

West Georgia GO TELL Crusade: Tallapoosa, GA

About 600 commitments to Christ for Christ were made during the West Georgia Rick Gage GO TELL Crusade April 24-27, 2016 in the Taylor Memorial Stadium of Haralson County High School.

Around 12,000 people attended the four-night crusade, and more than 200 attended the pre-crusade Student Rally where 15 made salvation decisions.

In January, pastors and church members from 26 churches across West Georgia attended the GO TELL Crusade Kick-Off Banquet.

"To God be the glory for the great things He did through the West Georgia GO TELL Crusade" said Evangelist Rick Gage, founder and president of GO TELL Ministries based in Atlanta, Georgia.

At the pre-crusade youth rally when more than 1,000 hot dogs were grilled and served, the rally was held inside Haralson County High School's gym where GO TELL Youth evangelist Steve Paysen shared the Gospel and the Praise and Worship Team from Victory Fellowship Church ministered. "Many youths and their family members came to know Jesus that night," Mrs. Taylor said.

The Crusade team also held seven ON TRACK school assemblies with a total attendance of nearly 5,000 students, warning them of the dangers of alcohol, drugs, sexual abuse, bullying and sex outside of marriage. After meetings with three football and athletic teams after school each day and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes one morning, she said, "We saw results of God's awesomeness as approximately 15 youths, students and athletes received Christ as their Savior" from all of these events.

Along with the Rev. Gage, speakers included Tony Nolan and Scott Camp. Worship was led by GO TELL Worship Leader, Chuck Sullivan and Bryan Drake performed during the school assemblies.

In June 2014, Mrs. Taylor said the seed was planted when she attended a GO TELL Student Camp in Toccoa, Georgia with her Mt. Vernon Baptist Church youth group as their youth leader. There she considered the possibility of bringing a crusade back to West Georgia and East Alabama.

Plans began to schedule the crusade for April 2015, "but we quickly found out this was not to be. Many doors were closed and walls went up that prevented the crusade from taking place in 2015. I later found out that one of the pastors had tried to bring GO TELL into this area four years prior, but the same thing happened. Doors were closed and walls went up," she recalled.

"Refusing to give up, many churches began meeting together every fifth Sunday evening of 2015 in what we called 'ONE WORSHIP.' Many churches moved their Sunday evening service to one of the local churches that could accommodate a large group," Mrs. Taylor said.

With more than 700 people in attendance at each "ONE WORSHIP" service, she said, "We came together in praise, worship, prayer and fellowship as 'one' in the Body of Christ, crossing over denominational, ethnic and racial boundaries. **We learned church unity was vital before revival could ever take place.** Lesson learned: This was all about God's timing, not ours. He is in control, not us. We worry about tomorrow, He is already there. We learned to trust and obey."

Mrs. Taylor said, "Preparation came together like God's assembly line. People were calling, emailing, volunteering to help physically and financially. When they were assigned a task, they followed it through to fruition. The morning of April 23, 2016, when the staging truck rolled in, we had more than 75 people on the Arrangements Team waiting at the stadium to help set up.

"We prayed for months that God would hold back rain for our crusade. Weeks leading up to the crusade, we experienced severe thunderstorms every evening - lightning strikes, trees down and wind damage. But on opening night, Sunday night, not a cloud in the sky!" she said.

However, as more than 80 decisions were made that Sunday night and counselors prayed with new believers, ones who wanted to rededicate their lives to the Lord and others who needed to pray for others, "we looked up into the sky. There was one cloud - in the shape of a perfect cross! Wow! We serve an awesome God!" Mrs. Taylor said.

The final night, "while plans for manpower to help disassemble staging, tents and materials did not pan out, a last-minute cry for help was sent for prisoners at the local jail to help," she said. "For three days, we had tried to coordinate a time for GO TELL evangelists to go inside the jail cells and witness to these prisoners. This plan never came together for various reasons, but God brought the prisoners to us. After hearing the Word presented by GO TELL evangelist Jose Alvarez, 13 prisoners received Christ as their Lord and Savior. The prisoners prayed the sinner's prayer, kneeling and crying. Given small crosses, they took shoestrings out of their shoes to put the crosses on them and wear them around their necks."

Crusade Prayer Chairman John Lemmings, senior pastor of Corinth Baptist Church in Bremen, commented, "West Georgia and East Alabama will never be the same. There have been wonderful men and women of this region who have prayed for many years that God would pour out His Spirit upon this region, that a sweeping revival and spiritual awakening would occur in this region. I

believe that God is answering the prayers of the saints of God in this area; and we are beginning to see a tremendous shaking of the Spirit in individual lives, families, churches, schools, business and government. God used the West Georgia GO TELL Crusade, and churches are still reaping the fruit from the crusade. One of the greatest areas of attack by the devil is toward the family; however, God saved complete families."

During the invitation at the pre-crusade student rally in the gym, "a sixth-grade student left his seat and made his way directly to me, broken over his sin. He cried out that he needed Jesus as Savior. As I was counseling him, his parents made their way to us. As the young boy told his parents his decision, I noticed the emptiness on the face of the dad. I lovingly asked the dad, 'If you were to die today, do you know for sure that you would go to heaven?' His response was 'no.' The dad poured out his heart to the Lord and trusted Jesus Christ as his only hope to heaven. So, with the mom already a believer, she now has a son saved and a husband saved.

"But there was still a twin son who was lost. On the first night of the crusade, Evangelist Rick Gage challenged everyone to write the name of a person in the front of their Bible that needed to be saved. We were instructed to pray and invite the person to the crusade. You guessed right. The name I put was the sixth grade brother who was not saved. Sunday passed and he did not respond, Monday passed and he did not respond; but on Tuesday, under the inspired preaching of Evangelist Tony Nolan, the lost sixth-grade brother was found. He accepted Jesus Christ as Savior. Hallelujah, the entire family is now ready for heaven! To God be the glory for what He has done.

"This is just one example of many stories we have heard and we have experienced," the Rev. Lemmings added.

Counseling and Follow-Up Chairman Lyndon Smith reflected, "'My granny got saved, my granny got saved' were the tearful words of a teenager who watched his 71-year-old grandma receive Jesus. The vast majority of the decisions for Jesus Christ were teens, but there were a number of folks in their 30s and 40s."

Mrs. Taylor shared the following testimonies:

- A man, after getting half-way to the altar the first night, turned around to go back to his seat. The next night, he went all the way to the altar as he answered God's knock on his heart.
- A Christian man, who had held a heavy burden of unforgiveness toward his brother for years, realized, after hearing Scott Camp's sermon on forgiveness, that he must forgive his brother for all of his wrongdoings. As a result, these two brothers, who had been estranged for years -

separated by anger, resentment and unforgiveness, reunited. They have a sister in another state who has been diagnosed with terminal cancer and who does not believe in God. But through this crusade, doors have been opened for these two brothers to reach out to her in hope she, too, will receive Christ as her personal Savior.

- A 25-year-old son was living in bondage to drug addiction for years and causing horrendous turmoil for his family and many sleepless nights for a mother and a father who so love their son. They had tried desperately to help him to no avail. The situation seemed hopeless. They finally had to choose to protect his siblings and family by refusing to allow him back into their home. They never stopped praying. God answered their prayers this crusade week. Their son was arrested by a county officer, also pastor of a local church, who required the young man to attend the crusade. There Bry found Jesus and was saved. The day after the crusade, this young man was at the noon pastors' lunch with his mom - cleaned up, shaved and hair cut. The change was not only the outside but also in his heart! He had his bags packed and left that Thursday afternoon with GO TELL evangelist Jose Alvarez, a former alcohol and drug addict, to a Christian-based drug rehabilitation center in South Carolina. Jose has taken this young man under his wing. Bry is teaching Jose to play the guitar, an act of gratitude to Jose to show his appreciation for helping him. Jose says this is a twofold act. He says we will see Bry playing guitar in the near future with the GO TELL praise and worship band.

On the Sunday following the crusade, Smith said Pastor Jon Ellis of The Refuge in Tallapoosa, baptized 25 of those who had made decisions, he said.

"One truly positive outcome of this crusade was the training of counselors/advisors which netted a new battalion of trained soul winners. Most of the 200 plus had never led anyone to Jesus," Smith said.

"We are praying that this current movement of God's Spirit in Georgia will multiply itself and start a revival that will cross this nation, stirring a Great Awakening and drawing our country back to Jesus Christ," Smith added.

For more information on scheduling a GO TELL Crusade in your area, please contact Rick Gage GO TELL Ministries at 1-866-446-8355 or email info@GoTellMinistries.com.