

---

---

# Ministry Newsletter

---

**Issue 1**

**Calvary Chapel St. Bernard**

**February 2007**

---

---

Dear Co-laborers in Christ,

We are amazed that a month has already gone by! It seems like we hit the ground running and haven't had a chance to stop and catch our breath. Leaving Michigan was a real challenge as the enemy tried his best to delay our departure. Kathy and I were both sick for a week after Christmas which put us a week behind in our packing. After recuperating from the stomach flu, we began our big push to get things packed for our January 5<sup>th</sup> departure (our original plan was to leave on January 3<sup>rd</sup>). When January 5<sup>th</sup> finally arrived we were trying to get on the road by 1:00 PM but didn't get going until 8:30 PM (again, the spiritual warfare was horrendous). But the Lord triumphed and gave grace and we arrived safely in our new home January 7<sup>th</sup>. Our road trip took 3 days which allowed us to relax a little as we drove.

Currently we are living like most of the locals live....“making do.” Our original plan was to get a mobile home and be in it by now, but we have been so busy that we haven't even had time to check any out yet (that is actually on the agenda for tomorrow—Lord willing). But we are blessed to have a temporary place to stay that is very affordable (we only have to pay the utilities); even though there are some challenges to living here. We are staying in the upstairs of a partially redone house in southeast St. Bernard Parish (see pictures below). We have a nice sized bathroom, a walk in closet, and one very large room that serves as our “studio apt.” (minus a kitchen)—that's one of the many challenges! The “kitchen” is downstairs in the part of the house that is partially redone, but there is no sink, no heat and no stove. When we go down in the morning we actually have to wear our coats believe it or not (yes, it is cold enough here in the winter for heat and a coat.). Kathy does the cooking in an electric skillet, or microwave, and we have to go into another room that is in the undone part to wash dishes. We try to eat dinner at the Samaritan's Purse camp a few nights a week where the volunteers stay, but you can only take so much of “camp food”.



Originally we had church service here on the property where we're staying; first in the dance studio, then outside in the yard and then before Christmas we rented a tent that held 160+ people. But since the winter brings the rain which saturates the ground too much to park on, we have had to relocate our services until we find something with better parking (currently we're meeting at the local community college). The relocation has kept many people away. The college is a 15-20 minute drive which may as well be in another state for the folks down here! Many don't have cars or are elderly or in ill health. We are praying for something down the road here that has a parking lot, or for the rainy season to end quickly, so that we can be back on this property. We are also in prayer about a large facility that has been offered to us and another ministry. The building (20,000 sq ft) has been gutted, but needs to be rebuilt. We have no money for that, but the Lord brought our friends from upstate New York to video the area, the people we are ministering to, and the building. The Lord has put it on their hearts to present the needs to the



Calvary Chapel pastors at one of the Northeast Pastor's Conference. We are excited to see what may be in the Lord's plan as a result of that! We also have a vision to provide a place to house volunteers to come help with the *rebuilding* of our church facility and the community. Most people are in the rebuild phase by now. Samaritan's Purse is not doing *rebuilt*s, just gutting, and will be leaving the area in a couple months, so there is a need. The owner of the house we are staying in desperately wants us to buy it from him....or should I say take it off his hands! There is a *ton* of work to be done on the property, but it also has a *ton* of potential, especially as far as housing volunteers and the ministry goes. We are not sure we want to get into all that it requires unless we are sure it is the Lord's will. We will be talking to the owner next week to see what he has in mind as far as price, and if the whole 7 acres is part of his deal.



The ministry here during the week very much revolves around home visitation, sharing simple truths from the Word, and praying with people. Most people are home during the day, but don't get out much at night. They are



either retired, or on disability and don't work or are out of work as shrimpers and fisherman because of losing their



boats and nets. Some are getting back on their feet as they find inexpensive boats and fix them up. This is a low income area with many uneducated, illiterate adults. And so the kind of Bible teaching that so many of us well-taught, well fed believers (Calvary Chapelites!) enjoy, would not be

understood here with this very young church. I am constantly finding myself having to use simpler words as I teach through the Bible. Consequently, our Sunday morning service and the New Believer's Bible Study are the simple, "Pure milk of the Word." Right now we are studying the Gospel of John Sunday mornings and are covering the basics of the Christian life on Tuesday nights.



It is exciting to see new-found faith grow, and be excited about the things of God. We have even experienced several miracles in our midst with the most recent being the recovery of a teenager who nearly died last week! Daniel choked on a hot dog at lunch that lodged in his windpipe for 3-4 minutes. One of the school coaches successfully performed the Heimlich maneuver on him and the food dislodged, but he drifted in and out of consciousness afterward. He was rushed to the hospital and was in critical condition. When I arrived at the PICU, the Dr. had just told his mother that Daniel may not survive. There was much prayer of course, and when Daniel did survive the night, the prognosis was for a lengthy hospital stay and recovery time (i.e. 3-4 weeks, as his lungs had completely filled with fluid and were severely damaged). He was placed on a ventilator and was in a medically induced coma. So we prayed and asked the Lord to *amaze* the Doctor's with his speedy recovery. Which is *exactly* what the doctors expressed when Daniel was released with a clean bill of health 6 days later!

We covet your prayers as there is much work to be done here. We are thankful that we will be able to do the "follow-up" that is always needed, and many times lacking, after a large scale ministry effort such as what has happened here through the ministry of BGEA, Samaritan's Purse and other Calvary's from around the country.

Our current prayer needs are:

- Direction for housing for us
- Immediate need for a place to hold services that has parking near to where we started
- Ministry-minded helpers
- Direction and wisdom about possible purchase of this home
- Wisdom and discernment in pursuing the gutted building for church

If you have any questions or would just like to give us a call fell free to contact us at 313-492-9857. We really appreciate your support and look forward to seeing what God will do through the ministry of Calvary Chapel St. Bernard.

Servin' Jesus,

Pastor Randy & Kathy Williamson

