

Rick Gage Crusade Draws Thousands

Evangelist Rick Gage has dedicated his life to reaching rural America with the Gospel message that he believes changes lives, communities, and the world. No town is too small for the evangelist who has been filling football stadiums across America for more than a decade.

Citizens of Gaffney, South Carolina were amazed when thousands flocked to Gaffney High's Brumbach Stadium for the four-night event. By the conclusion of the ***GO TELL Upstate Crusade***, more than 708 spiritual decisions had been recorded, including 385 first-time professions of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Crusade Chairman Sam Burns, who worked on crusade planning and preparation for almost a year and who helped enlist around 200 committee workers, said, "It was an awesome thing to be a part of this crusade. Our kick-off banquet in February had over 900 people present. It was the largest banquet ever held in Cherokee County.

"With sixty-seven churches working together, we averaged 4,500 people in attendance each night at the crusade and saw people from all age groups make decisions for Christ. Seeing how many lives were impacted was an amazing thing.

"One of the counselors emailed me to say, 'Last night I saw a husband and wife whom I have known for eighteen years raise their hands at the invitation and then go with a counselor to make first-time professions of faith. They are both over sixty and had tears in their eyes. I counseled a seventh, an eighth, and a ninth grader who made first-time decisions for Christ. None of them had ever been involved in a church. BIG things are happening!"

Pastor Scott Wachter of Buford Street United Methodist Church served as Counseling and Follow-up chairman of the crusade. "To see the difference in our community as lives were changed by the power of God made all our hard work worthwhile. Our churches came together across denominational and racial lines in a spirit of unity to love and reach people. We are continuing to meet, plan, and work together to see great things accomplished for God's glory in the future."

Dynamic music was provided by Chuck Sullivan; a 150-voice mass choir made up of members from 60-plus of the area's churches; soloists Amy Lowry from Nashville, Tennessee and Meka King from Orlando, Florida; and an inspiring praise band from a local church.

On Tuesday night of the crusade, Bo Pilgrim, chairman of Pilgrim's Pride Corporation, the second largest poultry corporation in the world and a Fortune 500 Company, gave a stirring testimony. He concluded his talk by presenting each person in the crowd with a Gospel tract in which was included a twenty-dollar bill.

Other stirring testimonies included former Miss South Carolina Kelly McCormick and a video testimony from Head Football Coach Tommy Bowden of Clemson University.

“Miracle stories abound everywhere,” said Crusade Co-chairperson Gayle White. “God met us in a mighty way, and hundreds now have glorious testimonies to share. I’ll never forget the sight one night at the crusade of hundreds of men kneeling on the playing field, united in prayer and calling out to the Lord.”

Pastor J. R. Sanders rejoiced at the opportunity the crusade afforded the churches of Cherokee County to work together. “We are encouraged,” he said. “We worked together as one for the Lord, and the great effort was met with a mighty move of God. The long-term effects will be seen for many years to come.”

“I truly believe that God mightily blessed our county,” said Senior Pastor Joey Turner of Restoration Church, “because churches came together to connect, unify, and work together for the cause of Christ.

“Words cannot describe the awesome joy of seeing entire families—Momma, Daddy, and children—come to Christ. One man, who had visited my church, came to me and said, ‘Pastor, I want to be free. I want to be delivered from pot.’ He handed me a bag of pot, then raised his hands to the sky, and began to praise the God who had gloriously liberated him!

“I truly believe that as God saw our hearts united, it put a smile on His face. A shofar was sounded, and God’s children came together. The crusade was a seed from which many great things not only started but will continue to grow.”

Rick Stanley, stepbrother of Elvis Presley, gave the testimony of his life story at the crusade. He has spoken at four Billy Graham Crusades.

The GO TELL Crusade Team conducted ON TRACK School Assembly Programs in every middle and high school in Cherokee County. Speaking to more than 5,000 students, the crusade team addressed issues dealing with life’s choices and the dangers of drugs, alcohol abuse, teen suicide, and premarital sex. Students were invited to attend the crusade.

Wednesday night was the culmination of Rick Gage’s outreach when youths were treated to a free pizza blast prior to the evening service. Over 300 flooded the football field to make decisions for Christ at the conclusion of the dynamic service.

Donnie Padgett, Director of Missions of Broad River Baptist Association who was instrumental in bringing the crusade to Cherokee County, concluded by saying, “The community of faith is much stronger than it has ever been. The groundwork was laid for the future. Now we must continue to build upon the great work God did during the crusade.”

“God has burdened my heart to take the Gospel to as many towns as possible in my lifetime,” Rick Gage says. “Everywhere I go, people are personally embracing the Gospel message. It is hope for the individual, for society, and for the world. Saturating our communities across America with the Gospel must be done at all costs. It takes time, money, and involvement to reach lost people; but it will be eternally worth it one day.”

For more information about Rick Gage GO TELL Crusades, please call 1-866-I-GO-TELL, email at info@gotellministries.com, or visit his website at www.gotellministries.com.