

Evangelist Rick Gage sees more than 1,800 people make commitments to Christ during the second annual GO TELL Crusade in Mexico, one of the most dangerous cities in the world due to warring drug cartels.

MATAMOROS, MEXICO –More than 11,000 attended the second annual Rick Gage GO TELL Crusade in Mexico Oct. 23-25 in Matamoros. Through this and other outreaches, greater than 1,800 commitments to Christ were made in this city of nearly 1 million.

A global evangelist of nearly 30 years, Gage said, "This city has been labeled as the gateway to revival for Mexico and Latin America. The Christians here have been a joy to work with. The poverty among the people here is so real, but their passion for God is huge."

Gage and his team were involved in visits to schools, orphanages, local church meetings and street evangelism in the city on the Rio Grande River across the border from Brownsville, Texas. During one pre-crusade youth rally, over 60 were saved.

His team also spoke to more than 10,000 students and teachers during 13 ON TRACK School Assemblies, where the Outcast BMX Bike Team also ministered through their performances.

Prayer is the groundwork laid nearly a year in advance by more than 150 evangelical churches in the area. GO TELL also had the endorsement of Matamoros Mayor Leticia Salazar, a member of one of those churches. Also, beginning Oct. 20, volunteer missionaries came to Mexico to help the church volunteers with door-to-door invitations and street evangelism.

In the weeks leading up the crusade, members of the crusade youth committee used 250 soccer balls shipped to them by GO TELL in youth soccer tournaments as one of their many outreach strategies. At half-time during each game, they presented the Gospel. Many salvation decisions were made.

Crusade Director Will Hall recalls a few of the many unusual occurrences as people came to know Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord:

- A lady came on the wrong bus (thinking she was on a city bus). While waiting to go back home, four ladies gave her pizza (it was Youth Night when free pizza is given) and shared the Gospel with her. She was saved and ended up staying for the worship service.
- A church paid for a bus to bring lost people from their neighborhood. When they loaded up to go home, the church learned all 36 people had been saved and everyone on the bus prayed for other lost people to bring the next two nights.
- A writer and a photographer came to a pre-crusade youth rally and were saved.
- A child was lost. When returned to her home across the street, seven of her family members were saved.
- Five members of the production team were saved.

Spanish evangelist Jose Alvarez said, “There were many souls changed, but one that I remember is us going to the missions and visiting the orphanages to see the kids smile. There was one little girl name Samantha who immediately took a liking to us, especially to Rick Gage. We sang some great Spanish songs and shared the Gospel, and twelve hands went up to be saved. To God be the glory!

“Then I also had the opportunity to preach at a church that had a rehab for people with drug and alcohol issues. God laid on my heart to preach who we are now when we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior. Almost all the congregation came forward. Glory!” Rev. Alvarez said.

Gage said, “Our vision for Mexico is large. Preparations are underway in November for a large crusade in Monterey, Mexico, a city of more than 4 million, which is the third largest city in Mexico.”

The need for the Gospel is great in Mexico where more than 30,000 youths are involved in organized crime, involving the murder of thousands. Also, thousands of children have been orphaned and live in desperate poverty.

His annual GO TELL Student Camps, which began in 1989, have reached tens of thousands of students and their leaders from churches across the U.S. As a result, thousands of students have come to Christ for salvation or surrendered to full-time Christian ministry.

Gage also has delivered his nationally acclaimed “ON TRACK” assembly program to more than 2 million teenagers in American, and now Mexican, schools. This program confronts young people’s abuse of alcohol, drugs and sex.

He is the author of his autobiography *More Than a Game* and a Bible study *Download* to help young people and adults grow in their faith.