

Dear Friends, Supporters and Visitors,

We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for visiting, praying, and/or supporting Calvary Sevier Valley over the past year. This Sunday (Easter Sunday 2015) marks the 6 month anniversary of our Sunday morning launch as a church. I would love to say that we had this all planned out, but that would not be true. As with so many events of the past ten years, the Spirit led, God spoke, we followed, and it turned out far greater than we could have ever imagined. I am writing to recap the last 6 months for you and invite you to our Easter Service this Sunday unless you already have other plans, or are too far away to be with us. Our focus for this Sunday's message will be 1 Corinthians 15, and the "Reality of the Resurrection" as a theme.

There is no greater subject of discussion than the life of Jesus realized in the life of the believer! It is about transformation, reconciliation, and dynamification (not a word until now = ). It also sums up the last 6 months of ministry here at Calvary Chapel Sevier Valley. It has been dynamic, it has been healing, and it has been transformative for our family, our church, and our community. I would like to give you a glimpse of all that God has begun to do in the last six months. It truly has been amazing.

In October we began the Sunday morning services with a huge presence from our home church in St. George, which has been so consistent and truly sacrificial in their support of this church plant. Calvary St George sent us well financially, prayerfully, and especially in the area of worship support. We are forever thankful for their heart of sending. One great blessing was the large contingent of the Bikers for Christ ministry whose long line of Harleys set the scene in the front of the church in our first service. From day one we have had people responding to the gospel in nearly every service we have had, even going back to our summer Bible studies on Fridays. We've seen over thirty people respond the message of life and forgiveness in Jesus Christ over the past 6 months. Many of these folks are still with us today or plugged into other ministries in the Sevier Valley. The Kingdom of God is being built.

In October we also began meeting monthly with our local area pastors ALL of whom have been a enormous support and encouragement to our family and the ministry. There is a real unity among the churches in this valley and we are already seeing awesome fruit from these friendships, more on that later. In November we also had our first Church Family Thanksgiving Fellowship. We fed well over 75 people that evening and had an amazing time of friendship and connectivity with one another.

In December we started our first month of financial independence as a church, and God has been so faithful to provide. Also in December we were blessed to bring on Taylor Farnesi as our Youth Leader and Pastor in Training. He has been a ginormous blessing to the ministry. He has taken over the Sevier Valley Youth Refuge, begun teaching Wednesdays in the gospel of John, and doing outreach into our local community discipling along the way. He is, as Pastor Rick from St George says, "A Force Multiplier" as he has helped to triple the amount we can do as a leadership team. We held our first annual Refuge Christmas Party with kids from the community, New Hope Baptist, and other churches in attendance. We had nearly 30 youth participate in games, gifts, and gross contests. It was awesome! We did not hold a traditional Christmas Eve service but we did encourage our church to join in with the other area churches and worship with them at the Sevier Valley Baptist Christmas Eve Service.

In January we launched the year with our own worship team led by Keith and Daphne Duhart who joined us after serving faithfully in the One Way Ministry and the Assembly of God church for years. We have a united heart in the areas worship, reaching our area through gospel community groups and church planting. They have been a huge blessing to us along with the other men and women God has brought alongside to minister with us and support us in the work of the gospel. We have truly been humbled by the prayer warriors, servants, and encouragers that God has brought alongside this ministry. You know who you are, and you'd probably be mad if we mentioned your names =).

February marked the beginning of our concert outreach season. Our heart is to have special music, from Folk, to Hip Hop, to Heavy Metal Worship monthly through the summer and into the fall. God has blessed us with some amazing relationships with artists over the years and God is using them to reach the lost and encourage the church in our community. Also in February Sara began a ladies Bible Study on Thursdays with about 13 woman going through Colossians in the "Joyful Life Bible Study" by Kay Smith. It has been a huge blessing and encouragement for Sara as she has been so faithful in building our children's ministry which averages about 12-15 kids on Sundays and Wednesday nights.

In March we were blessed to have teams from Calvary Chapel Spring Valley, Calvary Chapel St George, and Sevier Valley Baptist church come alongside us as we helped the Richfield Assembly of God take care of some of their property in order to assist in the re-visioning and re-planting of their church. Richfield Assembly has by far been the most faithful and successful ministry in the Sevier Valley for the longest time (nearly forty years). Due to some unfortunate circumstances they have struggled the past couple years, but God is moving, their church is growing, and we are excited to be a part of helping them build the kingdom of God.

So that brings us to now, March 31st 2015. What an amazing and awesome adventure this has been. Our family is doing very well. The girls have done a phenomenal job of adjusting, although they miss their "home", family, and friends, they have really done better than we ever could have imagined. Caleb is growing up so fast and he and the girls are loving the freedom that rural town life brings. They are outside more than inside, making friends, and getting dirty everyday! Sara and I have really enjoyed the slowing down of ministry life. I know, it sounds crazy, but after years of being a part of a dynamic and fast paced ministry, full time school, and raising a family, we are enjoying the simplicity of focusing on a small number of people and building the kingdom at the speed God has designed. One of the biggest blessings in seeing how God provides through completely underestimated means. I am thoroughly enjoying my job as a high school teacher in the local county jail helping adult state inmates achieve their high school diploma. It affords me a gospel door like none I have ever experienced. Sara has been blessed with an amazing business that with my income from teaching completely replaces our previous income. God is Jehovah Jirah! We knew this, but now we truly KNOW this.

There is so much more that we have going on, or that has gone on, but truly the best thing for me to say is, "come and see!" We love visits from our friends, family, and church families. We love to host missions teams and we love meeting people, so please invite anyone you know in the area to come and see what the Spirit of God is doing through the ministry of His Word, as the will of the Father is being revealed in our little fellowship.

**Here is a list of our most pressing prayer requests:**

- 1.) Praying for the families in our church to remain strong and focused on Christ in their homes.
- 2.) Praying for ministry help in almost every area. Praise God for all the servant that are already serving, and we know He will put everyone in the ministry He counts faithful.
- 3.) Pray for the Sevier Valley Youth Refuge to grow as we seek to introduce young people to a fresh vision for life and a pure and simple vision of Christianity.
- 4.) Pray for provision for the ministry. We operate in two economies, God's and the dollar's. God has been so faithful to provide for all of our needs as a church, but we sense the calling to expand, plant churches, and grow disciples, and dollars can be a useful tool with proper stewardship and faith.
- 5.) Pray for our family to continue to see this as an adventure and a blessed opportunity, and that all five of us would be used of the LORD in our lives, schools, and community.
- 6.) Pray for leaders, elders, board members here locally. Pastors Rick Nerud (Calvary St George) and Dustin Whitson (Calvary Hurricane Valley) are amazing board members and mentors and will continue to help me lead the church, but there is a need for local leadership, both to guide the ministry and keep us accountable to fulfill the ministry God has given us.
- 7.) Pray for all of the final 5013c paperwork and administration aspects of the church to be completed and approved in a timely manner.
- 8.) Pray that we move with God's timing in the purchase of a property and a building. There are some amazing opportunities right down town and on Main St. That would allow us to build or remodel a large space that could allow us to grow into the hundreds and even afford us the opportunity to have a preschool if the LORD leads in that direction. A typical building and property finished to our needs could run \$600,000 or less.
- 9.) Pray for the surrounding towns of Gunnison, Loa, Marysvale, Milford, Salina, and others as we see the need to plant community groups and churches in the near future.
- 10.) Pray for young people to catch the vision and come sacrifice a couple years of their lives attending Snow College and serving in the ministry as interns. It is our heart to continue to disciple future church leaders through hands on ministry.

Thank you again for supporting, praying, and visiting Calvary Sevier over the past 6 months. We are looking forward to meeting up with you in the near future, breaking bread, worshiping, and growing the kingdom of God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ our LORD and Savior!

Peace in Christ Alone,

Ryan Shaddix  
Senior Pastor  
Calvary Chapel Sevier Valley

