

Three Texas GO TELL Crusades See Surprising Salvation Stories among 770 Decisions

Around 770 made life-changing decisions to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior during three Rick Gage GO TELL Crusades in Texas during May.

Also, more than 500 made rededication decisions, and 130 made other decisions during the crusades in Cooper, Center and Mt. Pleasant, which were attended by 14,000.

Gage, president of GO TELL Ministries in Atlanta, also held ON TRACK school assemblies in 30 public schools that were attended by 13,000. He warned the students of the dangers of alcohol, drug and sex abuse.

Cooper GO TELL Crusade

Guest speakers were Ken Freeman and Tony Nolan, worship leader was Chuck Sullivan and the Outcast BMX Team performed at the Cooper High School Football Stadium April 28 through May 1.

Johnny Witherspoon, pastor of Cooper First Baptist Church, said, "We've had numerous professions of faith and seen families changed and a large Believer's Class – all as a result of the crusade."

Cooper Crusade Chairman Yogi Patel said the crusade was special for him when Gage led his 8-year-old son to receive Jesus as his Savior. Patel's daughter also "got more clarity, and now she's headed to the mission field."

Many family members of one of his employees were saved, he added, including her husband, son and one of her two daughters.

Teachers reported "a sweet spirit" over the school system, he said. "During the lunch hour, the students were praying. This is not normal for our school system." Also, "a lot of the youth provided the bulk of the manpower."

Cooper Crusade Co-Chairman Diane Bosscher said a remarkable decision she witnessed was the recommitment of a friend's husband, "a new Christian" who "needed healing." Not knowing the situation, Mrs. Bosscher said Gage felt God pushing him to go up to him and ask him if he wanted to make a decision since he stood up but had not gone down the aisle. "That was a 'Wow, God!' moment," she added.

A Cooper Crusade counselor, Mickey Oates said he saw seven of his grandchildren, two boys and five girls, make salvation decisions.

Oates also said he is grateful that he was able "to lead five young people to the Lord."

Another instance was of three grandchildren in one family deciding to receive Jesus as their Savior.

This crusade "has slapped turned our little town up on its ear," Oates said.

Center / ARK LA TEX GO TELL Crusade

Guest speakers included Ken Freeman, Tony Nolan, Jose Alvarez and Scott Camp at Roughrider Stadium in Shelby County on May 5-8. Worship music was led by Chuck Sullivan and Joy Fowler, and the Outcast BMX Team performed.

Even before the crusade, ARK LA TEX Crusade Youth Chairman Rusty Hall said they prayed with a teen girl in a restaurant whose mother is in jail in Florida. During the crusade, volunteers drove this young lady, who had no church upbringing, to the crusade each evening, where she prayed to receive Jesus, he said.

Now she has returned to Florida. "This girl has a lot to overcome. She doesn't have anyone to encourage her," he added.

Hall noted many counselors had their eyes opened to the problems experienced by young people, including abandonment, suicide and abuse. "Problems they thought were far away were right before them," he added.

Since the crusade, Hall said two students in his church youth group were sharing the Gospel message at school. When one student rejected their appeal, "they were broken and weeping before him."

Various students also are taking their Bibles to school. "We're going to try to disciple some of these youth leaders to be ready for the fall in their schools," Hall said.

On May 22 and 23, Hall said several churches donated around \$30,000 to help the Oklahoma tornado victims. Four trailers of food and supplies were taken to Oklahoma on May 24, he added.

Michael Hale, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Center, said two ladies from his church counseled a mother and her daughter and led them to the Lord.

"Someone else led two other sisters and a boyfriend to the Lord. To me, the interesting part of the story is the mother and daughters had just moved to Center, and they were invited to attend by another young man," Hale noted.

A crusade advisor, the Rev. Aubie McSwain, pastor of the First Christian Church of Center, said he was asked to help a counselor with two young ladies who had come forward to make decisions – one for salvation and one for release from depression after the passing of her father. "Both of these young ladies are now very active in their church."

Rev. McSwain said he gratefully recalls when Gage came to Center in 1999 for a crusade when one of Rev. McSwain's sons, now deceased, was "gloriously saved" after being "in and out of jail" and "using drugs" and alcohol.

That son and another son "started a ministry here in Center that reached many, many young people for the next several years," Rev. McSwain said. "That is why I was so very interested in Bro. Rick Gage coming back to town to conduct another GO TELL Crusade in our county."

“God showed up and showed out,” said Bishop W. C. Martin, pastor of Bennett Chapel Church in the Possum Trot community of Shelbyville. “Every night was powerful – every night, drawing people nigh to God as well as to one another.

“I am truly thankful and grateful for the crusade, yoking us together and bringing us together,” added Bishop Martin, also the founder of nationally known Saving a Generation Ministry, Inc.

Mt. Pleasant Crusade

Guest speakers were Ken Freeman, Jose Alvarez and Tony Nolan at Sam Parker Field on May 12-15. Worship music again was led by Chuck Sullivan and Joy Fowler, and the Outcast BMX Team performed.

Of the crusade, Mt. Pleasant Crusade Secretary Cindy Penn, executive assistant to Bo Pilgrim and Ken Pilgrim at Pilgrim Enterprises, said, “I have never experienced anything like it in my life.”

One amazing example she described is 9 of 11 alternative school students made some type of commitment during a specially designed event for them at Calvary Baptist Church.

She said the event was organized by Crusade Prayer Chairman Judy Capps, wife of Crusade Co-Chairman Steve Capps, on the Wednesday afternoon of Crusade Week.

Free tacos were provided for the students along with performances by the Crusade Worship Team and an appeal by Hispanic evangelist Jose Alvarez.

She also said Mrs. Capps and her team prayed over every seat every night.

Capps said he has “a lot of stories of salvation and how those have caused a chain reaction.”

“The biggest thing that had an effect on me was the testimony of Neal O’Quinn, 73, a member of the First Baptist Church of Pittsburg for years and a close friend of Bo Pilgrim. Mr. O’Quinn accepted Christ after Ken Freeman spoke on Tuesday night, something that he knew he needed to do for some time.”

About a month before the crusade, “Neal and his wife were on a trip with Bo and Patty Pilgrim, and Bo asked all those who were there if they knew their spiritual birthday, the day they invited Jesus into their hearts and allowed Him to become Lord and Master. All could remember that day or experience but Neal. The seed was planted, it grew and the harvest came that Tuesday night.”

After sharing that story with some of his Capps Insurance Agency staff, Capps said, “Another seed was planted. My business partner of 19 years, whom I thought was saved, got his spiritual birthday on Wednesday evening! Then the following Wednesday in a class that my wife and I teach, after sharing both of these testimonies, another lady in our class accepted Christ! He is good, and I will continue to pray for boldness to ask, ‘Do you know your spiritual birthday?’ and let the Lord do the rest.”

Mike Kessler, senior pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Mt. Pleasant, said, “One lady invited her coworker, who was saved and has been at church ever since. After her baptism, this lady will be disciplined by the one who invited her to the crusade.”

Will Hall of the GO TELL staff recalled, "Sunday night, a number of Spanish-speaking guests reported headset problems once we were well into Rick's message. After some quick checks, we went to the press box, where the translator was stationed, and found that there was no sound because he couldn't speak.

Instead, "he was sobbing uncontrollably because the Holy Spirit convicted his heart as he was translating. We quickly replaced him and had two pastors counsel him right there in the booth, and he repented and restored his fellowship with the Lord," Hall said.

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.