

EVENTS // CULTURE // MISSION FOLLOW THE FLOW AT CHAMPION FOREST

FALL 2016

CURRENT

MAGAZINE

100,000 MEALS

FIGHTING WORLD HUNGER
ONE MEAL AT A TIME

FREE TO LIVE WITHOUT FEAR

OVERCOMING THE FEAR OF DEATH

BRINGING HOPE & BREAKING CHAINS

CFBC MEMBER MAKES A DIFFERENCE
IN HER COMMUNITY



AYUDA PARA LOS INDIGENTES

LIBRE DE VIVIR SIN TEMOR

en Español

HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

HOW ONE WOMAN IS BRINGING HOPE AND
HEALING TO THE STREETS OF HOUSTON

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en Español

CURRENT MAGAZINE is produced by the Communications Department of Champion Forest Baptist Church.



HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

HOW ONE WOMAN IS BRINGING HOPE AND HEALING TO THE STREETS OF HOUSTON

PAGE 10



**GREETINGS FROM
PASTOR DAVID &
BEVERLY FLEMING**

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR THE CAUSE OF CHRIST

Thank you for picking up this latest edition of Current Magazine. Beverly and I hope you enjoy the exciting and ongoing story of God's activity in and through his people at Champion Forest Baptist Church. After you have read this, perhaps you can pass it along to a friend who might be interested in learning more about our Lord and his church. God is doing an amazing work at Champion Forest, and we are excited to share it with you.

We are a multicultural and multigenerational church helping all kinds of people make sense out of life through Christ-centered living. We all live in a troubled world, so many of us live with troubled lives. When we put Jesus first and order our life's priorities around him, life begins to make sense. I can assure you; Jesus can make sense out of your life as well.

It begins with a relationship with God through Jesus. We turn from sin and self, and to Jesus, and are born into his family by faith. That's when we begin to live a new life in Christ. We nurture our relationship with Christ every day through prayer and devotion, and we connect to our church family every week in dynamic worship. We go deeper in Life Groups where we gather around God's Word, pray for and support one another, and build authentic relationships.

We are a mission-minded church, making a difference within our city, across our nation, and around the world. There are so many opportunities to get involved in the ministry of Champion Forest and to make a difference in your world. So, we invite YOU to join us on the journey.

With You in His Certain Victory,
PASTOR DAVID & BEVERLY FLEMING

FREE TO LIVE WITHOUT FEAR

by
**CHRIS
DUPOND**

**“I’M GOING
TO DIE...
SOMEDAY IT
WILL BE MY
TURN.”**

How I overcame a tormenting fear of death.

For years, I lived with a severe phobia that brought ongoing dread and distress. Looking back now, I can pinpoint the exact moment in my life when fear grabbed hold of me. I was six years old, relaxing in front of the TV at my home in Mexico. A cartoon consumed my attention...

Mr. Vitalis, his adopted son Remi, and their white dog Capi were in desperate need of shelter as they fled Paris during one of the worst snow storms of all time. As street performers, they had very little money and couldn’t afford a hotel room, so they set out to find public shelter. Unfortunately, temperatures dropped, and weather conditions worsened, covering the streets in a blanket of snow, forcing Vitalis and Remi to make do by hunkering down in what remained of a roofless barn.

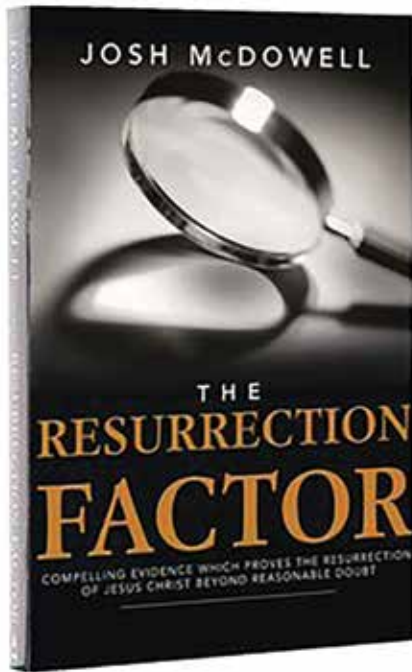
Vitalis was soon awakened by Capi’s frantic barking and realized that young Remi was dangerously cold and hardly conscience. In a valiant effort to save his son, Vitalis dug beneath the snow and uncovered a patch of straw where he laid Remi next to Capi, then covered them both with the warmth of his body. As Remi slept warm,

Vitalis’ life faded, having sacrificed himself in the cold to save his dear son.

And with that, a wave of fear came over me in the form of debilitating thoughts concerning my mortality: “I’m going to die. Today was Mr. Vitalis’ turn, but someday it will be my turn.”

My father found me crying inconsolably in my bedroom. To cheer me up, he held up a Catholic Catechism and assured me that within those pages, it was written that I wouldn’t die. We were nominal Catholics—only set foot in a church for funerals and weddings—and I didn’t take much of my religion to heart. So I dismissed what my father said and lived from that day on with an unshakable, miserable sense of impending death and doom.

Twelve years later, I attended a wedding where a couple remarried in an attempt to give their relationship a second chance. It turns out that their daughter, Katya, would later become my wife and companion for life. But at that wedding, I made the decision to become a Christian and began to learn about Jesus Christ. My conversion



One day, while perusing my father's collection of theological books, I came across a title that caught my attention...

was fairly anti-climactic—I did not feel different, happier, or enlightened—and I was still not entirely convinced the Bible was true. However, I began to read and learn from the scriptures, which was hugely beneficial. Nonetheless, my fear of death persisted, haunting me day and night.

One day, while perusing my father's collection of theological books, I came across a title that caught my attention: *The Resurrection Factor* by Josh McDowell—a historical case for the Resurrection of Jesus. I dove in, and by the time I finished reading it, it was as if a huge boulder lifted from my back; what I believed in my heart finally made sense in my head! I closed the book with a conviction that Christianity is

true, that the resurrection of Jesus actually happened, and His words can be trusted—words such as, “Because I live, you also will live” (John 14:19).

These revelations freed me—finally, the shadow of doom vanished! No more fear of death!

I was also equipped now with biblical truth and knowledge that kept my faith grounded throughout my college years when our beliefs are so often put to the test.

Fast forward two decades, and my wife Katya and I now live in Houston, Texas, with our daughters Giselle (8) and Juliette (11). I've had a successful career in the computer science field, but what Katya

and I enjoy most is teaching and serving at our church, Champion Forest.

About four years ago, two of our brightest students became staunch atheists. I found this to be devastating, and it sent me on a quest for answers. In my search, I stumbled across a debate between Dr. William Lane Craig, a Christian, and the late Christopher Hitchens, an avid modern-day atheist. With truth, love, wisdom, and respect, Dr. Craig utterly obliterated every argument set forth by Mr. Hitchens. It turns out Dr. Craig is one of the leading Christian case-makers today.

After these events, I decided to pursue graduate studies in Christian Apologetics at Biola University, where Dr. Craig and

I CLOSED THE BOOK WITH A CONVICTION THAT CHRISTIANITY IS TRUE, THAT THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS ACTUALLY HAPPENED, AND HIS WORDS CAN BE TRUSTED

“Because I live,
you also will live.”

– Jesus (John 14:19)

some of the top Christian thinkers in the world teach. Apologetics is not about apologizing for being a Christian, but it is the branch of Christianity dedicated to providing a reasonable response to the big questions about Christianity and God. Apologetics is about what we believe and why we believe it so that the Gospel can fall on fertile ground. There is no doubt in my mind that God used apologetics in my life so I could clearly see the Gospel of Christ and know that Christianity is objectively true and reasonable.

In addition to learning directly from Dr. Craig at Biola, one of my last classes was with Dr. Sean McDowell. If the last name sounds familiar, it should. Sean is Josh McDowell’s son, the author of *The Resurrection Factor* and the man God used to show me the truth of Christianity over twenty years ago when I fully surrendered my life to Christ and gained freedom from the shadow of death that burdened my soul.

These last three years of deep study have been some of the most difficult for our family but also deeply rewarding. The study of the reasons for our faith has given me hope. It has given me such hope that I can face death—look it in the eye—and be reassured that it has lost its grip on me and on those loved ones who share that same hope. Death has been defeated. For the Apostle Paul, this became an evident reality as he wrote, “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” (1 Corinthians 15:55)

Simply put, in the words of Professor Gary Habermas, “Death, you’ve got nothing, you’ve got nothing!”



CHRIS DUPOND AND HIS WIFE KATYA ►

CULTIVATING GRATITUDE

“Then King David went in and sat before the Lord and said, ‘Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far? And this was a small thing in your eyes, O God. You have also spoken of your servant’s house for a great while to come, and have shown me future generations, O Lord God!’” **1 Chronicles 17:16-17 (ESV)**

King David expressed utmost gratitude for what God had done for him. Cultivate gratitude. Put gratitude in your attitude. Consider Jim Elliot’s insight, “One of the greatest blessings of heaven is the appreciation of heaven on earth.” Be thankful. Be appreciative. Be grateful.

As you cultivate gratitude, you will notice that your perspective on life will become healthier. Your interaction with others will be seasoned with grace. Instead of being critical of others, you will become compassionate towards others. Gratitude will enable you to enjoy what God has given you and will allow you to appreciate the blessings God has lavished on you.

“Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!” **Psalms 105:1 (ESV)**

“And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, ‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.’” **Revelation 7:11-12 (ESV)**

Cultivating gratitude will unleash God’s love in you and through you. Be thankful for what God has done to reconcile you to Himself. Be appreciative of God’s invitation for you to join Him in His activity. Be grateful for the opportunities God gives you to spread the love of Christ.

Dr. Stephen Trammell is the executive pastor of CFBC, and also serves as Lead Pastor of our North Campus.

by
**Dr. Stephen
Trammell**





WINGS

Bringing Hope, Breaking Chains, Changing Community

How CFBC member Kathy Wortham is a difference maker in her community.

Like so many others of past generations, I grew up with an antiquated belief system of silence. Speaking out and shedding light on abuse within the family, particularly sexual abuse, was shameful. Over the years I learned ways to survive, to disguise and use my wounds in unhealthy ways, while projecting a triumphant face to the world. Thankfully, I accepted Jesus at an early age because without Him I literally wouldn't have. But God desires more for His children than mere "survival," His Son died so we may LIVE whole, forgiven and free.

As a teenager, I ran away from home and came within a hair's breadth of becoming a trafficked person. Later I ran in other ways, driven by a broken sense of self. I attempted to act as a healer of my own wounds and champion for the oppressed. But when we give our lives to Christ, all darkness is revealed by His Light so we can live as He created us to be.

In 2011 the Lord led me to the human rights organization LOVE146 which works to end child trafficking internationally, and it immediately spoke to my heart. However, after much prayer, I felt God wanted me to reach out to adult women locally. I was blessed to meet Kate Callan at Redeemed Ministries where a bond of sisterhood and an incredible ministry partnership formed. Kate had been serving at the Harris County Jail conducting church services for women when the head chaplain approached her saying, "We have a lot of Bible studies and prayer services, all of them wonderful. What they need now is a class which will help them find a job when they get out of jail!" Kate followed God's Call to create an educational program meeting the need and invited me to join her on the journey. This is how WINGS came about. By equipping women with work and life skills, wrapped in The Word of God, they are more likely to succeed in living healthy, independent lives.

WINGS serves women in pre-trial programs, incarceration, transitional recovery programs, and the marginalized due to adverse life

situations. We offer women hope for a transformed life through work/life skills education; an introduction or reintroduction to faith in Christ through scripture and prayer; development of strong identity and emotional regulation skills; sharing insights, wisdom, and ministry of love through listening and encouragement; and free-world resourcing. Our Mission is to help women discover and embrace their identity in Christ while learning essential skills necessary to meet the challenges of life. Our

& | Kathy Wortham
Kate Callan



Our Butterflies have shared powerful testimonies of how God has taken them from the darkest of places and lifted them into His Light!

Vision is to glorify God, build his kingdom, and empower women to find freedom through the transforming power of Christ.

WINGS Ministries currently serves women in four locations: Harris County SAFE Court; Santa Maria Jacquelyn Street and Bonita House (BAMBI Program), and the Lucille Plane State Prison in Dayton. Further expansion opportunities are being prayed over for 2017. We offer opportunities to serve in the classroom and virtually, and we need many women volunteers, ages 21 plus. WINGS volunteers participate in "Bringing Hope, Breaking Chains and

Changing Community" every time they provide a multitude of touch-points into our Butterflies' lives. Ways to serve include a variety of in-class instructor roles, our prayer team, resource research, administrative duties and more.

We call the women we serve Butterflies because of the metamorphosis which takes place as the Holy Spirit transforms them from individuals chained and bound in sin, to transformed women, freed by grace. This change positively impacts their families, friends, and communities. Our Butterflies have shared powerful testimonies of how God has taken them from the darkest of places and lifted them into His light! Here are some of the things our graduates have shared with us:

- "The instructors have so much care and concern for each one of us. Since I've been in the WINGS classes, I trust and believe with God's Love and with all these new resources I will be able to change my bad life style into a new life."

One of my favorite moments is when leaving the Champion Forest parking lot, the exit sign reads, "You are now entering your ministry field." Take a moment and think about what that means. Opportunities to serve our Lord are not just across the ocean but in our backyards, our neighborhoods, and our communities. My heart fills with joy at having been given the opportunity to say, "Come, join us at WINGS in sharing Christ's Good News!" If you're interested in helping us out, we would love to help you develop and share your spiritual gifts with women in need of Christ's Love and Grace!



- "I no longer feel anxious or ashamed of my time here because I've learned how to start over with my head held high!"

- "This class has been very useful for when I get out as well as for my husband. I've called him, telling him what I have learned, as well as given him the information for himself and one of our children. Thank you."

Want to get involved with this incredible ministry?
Just send Kathy an email at kathywortham.wings@gmail.com

DECEMBER

8-11

2016

CHRISTMAS

SPECTACULAR

AT CHAMPION FOREST BAPTIST CHURCH



with performances
featuring:

MAGNIFY DANCE
COMPANY

GUEST ARTIST
TARANDA
GREENE

PERCUSSION
ONE

600 VOICE
CHOIR

LIVE
ANIMALS

THURSDAY, December 8 - 7pm English
FRIDAY, December 9 - 7pm English
SATURDAY, December 10 - 3pm English; 7pm Spanish
SUNDAY, December 11 - 3pm Spanish; 7pm English

For information visit championforest.org or call 844-885-1995 (Toll free)
Champion Forest Baptist Church • 15555 Stuebner-Airline Rd. Houston, TX 77069

TICKETS FROM

\$5

Reserve your seat at
championforest.org

A PERSONAL INVITATION FROM THE DIRECTOR



I'D LIKE TO PERSONALLY INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR CHAMPION FOREST'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, "CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR." EACH YEAR, A TON OF HARD WORK GOES INTO PULLING OFF THE SHOW. I WANT TO SEND OUT A HUGE "THANK YOU" TO EVERYONE THAT'S CONTRIBUTED TO OUR 2016 PROGRAM. DID YOU KNOW THIS YEAR WE HAVE OVER 900 PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE SHOW? THAT'S RIGHT, 900! SINGERS, DANCERS, STAGE HANDS, CONSTRUCTION CREWS, COSTUME DESIGNERS... I'M SIMPLY IN AWE OF THE HUNDREDS OF UNBELIEVABLE VOLUNTEERS THAT SO FREELY GIVE THEIR PERSONAL TIME AND EFFORT TO HELP THE SHOW TRULY BE... SPECTACULAR!

WE'RE VERY EXCITED ABOUT A LOT OF NEW FEATURES. WE'VE GOT A COMPLETELY REVAMPED ACT I, ALONG WITH NEW SONGS, DANCES, AND CHARACTERS, CERTAIN TO GET YOU IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT! ALSO, OUR GOOD FRIEND AND AMAZING VOCALIST, TARANDA GREENE, WILL BE HERE THIS YEAR. IF YOU HAVEN'T HEARD HER SING, YOU'RE MISSING OUT! OUR ACT II TRADITIONAL PORTRAYAL OF JESUS' BIRTH WILL ONCE AGAIN MAKE THE STORY COME ALIVE, AND YES, THERE WILL BE AN ELEPHANT INVOLVED!

YOU MIGHT ASK, WHY DOES CFBC PUT SO MUCH TIME AND RESOURCES INTO A CHRISTMAS SHOW? THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE. WE BELIEVE THAT THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS IS THE GREATEST STORY OF ALL, THE STORY OF JESUS COMING TO EARTH TO SAVE HUMANITY FROM THEIR SIN, AND WE KNOW THAT THE WORLD NEEDS TO HEAR THIS STORY. EACH YEAR AS WE PUT THAT STORY ON DISPLAY, WE SEE MANY PEOPLE COME TO TRUST CHRIST AS THEIR SAVIOR, WHICH MAKES IT ALL WORTH IT. WE INFUSE THE SHOW WITH SO MUCH FUN, MAKING IT EASY FOR THE COMMUNITY TO WANT TO COME. WE SINCERELY HOPE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY CAN MAKE IT OUT TO THE SHOW, BUT MORE THAN THAT, WE HOPE THAT YOU ALSO INVITE ANYONE THAT NEEDS TO HEAR THIS STORY, GOD'S STORY.



BRENT DYER
DIRECTOR

HELP FOR THE HOMELESS



Feature Article

How one woman is bringing hope and healing to the streets of Houston

“Lord, break my heart for what breaks yours.”

When Kristyn Stillwell prayed that bold prayer in the summer of 2010, she had no idea how God would answer—only that she felt stirred to serve Him in a greater way. Sure enough, God was faithful to reveal His heart to her through unmistakable circumstances. While driving the familiar streets of northwest Houston, she began to notice a particular people group that she had overlooked countless times before. Now suddenly, everywhere she went, her attention drew to our city’s homeless population, and she became consumed with compassion.

“I feel your heart breaking for these people, Lord,” she prayed, “but what can I do?”

Within a couple of weeks, the Lord answered yet again. While participating in a FAITH Evangelism Training course at her church, Champion Forest Baptist, Kristyn and her FAITH team visited a home as part of the outreach portion of the class. Sure enough, a team member happened to mention that a local group was looking to start feeding the homeless in northwest Houston. Kristyn reached out immediately and made it known that she would love to donate time and finances to the effort.

On Saturday, November 20, 2010, Kristyn served in street ministry for the very first time. She and fellow volunteers stopped at Beltway 8 and Veterans Memorial where they approached some homeless men and women gathered at a Texaco station, washing windshields in the intersection.

Kristyn handed out warm bowls of chicken and dumplings along with socks and hygiene items, but their outreach effort didn’t stop there. She and the volunteers were intentional to talk with those whom they were serving, asking their names and conversing as a practical way to show they cared and respected them as fellow human beings.

In a matter of minutes, Kristyn learned that thirteen homeless men and women were living under a nearby bridge, and she became an eye-witness to the deplorable living conditions: two old tents, tattered blankets, and a filthy mattress among the rubble. There was plenty of evidence of substance abuse scattered around as well, but Kristyn was not afraid nor repulsed.

She was heartbroken for the broken hearts she met that day.

Among the homeless was a man in his mid-forties named Robert and his girlfriend, Dana. He was upfront about his criminal offenses, dysfunctional upbringing, and alcohol addiction that dated back to childhood. He was also open about his spiritual background, professing to have made Jesus his savior many years prior. He was admittedly at a low point in life and was quick to bow his head and join hands with Kristyn when she offered to pray for him.

In the weeks that followed, as Kristyn returned every Saturday to minister to



In a matter of minutes, Kristyn learned that thirteen homeless men and women were living under a nearby bridge...

AFTER HAVING HELPED APPROXIMATELY 70 HOMELESS PEOPLE OFF THE STREETS, KRISTYN BEGAN PRAYING ABOUT LEAVING HER JOB WITH MARY KAY TO DEVOTE HERSELF FULL TIME TO HOMELESS MINISTRY



the needs of the homeless and continue building relationships, she witnessed a glimmer of hope spark in many who were once resigned to hopelessness. They began asking for help. Eager to be of assistance, Kristyn started meeting practical needs throughout the week—supplying more tents, transporting willing men and women to rehab facilities, connecting displaced individuals with family members, and organizing the homeless ministry volunteers.

Before long, Kristyn was asked to head up the homeless ministry known as 249 and Hope. It was a challenge to balance the demands of the ministry and her thriving career as a director for Mary Kay Cosmetics, but Kristyn prayerfully determined to make it work.

Over time, on multiple occasions, Kristyn helped Robert get into rehab, but each time, he dropped out and returned to the streets. Meanwhile, in May 2011, his girlfriend Dana made up her mind she wanted to get off the streets and pursue her dream of working as a hairdresser. However, if Dana was ever going to realize her dream and work in an industry where one's outer image is considered vital, she would have to have extensive, costly dental work to fix her unsightly teeth.

As a means to help Dana reach her goal, Kristyn committed to mentor and train her to sell Mary Kay products. "I told her to be honest with clients about why she's selling

Mary Kay," Kristyn says, "because she was saving up to pay to have her teeth fixed."

Within six months, Dana had earned all the money she needed and was able to pay for her dental work. She also reunited with her family, who accepted her back and gave her a place to live until she could get her own apartment. Dana had made a promise to Kristyn that she would not go back to the streets, and as of today—five years later—not only has she kept her commitment, but she now lives independently and owns her own hair studio!

In May 2012, Robert finally hit rock bottom and reached out to Kristyn for help. He had no driver's license, no family, no employment record to speak of, and no ability to overcome his alcohol addiction without help, but he insisted he was finally ready to change. Kristyn picked him up and took him to a 90-day, Christ-centered rehab facility. This time, he completed the program and moved into a transitional-living facility. As Robert continued to progress, Kristyn introduced him to five supportive men as part of a new mentoring program she established for those seeking to transition out of homelessness.

As a result of God's grace, Robert's determination, and the accountability and care from his mentors, Robert was able to maintain sobriety, and in May 2015, he moved into his own apartment! Through the generosity of Champion Forest Baptist Church, his new home came with

furnishings. As of today, Robert has been sober for four years and continues to make forward strides with ongoing support from Kristyn, his team of mentors, and his church family at Champion Forest Baptist.

Kristyn's Efforts Today

Throughout her journey, Kristyn became increasingly aware of the need for a city-wide movement to serve the more than 4,000 homeless men and women living on Houston's streets. She also recognized the personal call to step up and help pioneer the effort. And step up she has!

In 2011, after having successfully transitioned the ministry of 249 and Hope to competent leadership, she launched Champions4Hope homeless ministry at Champion Forest Baptist. Every Saturday, teams of volunteers minister to the practical and spiritual needs of homeless individuals in the Spring area.

In the summer of 2015, after having helped approximately 70 homeless people off the streets, Kristyn began praying about leaving her job with Mary Kay to devote herself full time to homeless ministry. It was a major decision, but ultimately, she followed God's leading and embraced the ministry as her sole occupation.

It turns out, God's timing was perfect! In October 2015, Kristyn founded H.O.P.E. Haven—a support organization for



KRISTYN WAS SOON CONTACTED BY THE HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO PARTNER WITH THEIR NEW HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM



In October 2015, Kristyn founded H.O.P.E. Haven—a support organization for Houston's homeless.

Houston's homeless that is Helping Others Pursue Excellence through the love of Christ Jesus and a hope for a future.

Kristyn was soon contacted by the Harris County Sheriff's Office to partner with their new Homeless Outreach Team, contributing insight and assistance as they sought to launch their ground-breaking program. Kristyn not only offices in their same complex, but throughout the week, rides along with a team of deputies in the transport van, providing assistance for homeless people in need of help such as medical care, food, clothing, shelter, and rehabilitation.

As of May 2016, H.O.P.E. Haven and Harris County's Homeless Outreach Team have responded to approximately 650 calls for assistance and have made it possible for 55 homeless people to transition off the streets. The effort has brought city-wide attention, inspiring 22 community organizations to partner for the cause.

Local churches are also teaming up to help. St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church rallied support from 16 additional churches of varying denominations to help launch the new Hope Center at I-45 and 1960. This is the first and only day center for

the homeless in northwest Houston. Individuals are welcomed off the streets into an indoor facility where they have access to a variety of programs such as case worker assistance, Bible studies, and Celebrate Recovery meetings.

Kristyn is currently in the process of developing Hope in a Box—a program that empowers churches and organizations in cities throughout the United States to implement homeless ministries in their communities effectively. She is hopeful that the Lord will continue to raise up individuals who desire to love and assist homeless people and who willingly pray for the Lord to break their hearts for what breaks His.

For information on how to participate in homeless ministry, donate resources or finances, or make an inquiry related to Kristyn Stillwell's outreach to the homeless, visit hhaven.org!



Orphan Care

CHAMPION FOREST BAPTIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER
is National Adoption Month!

To be a blessing to our local community of children in need, the CFBC Orphan Care Ministry is collecting the items below throughout the month of November for donation.

For more information, please contact Yaneth Diaz at yaneth.diaz@cru.org or (832) 277-0866.

- Fire extinguishers (at least 5 lbs)
- Smoke detectors
- Carbon monoxide alarms
- Child safety items for the home (outlet covers, cabinet door locks, fireplace covers, etc.)
- Storage container with a lock for storing medicine
- Gift cards for clothes & necessities
- Suitcases

» **OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE**
Wednesday, November 16 @ 6:45pm in LE. 201/216

YOU ARE INVITED TO

a candle light
CHRISTMAS
AT CHAMPION FOREST

CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday, Dec 24

&

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, Dec 25

Locations & service times available online

www.championforest.org/candlelight



MY CFBC EXPERIENCE

Local Family Finds New Church Home

Driving by and looking over from the street I always saw a massive building sitting on a large campus thinking, "I bet I would get lost in that place." Then finally one day I decided to take the advice of some friends and try out a Sunday service. Yep, there are A LOT of people in here, friendly I might add, but a lot of them!

Since we were looking for a new church home, I went ahead and filled out the visitor's card and put it in the offering plate during our visit. Low and behold that evening there was a knock on my door, and there was [CFBC Mobilization Pastor] Jeff Skipper along with a couple of other leaders from the church. At first, I was like "here we go" but for some reason, there was an instant connection with all three of them just like I felt when we walked into the church. It's funny how large Champion Forest is yet now that we are members and part of a life group, it doesn't feel that big at all.

Fortunately, we found a life group that we felt was a good fit and have tremendously enjoyed getting to know the other couples each week. After the announcements each week, our life group starts with Praise and Prayer requests. How cool is that? Another chance to get even more help or reason for celebration.

Lately, my family has needed the extra help. My husband is a Sergeant with Harris County Precinct 4, and as you know, law enforcement in general been struggling

I ALWAYS SAW A MASSIVE BUILDING SITTING ON A LARGE CAMPUS THINKING, "I BET I WOULD GET LOST IN THAT PLACE."

with negativity for the past couple of years, making it difficult for them during their shift but also for their families who send them off and worry for those very long eight hours (if not longer). Like many times before, I turned to the church for help and that is when I ran across the online prayer request. I thought that my husband could most certainly use some extra encouragement, so I filled out a prayer request for him. About a week or so later, a card notifying him someone was praying for him arrived. Watching how that touched his heart while he was reading it was so moving. He then received another one from someone else! Something that may seem so insignificant to others can mean the world to someone who is going through a difficult time.

Bill does not have a regular work schedule like I do, and Sunday is the only day off we share together. Like most of us, it's tempting to sleep in from time to time, but there is something about Champion Forest that gets us up and excited to go to church. Pastor Fleming has been so inspiring with his messages from God's word each Sunday and how applicable

they have been to our lives. Even though we are still relatively new, we feel like we have known him for quite some time.

Our connection at Champion Forest was completely meant to be. Seeing God's work play out through Champion Forest as a family has been so rewarding. Thank you CFBC.

"There is something about Champion Forest that gets us up and excited to go to church."



100,000

meals packaged, boxed, and shipped.

FIGHTING WORLD HUNGER ONE MEAL AT A TIME

On the first day of October, hundreds of CFBC volunteers gathered out in the Multi-Purpose Building to try to put a dent in world hunger. Just a month earlier, information about the day was made public, asking for anyone that was willing to help to register online. By the week of the event, all of the volunteer spots were filled. One thing is clear, Champion Forest is full of people with a heart to serve, and serve they did. At the start of each shift, teams assembled, and volunteers took different roles. Whether you were a “rice-scooper,” “bag-sealer,” or “box-stuffer,” everyone had a great time while doing the work that day. A mandatory team cheer was required upon completion of each box, so as you can imagine the room was a little noisy!

In partnership with the amazing non-profit organization Feed My Starving Children, over 100,000 MannaPack™ meals were prepped,

One of the neatest aspects of the day was to look around and see so much diversity among the volunteers. Whether it was young or old, black

Some 795 million people in the world do not have enough food to lead a healthy active life. That's about one in nine people on earth.* -FAO

boxed, and shipped as a result of the effort. The boxes made their way out to FMSC's partnerships around the world to provide healthy meals for hungry families. These meals provide nutrition to kids all around the globe so that they can grow, thrive, and develop to their God-given potential. FMSC's mission is first to meet the physical needs of the people they serve so that they can then respond to their spiritual needs and introduce them to God.

or white, Spanish-speaking or English-speaking, everyone united for one goal and one cause: making a difference through the love of Christ. That's one thing at the heart of what Champion Forest is all about, seeing all kinds of people join for something bigger than themselves. What a joy to be able to get in on the bigger story, to join in on God's activity, and to have fun in the process!

**Source: State of Food Insecurity in the World, FAO, 2015.*





NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION

You're invited to a special celebratory New Year's worship service
at CHAMPION FOREST BAPTIST CHURCH

Locations & service times available online

<http://www.championforest.org/newyear>



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2017

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MISSIONS AT CHAMPION FOREST

Since the beginning, Champion Forest has placed a strong emphasis on missions. Over the years, thousands of church members have gone on mission trips all over the world. 2017 will be a landmark year as we will send out over 20 teams literally across the globe. Of course, there is much more to missions than our mission trips; living a missional life is at the core of who we are as believers. God has called us to be a shining city on a hill, fishers of men, salt, and light right here in our community. But He has also called us to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Whether it's ministering to missionary families in Africa, assisting church plants in South America, or bringing hope to the hopeless in Germany, one thing we know is that signing up for a mission trip is something that no one ever regrets. There are dozens of opportunities for all ages, from 5th grade on up. Perhaps this year is your year. We kindly ask you to pray about it. Maybe God is calling you to sign up, to step up, and to **go**.

For more information please visit www.championforest.org



AYUDA Artículo Principal

PARA LOS INDIGENTES

Trayendo esperanza
y sanidad a las calles
de Houston

“Señor, haz que a mi corazón le duela lo que te duele a ti.”

Esta fue la oración de Kristyn Stillwell en el verano del 2010 y ella nunca se imaginó la respuesta tan especial que Dios le tenía —solamente se sentía movida a servirle de una manera más grande. Efectivamente, Dios fue fiel para revelarles su corazón a través de circunstancias inconfundibles. Mientras conducía por las ya familiares calles del noroeste de Houston, comenzó a notar un determinado grupo de personas que en innumerables ocasiones había pasado por alto. Ahora, de repente, donde quiera que fuera, su atención se dirigía a las personas sin hogar de nuestra ciudad y la consumía la compasión.

Ella oró: “Señor, siento que tu corazón se rompe por esta gente, pero ¿qué puedo hacer yo?”

Al cabo de un par de semanas, el Señor contestó nuevamente. Mientras participaba en un curso de entrenamiento para evangelización FAITH de su iglesia Champion Forest Baptist, Kristyn y su equipo de FAITH visitaron una familia. Mientras conversaban con los miembros de la familia, uno de ellos mencionó acerca de un grupo local que estaba tratando de empezar un ministerio para alimentar a los indigentes del noroeste de Houston. Inmediatamente Kristyn se abrió y les dejó saber que le encantaría donar su tiempo y apoyar financieramente dicha iniciativa.

El sábado 20 de noviembre del 2010, por primera vez, Kristyn sirvió en el ministerio de la calle. Ella y otros voluntarios se

detuvieron en la intersección del Beltway 8 y Veterans Memorial, donde se acercaron algunos hombres y mujeres sin hogar que se habían reunido en una estación de Texaco para limpiar parabrisas. Kristyn les sirvió pollo y albóndigas calientes y les entregó calcetines y artículos de aseo personal. Sin embargo, su deseo de ayudarles no quedó satisfecho con esto. Tanto ella como los voluntarios fueron intencionales y decidieron hablar con aquellos a quienes estaban sirviendo, preguntándoles su nombre y usando la conversación como una manera práctica para demostrarles que se preocupaban por ellos y les respetaban como seres humanos.

En cuestión de minutos, Kristyn supo que había trece hombres y mujeres sin hogar que vivían debajo de un puente cercano y se convirtió en testigo ocular de las condiciones deplorables en las que habitaban: dos tiendas de campaña en mal estado, mantas rotas y un colchón sucio entre escombros. Además, dispersa alrededor, se veía mucha evidencia de consumo de drogas, pero Kristyn no sintió temor ni repulsión.

Ella tenía el corazón roto por los adoloridos que había conocido ese día.

Entre las personas sin hogar se encontraba un hombre de unos cuarenta y tantos años llamado Robert y su novia Dana. Robert empezó a contarle acerca de sus delitos, su crianza disfuncional y su



En cuestión de minutos, Kristyn supo que había trece hombres y mujeres sin hogar que vivían debajo de un puente cercano...

DESPUÉS DE HABER AYUDADO A SACAR DE LAS CALLES A APROXIMADAMENTE 70 PERSONAS SIN HOGAR, KRISTYN COMENZÓ A ORAR POR LA POSIBILIDAD DE DEJAR SU TRABAJO CON MARY KAY PARA DEDICARSE TIEMPO COMPLETO AL MINISTERIO DE INDIGENTES.



adicción al alcohol que había empezado desde su infancia. Además, contó sobre su trasfondo espiritual, profesando haber recibido a Jesús como su salvador muchos años atrás. Claramente reconocía que se encontraba en un mal momento de su vida y rápidamente inclinó su cabeza y tomó las manos de Kristyn cuando ella se ofreció a orar por él.

Kristyn regresó todos los sábados para ministrar las necesidades de las personas sin hogar y siguió creando una relación con ellos, ella fue testigo del rayo de esperanza que surgió para muchos de los que antes se habían rendido a la desesperanza. Ellos comenzaron a pedir ayuda. Dispuesta a ayudar, Kristyn comenzó a suplir sus necesidades prácticas durante la semana—dándoles más tiendas de campaña, llevando a hombres y mujeres con deseos de rehabilitarse a centros de rehabilitación, reconectando a personas desplazadas con miembros de su familia y organizando el ministerio de voluntarios para ayudar al indigente.

Poco después, le pidieron a Kristyn que dirigiera el ministerio para indigentes conocido como 249 y Hope. Fue un reto equilibrar las exigencias del ministerio y su próspera carrera como directora de la línea de cosméticos Mary Kay; pero, en oración, Kristyn se decidió a hacer que funcionara.

Con el tiempo, en diferentes ocasiones, Kristyn ayudó a Robert a ir a rehabilitación, pero él se rendía y volvía a las calles.

Mientras tanto, en mayo del 2011, su novia Dana decidió que quería salir de las calles para perseguir su sueño de trabajar como peluquera. Sin embargo, para que Dana alguna vez pudiera realizar su sueño de trabajar en una industria en la que se considera la apariencia exterior como de vital importancia, ella necesitaba un costoso tratamiento dental para arreglar su dentadura.

Como un medio para ayudarle a Dana a alcanzar su objetivo, Kristyn se comprometió a guiarla y capacitarla en la venta de productos de Mary Kay. Kristyn dice: “Le dije que fuera honesta con los clientes contándoles que estaba vendiendo Mary Kay, porque estaba ahorrando para poder pagar por su arreglo de los dientes.”

Al cabo de seis meses, Dana había ganado todo el dinero que necesitaba y pudo pagar por su trabajo dental. También se reunió con su familia, que la respaldó y le dio un lugar donde vivir hasta que pudo conseguir su propio apartamento. Ella le había prometido a Kristyn que no iba a volver a las calles y, hasta hoy — cinco años más tarde— no sólo ha mantenido su compromiso, sino que ahora vive de forma independiente y tiene su propio salón de belleza.

En mayo del 2012, Robert finalmente tocó fondo y se acercó a Kristyn en busca de ayuda. No tenía permiso de conducir, ni familia, ni experiencia laboral, ni ninguna posibilidad de superar su adicción al

alcohol sin ayuda; pero él insistió en que, finalmente, estaba listo para cambiar. Kristyn lo recogió y lo llevó a un programa cristiano de rehabilitación. Esta vez, completó el programa y luego se trasladó a una instalación de re-inserción a la vida. Como Robert continuaba progresando, Kristyn le presentó a cinco hombres que lo apoyarían como parte de un nuevo programa de tutoría que ella había establecido para aquellos que buscan salir de la indigencia.

Por la gracia de Dios, la determinación de Robert y la responsabilidad y el cuidado de sus mentores, Robert fue capaz de mantenerse sobrio y, en mayo del 2015, se mudó a su propio apartamento. Por la generosidad de Champion Forest Baptist Church, llegó a su nuevo hogar con muebles. Hasta hoy, Robert ha estado sobrio durante cuatro años y continúa dando pasos hacia adelante con el apoyo permanente de Kristyn, su equipo de mentores y su familia de la iglesia en Champion Forest Baptist.

El trabajo de Kristyn, hoy

Durante su trayectoria, Kristyn se volvió cada vez más conscientes de la necesidad de un movimiento a nivel ciudad con el fin de servir a más de 4.000 hombres y mujeres que viven en las calles de Houston. También reconoció el llamado personal a involucrarse y ayudar a liderar dicha tarea y eso fue lo que hizo. En el 2011, después de haber llevado con éxito



KRISTYN FUE CONTACTADA POR LA OFICINA DEL SHERIFF DEL CONDADO DE HARRIS PARA ASOCIARSE CON SU NUEVO HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM.



En octubre del 2015, Kristyn fundó H.O.P.E. Haven—una organización de apoyo para los indigentes de Houston

el Ministerio de 249 y Hope a un liderazgo competente, inició el Ministerio para indigentes Champions4Hope en Champion Forest Baptist. Todos los sábados, equipos de voluntarios ministran las necesidades prácticas y espirituales de personas sin hogar en el área de Spring.

En el verano del 2015, después de haber ayudado a sacar de las calles a aproximadamente 70 personas sin hogar, Kristyn comenzó a orar por la posibilidad de dejar su trabajo con Mary Kay para dedicarse tiempo completo al ministerio de indigentes. Esa era una decisión muy importante; pero sin dudarlo, siguió la dirección de Dios y se dedicó de lleno al ministerio.

¡Resultó que el tiempo de Dios fue perfecto! En octubre del 2015, Kristyn fundó H.O.P.E. Haven—una organización de apoyo para los indigentes de Houston, que, por sus iniciales en inglés, significa: Ayudar a Otros a Buscar la Excelencia a través del amor de Jesucristo y la esperanza de un futuro.

Poco tiempo después, Kristyn fue contactada por la Oficina del Sheriff del Condado de Harris para asociarse con su nuevo Homeless Outreach Team. Kristyn no sólo pudo tener con ellos su propia oficina, sino que durante toda la semana salía en un microbús con un equipo de comisarios para brindar asistencia a personas indigentes con necesidades tales como atención médica, alimentos, ropa, vivienda y rehabilitación.

Hasta mayo del 2016, H.O.P.E. Haven y el

Homeless Outreach Team del Condado de Harris han respondido a aproximadamente 650 llamadas pidiendo ayuda y han logrado que 55 personas indigentes salgan de las calles. Este esfuerzo ha llamado la atención de toda la ciudad, inspirando a 22 organizaciones comunitarias a unirse a la causa.

Las iglesias locales también se han unido para ayudar. Recientemente, St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church junto a otras dieciséis iglesias de diferentes denominaciones para poner en marcha el nuevo Hope Center en la I-45 y la 1960. Este es el primer y único centro diurno para los indigentes del noroeste de Houston. Allí se recibe a las personas que salen de la calle en unas instalaciones en las que tienen acceso a diferentes servicios como ayuda de trabajadores sociales, estudios bíblicos y reuniones para celebrar su recuperación.

Actualmente, Kristyn se encuentra en el proceso de desarrollar Hope in a Box— un programa que les permite a las iglesias y organizaciones de las ciudades de Estados Unidos aplicar eficazmente el ministerio para indigentes en sus comunidades. Ella tiene la esperanza de que el Señor continúe levantando personas que deseen amar y ayudar a los indigentes y que estén dispuestas a orar para que el Señor haga que a su corazón le duela lo que le duele a Él.

Para mayor información sobre cómo participar en el ministerio de indigentes, donar recursos o apoyar financieramente visite hhaven.org



Orphan Care

CHAMPION FOREST BAPTIST CHURCH

¡NOVIEMBRE
es el Mes Nacional de la Adopción!

Para ser de bendición a los niños con necesidades de nuestra comunidad, el Ministerio de Orphan Care de CFBC estará colectando los artículos de la siguiente lista durante el mes de noviembre para donación.

Para mas información, por favor comuníquese con Yaneth Diaz a yaneth.diaz@cru.org o (832) 277-0866.

- Extinguidor de incendios (por lo menos de 5 libras)
- Detector de humo
- Detectores de Monóxido de Carbono
- Artículos de seguridad para el hogar (cubiertas para enchufes, cerraduras de la puerta del gabinete, cubiertas para la chimenea, etc.)
- Recipiente de almacenamiento con una cerradura para guardar la medicina
- Tarjetas de regalo para ropa y artículos de necesidad
- Maletas

» **NUESTRA PRÓXIMA REUNIÓN SERÁ EL**
miércoles 16 de noviembre a las 6:45pm in LE. 201/216

DICIEMBRE

8-11

2016

LO MARAVILLOSO DE LA
NAVIDAD

EN CHAMPION FOREST BAPTIST CHURCH

las presentaciones incluyen:

MAGNIFY DANCE COMPANY

ANIMALES EN VIVO

ARTISTA INVITADA
TARANDA GREENE

PERCUSSION ONE

CORO CON 600 VOCES

JUEVES, diciembre 8 - 7:00pm Inglés
VIERNES, diciembre 9 - 7:00pm Inglés
SÁBADO, diciembre 10 - 2:00pm Inglés; 7:00pm Español
DOMINGO, diciembre 11 - 2:00pm Español; 7:00pm Inglés

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UNA INVITACIÓN PERSONAL DE PARTE DEL DIRECTOR



ME GUSTARÍA INVITARLE PERSONALMENTE A VENIR AL PROGRAMA ANUAL DE NAVIDAD DE CHAMPION FOREST, "LO MARAVILLOSO DE LA NAVIDAD". CADA AÑO, SE LLEVA A CABO UNA ARDUA LABOR DURANTE LA PREPARACIÓN DEL PROGRAMA. QUIERO DARLE LAS GRACIAS A TODOS LOS QUE HAN CONTRIBUIDO Y APOYADO PARA QUE ESTE PROGRAMA TAMBIÉN SEA UNA HERMOSA REALIDAD EN ESTE 2016. ¿SABÍA QUE ESTE AÑO TENEMOS MÁS DE 900 PERSONAS INVOLUCRADAS EN EL PROGRAMA? ¡SÍ, ASÍ ES, 900! ESTO INCLUYE CANTANTES, BAILARINES, ORGANIZADORES DE ESCENARIO, PERSONAL DE CONSTRUCCIÓN, DISEÑADORES DE VESTUARIO, ETC. ESTOY SIMPLEMENTE ASOMBRADO DE LOS CIENTOS DE VOLUNTARIOS INCREÍBLEMENTE DISPUESTOS A DARNOS GRATUITAMENTE SU TIEMPO Y ESFUERZO PARA AYUDAR A QUE ESTE EVENTO SEA VERDADERAMENTE ¡MARAVILLOSO!

ESTAMOS MUY EMOCIONADOS DE PRESENTAR LAS NOVEDADES QUE TENDREMOS ESTE AÑO. CONTAREMOS CON UN PRIMER ACTO COMPLETAMENTE RENOVADO, LLENO DE MÚSICA, BAILE Y PERSONAJES NUEVOS QUE CIERTAMENTE LE LLEVARÁN A SENTIR EL ESPÍRITU DE LA NAVIDAD. ADEMÁS, NUESTRA BUENA AMIGA Y EXCELENTE CANTANTE, TARANDA GREENE, NOS ACOMPAÑARÁ ESTE AÑO. SI NO LA HA ESCUCHADO CANTAR ANTES, ¡ESTA ES SU OPORTUNIDAD! LUEGO, EN EL SEGUNDO ACTO TENDREMOS EL TRADICIONAL RELATO DEL NACIMIENTO DE JESÚS Y NUEVAMENTE REVIVIREMOS LA HISTORIA Y... SÍ... ¡TENDREMOS UN ELEFANTE!

USTED PODRÍA PREGUNTARSE ¿POR QUÉ CFBC INVIERTE TANTO TIEMPO Y RECURSOS EN EL PROGRAMA DE NAVIDAD? LA RESPUESTA ES SIMPLE: CREEMOS QUE LA HISTORIA DE LA NAVIDAD ES LA MÁS IMPORTANTE DE TODAS, PUES NOS CUENTA DE JESÚS VINIENDO A LA TIERRA PARA SALVAR A LA HUMANIDAD DEL PECADO Y SABEMOS QUE EL MUNDO NECESITA ESCUCHAR ESTA HISTORIA. CADA AÑO CUANDO PRESENTAMOS ESTA HISTORIA, VEMOS MUCHAS PERSONAS RECIBIR A CRISTO COMO SU SALVADOR Y ESTO HACE QUE VALGA LA PENA. LE PONEMOS MUCHA DIVERSIÓN AL PROGRAMA PARA HACER QUE LA GENTE DE LA COMUNIDAD QUIERA VENIR A VERLO. SINCERAMENTE ESPERAMOS QUE USTED Y SU FAMILIA PUEDAN VENIR Y DISFRUTAR DEL PROGRAMA; PERO MÁS QUE ESO, ESPERAMOS QUE PUEDA INVITAR A ALGUIEN QUE NECESITE ESCUCHAR ESTA HISTORIA, LA HISTORIA DE DIOS.



BRENT DYER
DIRECTOR

LIBRE DE VIVIR SIN TEMOR

Por
**CHRIS
DUPOND**

**“VOY A
MORIR...
ALGÚN DÍA
SERÁ MI
TURNO”**

Cómo superé el terrible miedo de morir.

Durante años viví con una fobia opresiva que me mantuvo cautivo en un miedo constante. En retrospectiva, puedo determinar exactamente el momento en que este miedo se apoderó de mi vida. Tenía seis años de edad y me encontraba frente al televisor en mi casa en México. Una caricatura consumía mi atención...

El Sr. Vitalis, su hijo adoptivo Remi, y su perro blanco Capi se encontraban en desesperada necesidad de resguardo a medida que huían de París en medio de una de las peores tormentas de nieve en la historia. Como compañía de teatro ambulante, tenían poco dinero y no podían pagarse una alcoba de hotel, así que se dispusieron a ir a un albergue público. Desafortunadamente las temperaturas bajaron violentamente y el clima empeoró, cubriendo las calles con un manto de nieve, forzando a Vitalis y a Remi a resguardarse en las ruinas de un viejo granero sin techo.

Vitalis despertó violentamente por los ladridos de Capi, dándose cuenta de que Remi estaba helándose y al borde de perder la consciencia. En un valiente esfuerzo para salvar a su hijo, Vitalis cavó bajo la nieve encontrando un parche de paja seca donde posó a Remi junto a Capi

y los cubrió a ambos con el calor de su propio cuerpo. Mientras Remi dormía a salvo en la paja tibia, la vida de Vitalis se desvanecía, habiéndose sacrificado al frío para salvar la vida de su amado hijo.

Y así con esto, una ráfaga de horror me sobrecogió en forma de debilitantes pensamientos acerca de mi propia mortalidad: “Un día voy a morir. Hoy fue el turno del Sr. Vitalis, pero algún día será mi turno”.

Mi padre me encontró en mi cuarto llorando inconsolable. En un esfuerzo de animarme, tomó un Catecismo Católico y me aseguró que en aquellas páginas estaba escrito que yo no moriría. Éramos Católicos nominales—sólo nos parábamos en la iglesia para funerales y bodas—y no considerábamos la religión como algo serio. Así, ignoré las palabras de mi padre y desde aquel día viví con un inquebrantable y misero sentimiento de muerte y perdición.

Doce años más tarde, asistí a la boda de una pareja que se casaba de nuevo en un intento de dar una segunda oportunidad a su relación. Sucede que su hija, Katya, se convertiría posteriormente en mi esposa y



Un día, mientras revisaba la colección de libros de mi Padre, encontré un volumen que me llamó la atención...

compañera de vida. Fue en esa ocasión que me hice cristiano y comencé a aprender de Jesucristo. Mi conversión fue un tanto aburrida—no me sentí diferente, feliz, o iluminado—y con todo aun no estaba completamente convencido de que la Biblia fuera verdad. Sin embargo, comencé a leer y aprender de las Escrituras, y eso fue beneficioso. Aún así, mi miedo a la muerte persistía, asediándome día y noche.

Un día, mientras revisaba la colección de libros de mi Padre, encontré un volumen que me llamó la atención: El Factor de la Resurrección por Josh McDowell—un caso histórico a favor de la Resurrección de Jesús. Me adentré a leerlo y para cuando terminé la lectura, sentí como que

se me quitaba un gran peso de encima; finalmente lo que creía en mi corazón tuvo también sentido en mi cabeza! Cerré ese libro con la firme convicción de que el Cristianismo es absolutamente verdadero, de que la resurrección de Jesús realmente sucedió, y que sus palabras son confiables—palabras como,

Ahora estaba equipado con verdad bíblica y conocimiento que mantuvo mi fe bien cimentada durante los años universitarios, donde nuestras creencias frecuentemente son puestas a prueba.

Estas revelaciones me liberaron—finalmente, la sombra de perdición se desvaneció! ¡No más miedo a la muerte!

Adelantando la historia veinte años, ahora

mi esposa y yo vivimos en Houston, Texas, con nuestras hijas Giselle (8) y Juliette (11). He tenido una carrera exitosa en el campo de las ciencias computacionales, pero lo que a Katya y a mí nos apasiona es enseñar y servir en nuestra iglesia, Champion Forest Baptist.

Hace unos cuatro años, dos de nuestros estudiantes más brillantes se volvieron ateos. Para mí esto fue un evento devastador que me mandó a una búsqueda de respuestas. En esa búsqueda virtual encontré un debate entre el Dr. William Lane Craig, un cristiano, y el ya fallecido Sr. Christopher Hitchens, un ateo militante. Usando verdad, amor, sabiduría y respeto, el Dr. Craig arrasó por completo con cada argumento de Hitchens. Sucede que el Dr.

CERRÉ ESE LIBRO CON LA FIRME CONVICCIÓN DE QUE EL CRISTIANISMO ES ABSOLUTAMENTE VERDADERO, DE QUE LA RESURRECCIÓN DE JESUS REALMENTE SUCEDIÓ, Y QUE SUS PALABRAS SON CONFIABLES—PALABRAS...

“Porque yo vivo, ustedes también vivirán”

— Jesús (Juan 14:19)

Craig es uno de los apologistas cristianos más reconocidos hoy en día.

A raíz de estos eventos, decidí estudiar apologética cristiana de manera rigurosa en la Universidad de Biola donde el Dr. Craig y un grupo de grandes pensadores cristianos enseñan. La apologética—de la raíz griega *apología*, que significa “defensa”—es la rama de la teología cristiana dedicada a proveer respuestas razonables a las grandes preguntas acerca Dios y el cristianismo. La apologética concierne las razones de nuestra fe—qué creemos y por qué lo creemos para que el evangelio pueda caer en terreno fértil. No me cabe la menor duda de que Dios usó la apologética en mi vida para poder ver el evangelio de Cristo claramente y saber que el cristianismo es objetivamente verdadero y razonable.

Además de haber podido estudiar directamente del Dr. Craig en Biola, una de mis clases la tomé con el Dr. Sean McDowell. No es de extrañarse si el nombre suena familiar. Sean es hijo de Josh McDowell, el autor del libro *El Factor de la Resurrección* y el hombre que Dios usó para mostrarme la verdad del Cristianismo veinte años atrás cuando rendí mi vida a Cristo por completo y fui librado de la sombra de muerte que asediaba a mi alma.

Los últimos tres años de estudio profundo han sido de los más difíciles para nuestra familia pero han sido también profundamente gratificantes. El estudio de las razones de nuestra fe me ha dado esperanza. Me ha dado tal esperanza que puedo encarar a la muerte—verla a los ojos—y quedar confiado en que ha perdido su poder sobre mi y sobre aquellos que amo y que comparten la misma esperanza. La muerte ha sido vencida. Para el apóstol Pablo, esto fue una realidad evidente, y lo vemos cuando escribe, “¿Dónde está, oh muerte, tu aguijón? ¿Dónde, oh sepulcro, tu victoria? (1 Corintios 15:55)

En resumen, en palabras del profesor Gary Habermas, “¡Muerte, no tienes nada, no tienes nada!”



CHRIS DUPOND Y SU ESPOSA KATYA ▶

2017



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Misiones en Champion Forest

Desde el principio, Champion Forest ha puesto un fuerte énfasis en las misiones. Con los años, miles de nuestros miembros han apoyado y realizado viajes misioneros por todo el mundo. 2017 será un año clave, ya que nuestra meta es enviar más de 20 grupos misioneros alrededor del mundo. Por supuesto, las misiones no se limitan solamente a los viajes misioneros, sino en vivir día a día una vida misionera, compartiendo y dejando ver el amor de Cristo a través de nosotros. Dios nos ha llamado a ser una ciudad brillante en lo alto de una colina, pescadores de hombres, la sal y la luz aquí en nuestra comunidad. Pero también nos ha llamado a llevar el Evangelio hasta los confines de la tierra.

Bien sea que ministres a familias misioneras en África, ayudes en la plantación de iglesias en América del Sur, o lleves esperanza a quienes no la tienen en Alemania, de una cosa puedes estar seguro y es que hacer parte de un viaje misionero es algo que nunca lamentarás. Hay muchas oportunidades para que te unas y participes. Quizás este año sea tu año. Te pedimos que ores por esto. Tal vez Dios te está llamando a **IR**.

Para obtener más información visita championforest.org



*Helping people make sense out of life
through Christ-centered living.*

An Exciting Place

We are a growing, thriving community of diverse people unified around a common passion: to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ, making Him known to the world.

Regardless of your church background - or if you have no church background at all - there is a place for you, and you are welcome at any of our Champion Forest Baptist Church locations.

You can reach us at:
281.440.3800

Locations & service times available online.
www.championforest.org

LIVE ONLINE

www.championforest.tv

TV BROADCAST

WORSHIP CENTER

The Gathering
Sundays - 9:30am

en Español
Domingos - 10:55am

FAMILY LIFE WORSHIP CENTER

Biblical Literacy
Sundays - 10:55am

Wednesday Worship
Wednesdays - 6:45pm

NATIONAL LISTINGS

Family Entertainment Television (FETV)
SUNDAYS AT 8:30 PM CST

DISH | Channel 82

AT&T U-VERSE | Channel 578

World Harvest Television (WHT)
SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM CST

DIRECTV | Channel 367

EN ESPAÑOL

Enlace (TBNENL)
SUNDAYS AT:
11:30am USA Centro, México y Colombia
10:30am Centroamérica
12:00pm Venezuela
1:30pm Argentina

DIRECTV | Channel 448

AT&T U-VERSE | Channel 3078

COMCAST/XFINITY | Channel 530