. They sang so well during the service, but it was a little hard to stay focused when one of the homeless guys came in wearing a dress. No one else in the auditorium seemed to be surprised, so we just kept on singing! Four of those people were saved that day. Two more were baptized at the end of the service.

After our time in Florida, we traveled to Oklahoma in April and teamed up again with the Ingles. We experienced an outpouring of the Holy Spirit during a revival at Calvary Baptist Church in Muskogee, OK. The congregation's hard work to invite their community to the revival paid off. On Sunday morning, a woman and 4 of her children came to the church for the first time. They had received a flyer on their door advertising the revival. She rededicated her life and her 13 year old and 17 year old sons were saved. The next night her 15 year old daughter asked Jesus into her heart. The following evening, her 19 year old son came forward during the invitation time. The church has a van ministry where they go and pick up children from all over the neighborhood. Through this ministry, they were able to also reach one 6 year old girl and her family. The little girl had been riding in the van to church for 8 months, and eventually her mother began to attend with her. A couple of months prior to our revival, the little girl's father was saved. The 6 year old was saved one night after the revival service, and the next evening her whole family came to see her make her decision public during the invitation time. Her dad followed her down the aisle in tears to counsel with the pastor. He then went back to his pew and grabbed his wife by the hand and took her forward to the altar. You see, they have 4 children together but had never married. That night they made a commitment to get married and unite their home in Christ. It was a "*Hallelujah Moment*" for the church as they had been praying for that very thing to happen!

On Easter Sunday we began a revival in Oilton, OK with evangelist Steve Cody and his wife Mary from Lenapah, OK. We started the revival with around 40 in attendance. There were a number of visitors in the crowd that morning and during the invitation time, 11 people responded to the gospel. It was a great time of rejoicing for church members to see their visiting family members make decisions for Christ. Originally this meeting was supposed to be held outdoors under a tent but the rain made that impossible. We met in the new unfinished sanctuary that was being built. We had electricity, but no other facilities in the building. Jack and Carolyn Martin from Colorado joined our team to cook "chuck wagon meals" before the services each night. On Monday evening the rain finally stopped just in time to serve supper. There were over 70 in attendance that night and a teenage girl and an elderly woman were saved. Each night our crowds continued to grow and the final night we had a high attendance of 125 people. At the end of the revival, a man came forward who was struggling with the guilt and remorse from a life spent in drug addiction before he was saved. During the invitation his teenage daughter also came forward and gave her heart to Christ. That night after the service, the alternator on our pickup truck went out and this guy was able to fix our truck the following day. During our revival in Oilton, a total of 16 people were saved!

Several years ago while on a mission trip out in New Mexico, we served at First Baptist Church in Cuba. In May, we returned to the church for another revival with the Ingles. The small town of Cuba is located about 90 miles northwest of Albuquerque, near the Santa Fe National Forest. This church is a culturally diverse group of Anglo, Hispanic, and Native American members. The ladies of the church provided a big supper each evening before the revival, which really helped promote the attendance. In addition to this, one woman took a van every night to the Indian reservation to pick up people who wanted to come to the services. On the last 2 nights of the revival, additional chairs had to be brought into the small auditorium that normally seats about 80 folks. We have grown to love this little church so much because they work so hard to reach out and minister to their whole community. We were told that some of the children who were coming to the services each night were eating their only meal of the day at the church supper. In addition to this, there is a high percentage of the population who struggle with addictions to alcohol and drugs, and some of those folks attended our services. It was a glorious week of revival in Cuba with over 40 people making decisions for Christ!

In June, we were asked to lead music in revival at Cashion Baptist Church in Burkburnett, TX. Bill Pursley, the pastor from Emmanuel Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, had been asked to preach the revival and he recommended us to lead in the music. This small church is located out in the country about 30 miles north of Wichita Falls. We took our travel trailer and stayed at the local KOA campground in Burkburnett. The temperature was close to 110 degrees each day and the two air conditioners on our trailer were having a tough time keeping up with the heat! Now you know it is hot when two air conditioners in an RV won't get the job done!!! Our revival services began on Wednesday night with 30 folks in attendance. On Thursday night, we had 37 folks show up. Pastor, Gary Hibbs, plays the bass guitar and joined us each night during the worship time. His loving and enthusiastic spirit was a blessing to our hearts. One of the joys we had during the week was getting to go with Bro. Gary to lead a worship service at the local nursing home. Bro. Gary's wife, who is battling Alzheimer's disease, is a resident there. She recognizes him but doesn't remember his name anymore. In addition to caring for his wife, Bro. Gary works full time at a secular job in Burkburnett as well as pastoring the church. He told us he doesn't get down about the tough circumstances in his life. He says "If God doesn't move the mountain, He will teach us to climb". Now that is the right attitude to have in life!

At the end of July, we returned to Cornerstone Baptist Church in Caddo Mills, TX for a REAP revival with evangelist, Herman Cramer from Seguin, TX. We have ministered in this small church in revival for the past 6 years. The first two times we went to this church, they did not have a building large enough to meet in. Those first two

years, we held revival services under a tent that was set up next to a mobile home that was used for their kitchen and Sunday School classes. After two years, they were able to move into a metal building for the revival, even though it was still under construction. This time when we held the revival, the church building was finally completed. Although we did not see as many people saved as in the past, we did see a congregation that is continuing to grow in maturity and vision for the future. In the past few years, this church has struggled and worked to establish an adequate facility to worship in. Now the folks are beginning to look outward to find their place of service in their community. Pastor Robert Ingram told us at the end of the week, many decisions of commitment had been made during the revival by church members to answer the call of the Lord to their special ministry through Cornerstone Fellowship.

The first week of August, we left the Texas heat to go to the cooler climate of New Mexico and Arizona. Christy's parents have spent the past few summers living in their motor home at the Twin Spruce RV Park in Ruidoso, NM. Christy's mom, Molly, coordinates and leads the music at a Sunday morning worship service, which is held every week during the summer at the campground. Since we were traveling to Arizona for a revival, we made plans to leave early enough to stop in Ruidoso to sing with Molly and her group on Sunday morning. When the RV park owners found out we were coming, they invited us to do a Saturday evening concert at their pavilion in the campground. They publicized the concert very well, and there were over 100 folks that brought their lawn chairs out to sit under the cool pines and enjoy the music. One of our dreams came true that night, when our 13 year old niece, Morgan, played her guitar with us on several of our songs during the concert. She has been learning to play guitar with some coaching from her Uncle Paul. She also played with us, Molly and the praise band during the Sunday morning worship service at the campground. She did a great job!

Our next stop was in Pinetop, Arizona at First Baptist Church. Pastor Coy Brewer invited us to lead the worship at a weekend "Encouragement Conference". The conference was not only for the church, but several pastors and their wives from smaller churches in remote areas of Arizona and New Mexico were invited to enjoy the conference with us as well. The church provided lodging for the couples and paid for all their meals. It was such a joy for us to get to know these pastors and their wives, who are living in remote areas and ministering in small struggling churches. They are some of God's choicest people, who choose to serve in less than opulent conditions and without many of the resources and advantages an urban church has.

In September, we returned to First Baptist Church in Robert Lee, TX for a second consecutive year with evangelist Rick Ingle. The crowds were great again this year and the spirit of the congregation was upbeat, in spite of the devastating drought and wildfires that have plagued this area during the summer. The new student minister, Ryan, joined

us each evening on the platform, playing a percussion instrument called a Cajon. It is basically a big wooden box you sit on and play the sides like a drum. It was really a lot of fun. On “See you at the Pole Day”, we joined Ryan and the students around the flag pole at the high school at 7:00 am to pray. It was so good to see those kids gather to sing, worship and pray for their school. Paul challenged the kids to have 50 in attendance on pizza night of the revival and he would “spike” his hair like Ryan’s. (FYI, Ryan has a lot of hair and Paul does not!) They had 35 on youth night, so Paul’s few remaining hairs were safe! We know that the seeds of the gospel were planted in many hearts during our time in Robert Lee and the church will reap a harvest in the months to come.

The following week at First Baptist Church in Eunice, NM, we were excited to work again with pastor, Billy Capps. We have known he and his wife Brenda for over 20 years and they have been gracious enough to have us in several of the churches they have served. On Saturday evening, we joined with the deacons and their wives for an old fashioned cottage prayer meeting. It was great to get to know some of the folks before Sunday morning and join them in prayer for the revival. Attendance for the revival was really great during the week as the Holy Spirit worked each evening during the services.

The following week, we traveled across the state of Texas to First Baptist Church in Jewett. It was our 3rd time to be with this congregation in revival. On the last night, two girls came forward to ask Jesus into their hearts. One of the girls was 18 years old and the other one was 15. To our surprise, they were both named Kayla.

For the last 3 years during the month of October, we have had the privilege to lead in worship at the Texas Baptist Chaplaincy Conference near Waxahachie. Although it is sponsored by Texas Baptists, chaplains from all over the country attend the retreat. These men and women work in many varied areas of ministry, serving in the military, at hospitals, in prisons, and at rehab centers. We love leading them in worship because they just let go and worship the Lord in song. These chaplains are on the “front lines” ministering in crisis situations everyday. One of the highlights of the week was the viewing of a movie called “Heaven’s Rain”. It was written and produced by Brooks Douglass, a former State Senator from Oklahoma, regarding his journey of restoration and forgiveness after the murder of his parents. After viewing the movie and to the surprise of all the audience, Brooks walked into the conference room and began taking questions from the chaplains about his experiences. It was such a moving moment for all of us!

The following week, we returned to First Baptist Church in New Boston, TX for a 5th time in revival. Todd Hervey, pastor of the Circle J Cowboy Church in Texarkana, was the evangelist for the week. Our crowds were great all week long, as God touched people’s hearts. The invitations went long as folks prayed at the altar and counseled with

the pastor. Each evening as we left the building, we saw staff members still counseling with folks after the service. On Tuesday of each week, First Baptist Church along with other congregations in New Boston, sponsor an after school program in the gymnasium of the elementary school. They call it "The Beach Club". The children who attend have a lot of fun, and are taught from the Bible about JESUS! We were invited to do the music segment of the program and lead the kids in worship. It was very high energy and so much fun to sing with a gym full of elementary age kids, excited about the Lord. It is also a blessing to see their community of churches working together to reach children for Christ and bringing a Christian influence into their lives.

When we first started traveling in music evangelism in 1981, most churches were still planning a couple of revivals each year. Today things are much different. Many churches are not scheduling as many revivals as in the past, and our approach to the worship service has evolved over time. In the past few years, the Lord has led us to serve in smaller churches and in pioneer mission areas where evangelical churches are few and far between. We continue to be able to accept invitations from churches regardless of their size, location or financial condition. We are constantly seeking out the Lord's guidance and direction as to where He would have us to go and minister in His name.

In April and May of this year, we are excited to be traveling to Ukraine and Crimea to take part in a mission effort with the Singing Men of Texas. During the year, Paul sings once each month with this men's choir, made up of music ministers from all over the north central Texas area. International evangelist Michael Gott, who ministers an average of 7 months a year in Russia, is coordinating our trip. We have served with Michael in the past in revivals here in Texas and know others who have worked with his organization in Russia, so we know how the Lord is abundantly blessing the spread of the gospel there. Recently, the Lord planted in our hearts a desire to go. We began to sense the leadership of the Lord to commit to participate in this unique ministry opportunity. We asked the Lord to show us in an unmistakable way that He wanted us to commit to this mission effort. By the end of 2011, the finances came in to take care of our trip! The former Soviet Union was a place where atheism was the religion. Today their doors are open for the gospel to be shared, and the people are hungry for it. In 2010, when the Singing Men of Texas went to Russia for the first time, over 4000 decisions were made for Christ! In a land where once few believed there even was a God, the fields are now "ripe unto harvest". Please pray with us that God will continue to bless our efforts as we sing and share the gospel wherever the Lord directs us to go.