

GO TELL Crusade Unites Churches - Saves Lives

Revival came to Athens, Texas when 633 people made spiritual decisions, most of those for salvation, during the Henderson County GO TELL Crusade April 23-26 at the Athens High School Football Stadium, also known as Bruce Field.

Over the four days, there was a total attendance of more than 7,000. More than 300 volunteers were trained as decision counselors.

Evangelist Rick Gage led the crusade with help from team evangelists Tony Nolan and Ken Freeman.

Youth Evangelist Steve Paysen spoke at a Pre-Crusade Youth Rally, resulting in more than 30 spiritual decisions.

During Crusade week, the team presented GO TELL's nationally acclaimed ON TRACK Assembly program to more than 3,000 students in school assemblies, urging them to avoid addictions to drugs, alcohol and sex.

The Athletic Director/Head Football Coach of Athens Hornets, Paul Essary, has an incredible story. He flatlined in 2009 and was pronounced dead for about 20 minutes.

Miraculously, with the help of the medical team working on him and the prayers of many, he came back to life.

The 700 Club on the Christian Broadcasting Network interviewed him last fall. They aired his story April 25 on The 700 Club which may be viewed at cbn.com/heart-attack-cant-keep-coach-game?show=700club.

Another miracle occurred when his daughter received salvation during the crusade.

Essary said, "Rick Gage is a man of God. Rick came and spoke to my high school football players while he was in town with the GO TELL Crusade. I witnessed many of my football players that day rededicating or committing their lives to Christ.

"Rick had an outstanding message for our youth. Also, I attended one of the GO TELL Crusade services where I witnessed many young people that evening rededicating or committing their lives to Christ.

"This was an outstanding crusade not only for Athens, Texas, but for Henderson County. If your community or school ever has the opportunity to host a GO TELL Crusade led by Rick Gage, they will be greatly blessed. I am so thankful to our Lord and Savior for allowing me to meet Rick and hear his message that he shares about the love of Jesus Christ."

In another case, one woman heard the music all the way from her home and decided to ride her bike to the stadium. She arrived just in time to hear the message and gave her life to Christ.

Crusade Chairman Robert Welch, senior pastor of Rock Hill Baptist Church, said, “Crusades, revivals, mass evangelism outreaches ARE NOT a thing of the past. Evangelism still works because the Gospel still works. What is lacking today in many communities is an urgent burden to reach the lost and a willingness on the part of churches and church leaders to work together. Winning lost souls and building the Kingdom is what the Henderson County GO TELL Crusade was all about.”

“God has anointed Rick Gage with the ability to rally churches and communities together for the right reason: reaching the lost. The Henderson County GO TELL Crusade was evidence of God’s power to bring His church together and save lives. We’ve never seen this many churches in our county partner together in unity! I honestly don’t believe that we could have accomplished this without GO TELL Ministry’s help. Bottom-line, Rick Gage and GO TELL helped bring our community and churches together in unity and led us to work hard and pray hard for the salvation of souls,” he said.

“GO TELL has a proven plan. They have the passion to unify churches, and they have God’s anointing behind them. Our county has never seen a movement of God like we saw the week of the Crusade and likely has never seen that many people saved in one week. If you pastor a church in a rural community and you care about reaching lost souls, then you need to prayerfully consider bringing GO TELL Ministries to your community,” Pastor Welch added.

Crusade Secretary Delores “Dee” Chesney recalled, “Unity!!! The GO TELL Crusade broke down the denomination walls and allowed God to work! God never created denominations; these were created by men. GO TELL Crusades allowed God to work while creating a beautiful group of people united in serving Him! It was a very special blessing to be a part in serving within this group and the GO TELL Crusade!!”

Counseling and Follow-Up Co-Chair Erick Graham, Senior Pastor of Sand Springs Baptist Church in Athens, said, “The blessings began before the first night of the crusade. They began at our first planning meeting as a diverse mixture of churches from our community joined together for one glorious purpose: spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“As the crusade drew near, our church members grew more and more excited. Faith blossomed as the conversations at work or school shifted to the crusade. That alone would have been worth all the time and effort of putting on the crusade, but there would be so much more.

“The Henderson County GO TELL Crusade brought the Christian community together, causing the community as a whole to see the love of Christ displayed in a marvelous way. When the unchurched thinks of the church, they often categorize by differences. When they see the churches come together like this, the only explanation is that there must be a common binder that unites these churches. It soon becomes obvious that it is the love of Christ. This alone is a great witness to the community,” Pastor Graham said.

“Not only is the church affected and the community affected, but the individual Christian is benefited as well. A crusade requires a lot of manpower. That is one of the wonderful things of a crusade. As Christians start doing what God has created and called them to do, we find a deeper meaning to life. As Christians become salt and light in the city in which they live, churches get revived. As churches get

revived, the community is affected. As Christ is displayed in such a dramatic way in the community, souls get saved.

“In the Henderson County GO TELL Crusade, we not only saw the Christians blossom, churches bloom and the community benefit, but we saw hundreds of souls saved and the Kingdom of God grow. How glorious it is when the body of Christ unites on the gospel of Christ and impacts a community for the glory of Christ,” Pastor Graham added.

Among the many comments, here are a few from
[Facebook.com/HendersonCountyGOTELLCrusade](https://www.facebook.com/HendersonCountyGOTELLCrusade/):

- This was, by far, the best community outreach I have ever been a part of! I was there serving all four nights, and I am telling the new friend that we've made I would not have met had I not been a part of this. Seeing over 300 make decisions for Christ on the final night with all the youth was amazing. Seeds were planted for sure. Listening to the praise and worship each night along with the preaching by Rick Gage and testimonies from Ken Freeman and Tony Nolan were amazing! – Ryan and Julie Odenthal
- I was there the first night and it was awesome. God is so wonderful. He has just poured His love out onto Henderson County. So many lives have been saved this week. I witnessed my oldest daughter, son-in-law and niece get saved. I found out that two nights later my ex-husband got saved. Tonight my son and nephew rededicated their lives to God. Thank You, Jesus. Thank You, God. Thank you, GO TELL Crusade for coming to Henderson County. – Missy Price Beck
- Loved being a part of such an amazing and God-centered event. Rick and the GO TELL team are the best – bar none. – Hannah Beth Owsley
- We attended all four nights and was privileged to work for God as ushers and counselors. It was an amazing experience, especially watching our God at work! – Danny McKinney
- Amazing experience! We had the greatest time worshiping the King of Kings and Lord of Lords! – Cherie L. Brown
- Awesome!!! God was present and changing lives!! Lord, please bless this ministry and every member. It was amazing!!!! Thank you so much!! – Paul Boyd
- The Crusade was a happening of Glory. – Bruce and Diane Weatherford
- Having an awesome time of worship and refreshing! At the end of this crusade, may we, may Henderson County never be the same! Thank You, Jesus!– Cathy Sanderson

More GO TELL Crusades are scheduled this year in Canadian, Texas on Sept. 10-13 and Bamberg, South Carolina on Oct. 15-18.

Find out more at GoTellCrusades.com.