

CONNECT

Summer 2016



Thousands
come together
on the National
Mall for Prayer
and Worship

story on page 4



REID SAUNDERS
ASSOCIATION

Taking the message of the cross to the ends of the earth... All for Jesus

EVANGELISM

2 Timothy 4:5

Target unreached people groups around the world

Engage the culture without changing the Good News of Jesus Christ

Demonstrate God's care and compassion by providing humanitarian aid for those in need

Invite people into a relationship with Christ

BUILD UP THE BODY OF CHRIST

Ephesians 4:12

Promote unity and cooperation among the local Bible-believing churches

Train and equip teams of believers for the work of evangelism

Partner with local churches to make disciples of new believers

Saturate communities through city-wide festivals



REID SAUNDERS
ASSOCIATION

PO Box 4275 Salem Oregon 97302
503-581-7394 info@reidsaunders.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Creation NW Festival August 4-6, 2016
Malawi, Africa Trip August 11-17, 2016
Moldova Trip October 11-21, 2016
Mandalay, Myanmar Trip October 27-November 7, 2016

GATHERING

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Willamette Valley Celebration Event
on the National Day of Prayer
May 4, 2017 - Salem Armory

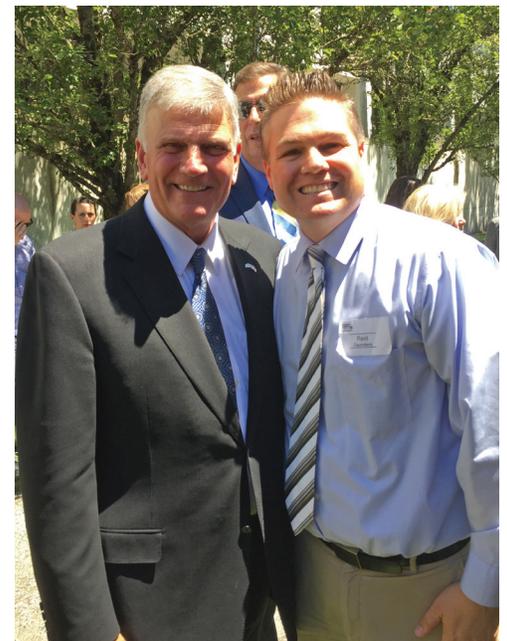


Reid Saunders and Phil Strom will join with Andrew Palau in the Love Malawi Festival campaign. Speaking three times at the Festival in the city of Zomba, August 12-14, Reid also plans to visit a prison and speak in a local church.

The Love Malawi Festivals are organized by Next Generation Alliance and will take place in seven cities, August 12-22, throughout this small country. Outreaches will include humanitarian aid and training for local pastors. This region has been hard hit by HIV-Aids, with one third of the population infected by the virus and more than one million children that have been orphaned by the loss of family members. A large portion of rural population lives in poverty, relying on subsistence farming and earn less than one U.S. dollar per day.

"America is at a crossroads, and I believe we should take every opportunity to stand up for the things of God and His Word." – Franklin Graham

Tuesday, June 28, we joined thousands of Oregonians that gathered on the State Capitol's steps with Franklin Graham in praying for our nation. As a part of his Decision America Tour, Franklin challenged all Christians to live out their faith—"at home, in public, and at the ballot box." He urged all Christians to unite in prayer, get involved in their communities, and make God's name known in their local government.



It happened! For more than five years God has put a dream on the heart of my good friend, Nick Hall, to rally the body of Christ together for Jesus on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. As Esther 4:14 states, "For such a time as this," God united hearts of many ministries like RSA to partner together for what we called **Together 2016**. On July 16, an estimated 500,000 people from all over the nation gathered on the National Mall "for such a time as this" to lift up Jesus. Through prayer, worship, and preaching, Jesus was exalted on the National Mall. In a time of real pain and suffering in our country, with all the tragedies taking place, we needed this rally. The prayer focus and call for Together 2016 was for Jesus to reset hearts and lives across our country, because Jesus changes everything and He alone is the Savior of the world! It was such a thrill to speak at this event and challenge believers to share Jesus with their friends, neighbors, and coworkers. The vision was to fill the mall, and from there we challenged everyone to "fill them all" with the Good News of Jesus! He alone

saves and can bring hope, forgiveness, love, and peace to the brokenness so many in our country are facing. To God be the glory!

On a personal note, I want to share how God answered my prayers with regard to my six-year old niece, Alice. I was preaching at Spirit West Coast in Del Mar, California a couple weeks ago and invited my family to come out and hear me preach and listen to great artists like the Newsboys. We all want our loved ones to come to Jesus, and for years I have been praying for my niece Alice to come to Jesus. What a sight it was, my friends, when I gave the invitation for people to receive Jesus and saw my niece Alice raise not one hand, but two, high in the air! I



ALL FOR JESUS

wanted to jump off the stage and run to her I was so thrilled. Afterward, I talked with Alice and she was so excited that Jesus was now her Savior and best friend! Thank you Jesus. You are mighty to save. I want to encourage you to keep praying for those you know who need Jesus. When we pray God moves!

This summer has been amazing as God has used us to share Jesus with hundreds of thousands of people across our country, with thousands making decisions to follow Jesus! From the bottom of my heart I want to thank you for serving Jesus with me. God is using you in a mighty way to reach people for Jesus in America and around the world.

All for Jesus!

Reid

MYANMAR OPEN TO THE GOSPEL

For years, people around the world have been praying that Myanmar would openly allow proclamation evangelism again. The Lord has answered those prayers, as He recently opened the door for our team to partner with local churches in Mandalay, Myanmar from October 27 to November 7! **This is a tremendously exciting opportunity.** You now have an opportunity to partner with us as the feet that will bring the beautiful message of the Gospel to the precious people of Myanmar.

We shared our vision with a prominent foundation on the East Coast, and they responded by awarding RSA with a matching grant for the event – \$25,000. **What a blessing!** We believe this could be one of the largest outreaches we have ever done in Asia.

However, there is a catch: we need to match this grant by September 1. This is a dollar-for-dollar grant. Every dollar you contribute by September 1 will be matched by this foundation. If we do not raise the money by the deadline, we will not receive the funds. We very much need your help!



Our local coordinator, Pastor Tu Tu, once imprisoned for aiding Korean missionaries, is **expecting thousands to hear the Good News** for the very first time. Instead of proclaiming the Salvation Message in secret, we will preach from the mall top—renting the top of the largest shopping mall in town and holding the event there.

In combination with the three-day festi-

val outreach, we will invest thousands of dollars **training church planters**. During the week of the festival, we will host four all-day trainings for pastors, and some will travel great distances to get there from remote villages. We are committed to providing for their travel, food, lodging and training materials. Finding the harvest fields incredibly fertile, some of these church planters are establishing as many as three churches at the same time. We want to help by instructing on strategy, sound doctrine, and family management. **These are exciting times**, and we cannot let them pass without doing everything we can through the enabling power of Christ.

We are not only excited about the opportunity for people to come to faith in Jesus, but also to see new churches planted in Southeast Asia. Together, let's take the Message of the Cross to Myanmar and **meet the \$25,000 matching grant by September 1!** Will you prayerfully partner with us?

TOGETHER

7.16.16 // NATIONAL MALL

One moment can define a generation. For millennials, that moment possibly took place on July 16, 2016. An estimated 500,000 people of all ages and many denominations came together in the name of Jesus, unified in prayer and worship, with a call for catalytic change. Gathering at the Together 2016 rally at National Mall in Washington, D.C., these Christians traveled from around the United States and several foreign countries, coming to declare that Jesus changes everything and asking him to “reset” the current generation.

Director of Communications, Susan Harris, said they started their planning a year ago, never expecting these past two months to become so violent.

“In a time in our nation when people are so divided, there’s so much pain, there’s so much hate and fear, we just really see now, there’s a need more than ever to come together,” Harris said. “I think it’s really important as Christians that we do come together, not with barriers between denominations, and stand up for faith.”

A time for healing and reflection, the event was commonly called “a gathering on the Mall.” Speakers made references to the Orlando terror attack, police killings in Baton Rouge and St. Paul, a sniper attack in Dallas, a terrorist attack that killed 84 people in France, and the attempted coup in Turkey.

Musical guest Michael W. Smith emphasized the need for Christians to invite Jesus into the public square.

“For America, we kicked the Healer out; We kicked Him out of the school—we

kicked him out of the public square,” he said. “I think it is time to invite Him back in. Whether the government does that or not, we are going to do our part. We are going to cry out to God and say, ‘Would you respond to what is happening today?’”

At that point, the song lyrics, “*Everyone needs compassion*,” echoed throughout the park as thousands responded by raising their voices to God.



Later on, Casting Crowns opened their performance with the song “*Praise You in the Storm*.” Hall, the lead singer, felt the event came at just the right time for Americans in crisis and mourning.

“It was really special for us because that is sort of where our country is right now,” he said. “It is in a bit of a storm and a lot of people are hurting. It felt like everyone just came together and prayed it together.”

Nabeel Qureshi, a converted Muslim, reminded the crowd of the importance of the

“There are moments when God’s people come together, and God does something that can heal, change, and define generations.” – Nick Hall



church's response to the recent tumult.

"We see what's happening in the world today. We see bombings in Turkey airport. We see shootings in Orlando. We see people killing mindlessly across the world," he said. "God has a plan to heal this world. And it can only happen through His hands and His feet, and that's us. Brothers and sisters, you are world changers. Every single one of you has been designed and crafted by God to change the world."

Similarly, evangelist Nick Hall expressed the importance of a unified church body.

"Everything now is protests: 'I'm against this,' or 'I hate that.' We don't have to agree on everything, but we can come together around the hope of Jesus," he reminded the crowd. "There are moments when God's people come together, and God does something that can heal, change, and define generations."

Although the day's heat may have halted the 12 hour program after just seven hours, it did not halt a unified call to action. Together 2016 was not just a one-time gathering; those attending the event were encouraged to live in unity as the church, even after everyone separated to go home. In this tumultuous time of shocking violence and division in our nation, the church is called to remain as one—a living testimony of the grace and peace of Christ, whose love is able to transcend all hatred and fear.



Over 950 people attended the Reid Saunders hosted evangelism training meetings as part of the week of events leading up to the main Together 2016 gathering. Fellow evangelists Greg Stier, Mike Svoboda, and Jose Zayas joined Reid in teaching and equipping the participants with various methods of sharing their own personal faith with boldness and confidence.

"I thought the evangelism training was very helpful and informative for all ages. They had a good mixture of light and serious stories, but kept it fun. It gave me tips on how to approach people, and what to say when I get into that conversation. The Dare2Share app is something I will definitely use in the future." -- Megan age 15



UNCONTAINED:

CHURCH GROWTH IN CAMBODIA AND LAOS

"I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's Word is not chained." (2 Tim. 2:9)

After Christ ascended in glory, there were few who had made the unprecedented decision to leap across a chasm of laws and practices and onto the solid rock of grace. It was the beginning of Christianity. But the early church was not readily tolerated—there came persecution from Jews and Romans alike. The few who began had a major task ahead of them in the Great Commission. As the minority, even while some were chained and beaten for their faith in Christ's identity, these followers knew that mere chains could not contain the Word of the living God. Eventually, the Gospel would reach the ends of the earth and all people would know that Jesus Christ is Lord.

In many ways, there are still places on earth where Christianity appears to be in the very same early stages as the church was in those days. We see this picture of minority in places such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Somalia, Turkey, and other nations. But the numbers are growing everywhere. In the 1980s, there were six million Christians in China—today, there are 67 million. The Word of God is still spreading, even in places where Christians may be chained and persecuted.

This is evident in Cambodia and Laos, two countries which have populations containing fewer than 2% of Christians. Cambodia remains war-ravaged and impoverished, while Laos tolerates no presence of Christianity whatsoever. The



We brought the water to the governor and met with him, which opened the door for us to share the living water of Jesus



church is the minority in these regions, facing persecution and alienation—however, we know that God's Word cannot be chained.

The power of the Word to work in the unlikely of places was evident as Reid Saunders and Brett Butcher flew to Cambodia to begin ministry within these two primarily Buddhist countries. Working with more than 150 churches in Cambodia, they delivered 1,000 gallons of pure drinking water, held three days of festivals and ministry, and watched as over 500 people surrendered their lives to Christ—another testimony to the power of the Word of God.

Their time in Cambodia lasted from May 10-14, and throughout that time, they saw the mighty power of God at work in the cities of Sisophon and Siem Reap. Because Cambodia is in the midst of severe drought, Reid and Brett delivered pure water and met with the governor of that province. Reid felt blessed to receive such an opportunity to supply both aid and ministry.

"We brought the water to the governor and met with him, which opened the door for us to share the living water of Jesus—it was a beautiful picture of supplying need to both physically and spiritually barren lands," he says.

The festival at Sisophon was held in a park with a road passing through. The crowds were not very large due to the small sizes of the churches involved, but this was not an issue.

"On a normal day, no one drives through, but when we did our event, we had about 3,000 people drive through on that road just to check out what we were doing," Brett says. "People stopped and listened. It made an impact. We felt like this was kind of a pioneer impact that will, Lord willing, be built upon in the future."

In Siem Reap, the second festival was held amidst a large Saturday market. 50,000 people or more were a part of it or were driving through. Many who had



not originally planned on going to the festival at all stopped to listen—as a result, many heard the Gospel for the first time. Amazed at what he was seeing, Reid praised God.

“I guess it just blows me away, the power of the Good News of Jesus. People can hear about Him for the first time, and in a matter of 30-40 minutes, commit their lives to Him.” Reid says. “That’s the power of the Holy Spirit working, and that’s the power of the Good News of Jesus—He is mighty to save.”

God’s Word is not chained. Reid is certain that the 500 people who surrendered to Jesus will certainly leave a ripple effect on the entire country.

“It’s the multiplication factor. You’ve got disciples making disciples making disciples. These pastors are emboldened in sharing the gospel,” Reid says. “When they see Jesus lifted up in their city and they see the people’s receptiveness, it really gives them a sense of boldness in courage to get out and share Jesus even more with the people in their city.”

Even more closed to the Gospel than

Cambodia is the country of Laos. Christians here are viewed as a threat to the nation’s culture of Buddhism and Animism. Thus, they are pressured to renounce Christ and are frequently persecuted. As Reid and Brett arrived in Vientiane for the secret Pastors and Workers Evangelism Conference on May 15, they were struck by the danger involved. Reid felt as though he was with the early disciples, risking their lives for the sake of Jesus.

“As we were walking up the stairs to the secret meeting I think everyone was a little nervous about what was going to happen,” Reid says. “The meeting was illegal. It’s like, okay, are people wiring the room? Are police hiding out? What’s gonna happen? But as we entered the room, the welcome that we received—to be able to share a meal in this room and to be able to teach—the pastors just seemed so grateful that we would risk our lives to encourage them from the Word of God.”

Brett also felt as though they were a great encouragement to the pastors, who were asking many questions about Christianity as a whole. The dilemma for these pastors is their need to maintain second

jobs in order to support themselves.

“The Bible says not to be ashamed. On the other hand, they also have to be smart. There’s definitely a balance. We from the U.S. may encourage them to do things that are unwise because we aren’t aware of the culture,” Brett says.

In Reid’s mind, the greatest impact they left on the pastors was hope.

“They were left with a sense of hope in knowing that they’re not alone in their country, even though they’re the minority,” he says. “With Jesus, we all are, in a sense, the majority.”

Ultimately, this is the same hope in the Word of God that fueled the early church as it began to evangelize and grow exponentially. And today, it is the same power of the Word of God that works in Cambodia and Laos and all over the world. It is the same power that converted Paul, one of the greatest persecutors of the church, into a man of Christ, called to a life of persecution on behalf of Jesus. Even as he was chained and beaten, he knew that the Word of God could not be chained as well—So we press on in hope for places such as Cambodia and Laos. Christ will be victorious.



REID SAUNDERS
ASSOCIATION

PO Box 4275 · Salem, Oregon 97302

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 661
SALEM, OR

RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED

Until all have heard... Mark 16:15



Historic gathering on the National Mall drew 500,000 Christians of many backgrounds and denominations for unified prayer, worship and a public declaration that Jesus Changes Everything!