

# Area pastors reflect on Celebration of Hope crusade

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The Celebration of Hope crusade ended on Wednesday evening with their youth night and area pastors reflected on the week Thursday morning at First Baptist Church.

Calvary Baptist Church's Dallas Stringer said there were more than 517 salvations. Total, more than 800 decisions were made on trying to get more involved with church and the word of God.

Evangelist Rick Gage, who led the crusade, along with First Baptist Church's Byron Williamson was in Canadian Thursday morning and said churches in Canadian are hoping to do a crusade this time next year.

At Thursday's follow-up luncheon, Gage thanked the pastors and volunteers who helped the crusade.

"I am thankful for just how God put all this together," Gage said.

"I am grateful for the 100s of volunteers. Only Heaven can measure the impact this crusade has made. And I think we can all agree that if one lost soul came to know God this week, it was worth it. Because you can't put a price tag on a lost soul."

Gage added that the real crusade has just started and emphasized the importance of the churches following up with those who decided on a new church home.

From there, different preachers and counselors shared stories they heard from those in attendance.

There were people anywhere from the age of five years old to 94 years old who declared their salvation.

There was not a solitary type of person, either. Basketball players, football players, Lefors students, Pampa students and even a professed atheist declared their love of God.

One person paid his employees to come to the crusade, who then in turn paid it forward to get more employees and their families to come to the crusade.



## Rick Gage addresses preachers

Rick Gage, left, heard stories from preachers and counselors in Pampa at Thursday's luncheon.

But the key still remains: follow-up.

“Aggressively follow up on every decision, and you will continue to see the fruit in the time ahead,” Gage said. “There’s no reason why Pampa can’t have a tremendous impact on this part of the Panhandle.”