

WELCOME!!

On behalf of the community of faith known as Calvary Baptist Church, may we say thank you for joining us this morning as we walk through the CBC WORLD'S MINISTRY FAIR. This expo has been created to highlight much of the current ministry of Calvary Church – to give those who walk through it a glimpse of the “now” of Calvary – to better understand the ministry to which we are ***called***. Admission is free so let's get started!

As we move onto the grounds of the Ministry Expo you'll notice the large billboard on the left. It carries a scripture verse that underlies all that we do here at Calvary:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
Acts 1:8 NIV

That scripture ***calls*** us to share the good news of the gospel here in downtown Lexington, throughout our city, our state, and ultimately throughout the world. Our Ministry Expo is made of five wings within the main Expo Center. Each wing contains displays and hands-on exhibits. We begin this morning in the North Wing with the entrance to your left.

NORTH WING – MISSIONS

That large banner says “GO! MAKE DISCIPLES! BAPTIZE! TEACH!” It's a shortened version of The Great Commission, Matthew 28:19-20 which says, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

It's quite interesting that as recently as ten years ago this Missions Wing would have been composed primarily of exhibits done by vocational missionaries that Calvary supported with our prayers and our financial resources. We continue to support those called to fulltime mission work but you will notice that the Missions Wing is chock full of our own folks who have responded to God's call. We've got Upward Sports coaches and players taking up three display booths. That whirring sound coming from the large booth on your left is the ladies of the Calvary Women's Ministry whipping up 500 dresses on their sewing machines for our Haitian Ministry team to take to Haiti. To your right you see boys and girls in Mission Friends, RA's and GA's who are getting a missions foundation on Wednesday nights that we hope will last all their lives.

That group you see up ahead, sitting around the tables “chowing down” with some men who otherwise would be spending the night on the street, is one of our Sunday School classes hosting Room In The Inn. In two weeks members of that same class will spend Tuesday night serving at God's pantry. Those Calvary college students you see in the next display booth are leading a Bible Club for kids out at Cardinal Crossing Apartments in a ministry called Club 3:16. Next to that exhibit we see a grouping of our youth assisting missionary Paula Settle at the Nada Mission in Powell County.

That next exhibit portrays some of our “retired and loving it” folks who are mentoring children at Millcreek School. The Calvary Christmas Project Display almost needs it’s own wing – it’s grown so much since it was a vision the Spirit planted in the heart of Mike Adams. The Mission Lexington display with a working dental chair and a mock up of an exam room from the Mission Lexington Dental and Medical Clinics is special in that it includes brothers and sisters in Christ from five churches (other denominations) who share with us in that amazing work. The High Street Neighborhood Center kids are singing in the next booth and the display after that has written anonymous testimonies from 5000 very real people who began the journey down the healing path through the Christian counseling of our Interfaith Counseling Center.

As we depart this Missions Wing we glance at the flags of Kenya, Brazil, Macedonia, Morocco, Chile, Haiti, Missouri, Mississippi, New Jersey, Florida, Texas, and our own Commonwealth – all places that have been touched in recent times by the missions ministry of Calvary. The last sign we see by the exit says, “Where Next?”

Discuss:

- ❑ *Ask members of the class to share how they have been “plugged in” to the missions ministry of Calvary.*
- ❑ *How does “hands on”, participatory missions service strengthen our relationship with Jesus?*
- ❑ *Remind the class that as individuals and as the church we are called to go and teach and share. What might Calvary do to involve more members of our church family in missions service?*
- ❑ *How would you answer, “where next”?*

EAST WING – CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; - 2 Timothy 3:6 NASB

Welcome to the Christian Education or Discipleship Expo. The ministry of Christian Education is woven throughout all that we do at Calvary. That busy group of people carrying chairs and coffee pots on your left is one of our adult Sunday School Classes that has outgrown it’s room and is heading to a bigger space, hoping to avoid our Associate Pastor and his class splitting axe. The display on your right portrays a family that has been “prayed through”, “casseroleed through”, and “loved through” a very tough time by their Sunday School class – fellow sojourners on the way who not only study scripture with them but love them deeply.

Somebody recently said “the last thing the church needs is another Bible Study”. We here at Calvary must disagree because we have Bible studies for youth, college students, and adults sprouting like dandelions. We’ve got Bible Studies meeting weekly at the ROC (3), in the conference room (4), in the Youth Area (2), at the College Building (2), in EB2 (2), at Georgetown College (1), in the Fireside Room (2), in the homes of Calvary Women’s Ministry leaders (4), and Fellowship Hall (1).

That unusual exhibit just ahead shows a discipleship group partially submerged in the baptistery while studying Jonah's encounter with a very large fish! In all, more than 300 members and friends of Calvary are participating in Bible Studies coordinated by our church.

Scripture admonishes us to train up children in the way that they should go and the last two displays in the Christian Education Wing show us how it's done at Calvary. The veritable "zoo" of inflated animals highlights the Vacation Bible School display with boys and girls traveling to "The Big Apple Adventure" in New York City, "The Boomerang Express" in Australia, and "who knows where" to learn about Jesus and the work of the Kingdom.

The final exhibit in this wing shows girls and boys not only learning 25 scripture verses and references but also developing a deeper understanding of the meaning of those verses. This activity is called "Bible Drill". In most Baptist churches it is fading away, but thankfully, not at Calvary.

Discuss:

- ❑ *In many ways Calvary has come of the characteristics of a more "Mainline" congregation but with a traditional Baptist approach to Christian education. Why might Christian education involving small groups be so important to the life and ministry of the church?*
- ❑ *Many of us are studying the same texts in Sunday School and in Discipleship groups that we first studied as second graders. Why should we keep on keeping on?*
- ❑ *Some churches have eliminated Sunday School entirely or at least during the summer months. Others have shortened Vacation Bible School to three days. One Lexington church had a one night VBS this year. Could Christian education become an afterthought in our churches?*

WEST WING – CHURCH MUSIC

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Psalm 100:1-2 (KJV)

Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Psalm 150:1-6

As we enter the Church Music Wing you may have to strain to hear over the very loud music coming from the "amped-up" harpsichord. The three dimensional paper mache likeness of our Music Minister welcomes you to the Music Wing saying: "At Calvary we recognize the important role music plays in the life of our community of faith. As we build upon the firm foundation of Christ and a rich history of quality church music, we are blessed to have a diverse group of talented musicians who serve faithfully in the music ministry.

Today, there are over 240 adults, college, youth and children who participate and lead in our choirs, bands and ensembles!! Whatever your age, level of experience or stylistic preference, there is a place for YOU in the music ministry at Calvary Baptist Church”.

Immediately to your left you will see the musicians of our Early Worship Praise Team as they prepare next Sunday’s praise choruses. To your right you will see a wall mural of our Sanctuary Choir leading us in worship during the Christmas season. On most Sundays they are supported and led by a very fine piano player who has been blessing our collective souls for more than four decades. The organ player is pretty good too.

That ringing sound you hear just ahead is one of our three hand bell choirs going through their paces. The outstanding musicians of our college worship Praise Team are next and even though they are QUITE LOUD!!! they are very good. The angelic sounds you hear as we leave the Music Expo are coming from our Children’s and Youth Choirs. Music Education for children has long been a priority at Calvary. Our children and youth learn not only sound musical technique and theory, but they also focus on the message of faith found in the songs they sing.

The final display highlights the Berea College Choir preparing to lead one of our worship services. Our church music ministry reaches out to assist and support young musicians in our public schools and at the collegiate level by hosting multiple workshops, festivals, retreats, and concerts.

Discuss:

- ❑ *When folks at last month’s congregational meeting were asked “what brought you to Calvary?”, a significant number said it was church music. How important is music to our services of worship?*
- ❑ *Due to our commitment to diversity in worship styles, we have considerable diversity in our worship music. We’ve intentionally chosen to approach church music in this way rather than to have more blended services that combine many music styles. How’s that working for you?*

SOUTH WING – FACILITIES USE

*We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20
(NIV)*

This may be the most crowded Expo Wing of all. In it you will find displays from many of the groups outside our immediate church family that use our facilities on a regular basis. Starting left to right you will encounter:

- *Bluegrass Kiwanis - Annual Pancake Day
- *Lexington Kiwanis – Annual Soup Day
- *Toastmasters of Lexington (weekly)
- *The Junior League (bi-monthly)
- *Central Kentucky Middle School Choral Festival (annual)
- *Fayette County Middle School Honors Choir Festival
- *High School Baccalaureates (Bryan Station/Henry Clay/Lafayette)
- *Elkhorn Baptist

Association Christmas Mission Project for Hispanics *Pi Kappa Phi of the University of Kentucky *LCC Health Fair *Tates Creek HS Band Banquet *Hopemobile - Mobile Outreach Unit of the Hope Center (Mondays) *Lafayette HS Band Honors Banquet *Lafayette HS Chorus Banquet *Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority, Transylvania University *AARP Insurance Classes *Morton Middle School Football Banquet *UK Donovan Aerobics *UK Women's Chorus Retreat and Concert *Bryan Station High School Football Banquet *"Room In The Inn" – Sunday night housing for the homeless *Sweet Blessings (group bakes cakes for juvenile cancer patients) *KBC Student Leadership Conference *FCPS Teacher's Workshop *Elkhorn "Souper" Bowl Party *Georgetown College KBC Lunch *UK Baptist Campus Ministry Theater *Beaumont Middle School Orchestra and Choir Concert *Lexington Brass Band Concerts *Lexington Chamber Singers *Chrysalis House Parenting Class *UK Campus Crusade * Transylvania Student Leadership Retreat *Council on Renal Nutrition *KBC State Bible Drill Competition *Henry Clay Swim Team Banquet *KHAKY Awards Banquet *Men's Basket Ball League *National Association of Church Business Administrators Conference *UK Cardiac Group Potluck *Berea College Choir Retreat *Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Luncheon *Piano Recitals *Diabetic Class (Health Dept.) *Healthy Heart Class (Health Dept.) *Healthy Weight Basics (Health Dept.) *Henry Clay HS Volleyball Banquet *Home Schooler's PE *UK Faculty Indoor Soccer *Reading Recovery Continuing Ed. *HS Volleyball Training Sessions

As ambassadors for Christ, we open our doors to the community not just on Sundays and Wednesday nights, but everyday of the week.

Discuss:

- *We believe that God has put us in this very exciting place in the heart of our city, provided us with these wonderful facilities, and has called us to open them to the full community – including the 24,000 person mission field called the University of Kentucky that is across the street from our campus. We call this "facilities use evangelism". What are some of the challenges of being a "seven day a week" church to the whole community?*
- *To what other groups might we reach out with God's facilities?*

CENTRAL WING – WORSHIP

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

Romans 12:1 (NIV)

"O worship the King all glorious above, and gratefully sing His power and His love."

We finish our Ministry Expo tour this morning appropriately in the Central Wing – the center – the section of the Expo devoted to worship. The display booth to your left portrays our ministerial staff meeting to plan our worship services. They could be planning our more traditional 11:00 worship service, 8:30 worship which meets in Fellowship Hall and is more contemporary in style, or "Quarter til" our worship service created for college students.

Through displays like this we can learn that worship at Calvary takes several different forms. God's Spirit leads us each week in the sanctuary through proclamation, organ, piano, sanctuary choir, orchestral instruments, solos and various ensembles during our 11:00am worship service; while our fellowship hall is typically filled with the sounds of guitars, piano, drums and vocalists during our 8:30 and "Quarter til" worship. Options, when it comes to formal worship, seem to be important.

Next you will see an exhibit featuring our seasonal services of worship including our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service, the Service of Remembrance and Healing, the Ash Wednesday Service, the Maundy Thursday Service, Children's Sabbath, Youth Sunday, Senior Adult Sunday, Holy Week Services, and the Easter Sunrise Communion Service.

The final display in this central wing devoted to worship doesn't depict any form of formal service of worship. It shows our church receptionist (Betty McGuire for many years and recently Kelly Henderson) handing a dirty, foul smelling, homeless man a sack lunch, a pair of socks, and a bottle of water. You may ask, why is this exhibit included in the worship expo – should it not have appeared in the Missions Expo? Matthew 25 gives us the "why".

"Then those 'sheep' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me – you did it to me.' Matthew 25:37-40 (MSG)

The Calvary family worshiped last year when 212 families or individuals walked in off the street or called the church needing bus fare, help paying utilities or rent, or temporary lodging. You worshiped when more than 4000 sack lunches were lovingly and respectfully handed to people that Matthew's gospel says very well may have been Jesus. You worshiped when we grilled out for the homeless on the Calvary Green last summer. You worshiped when showers were provided for more than 900 people last year through our towel ministry. You worshiped whenever you gave of your resources, served in any way, or did something to introduce someone to Jesus. You worshiped when you faithfully responded to God's **call**. That is why worship is at the center of who we are.

Discuss:

- What does "worship" mean to you?*
- Could you share one of your best Calvary worship experiences?*
- What challenges our ability to really worship?*

Thanks again for spending this hour visiting the Calvary Ministry Expo. Perhaps you've noticed how the Expo was arranged:

North Expo – Missions
East Expo – Christian Education

West Expo – Church Music

South Expo – Facilities Use

Central Expo – Worship

The Expo wings are arranged north, east, west, south (N-E-W-S). This speaks to our call to share the Good News of the Central Expo that is discovered in the worship of the Christ.

God Continues To Call – Where Next?