

CONNECT

Summer 2017

7 2016

Many of the students in Villa El Salvador could relate to Matt Maceira's personal testimony of hard times growing up on the streets before giving his life to Christ. Almost 200 came forward in response to his life-changing message of hope.



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
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Creation NW, Kennewick, WA - Reid Speaking	July 13-15
RSA Benefit Golf Tournament	August 28
Love Malta Team Trip	September 8-18
St. Augustine Festival	Sept. 29-Oct. 1
Ivory Coast Trip	Nov. 2-6
Armenia/Georgia	Spring 2018



Gathering in unity with a single purpose, 60 churches came together under one roof for a historic event in Salem, Oregon at the Fairgrounds Pavilion on the National Day of Prayer, May 4, 2017. A culturally diverse crowd estimated at over 3,000 people from many backgrounds, denominations, and nationalities called upon God to shape the hearts of their pastors and leaders, and to stir their own hearts with a fresh passion and desire for God. Throughout the evening, prayers were offered for revival within each city and community, with a renewed interest and vision for reaching the lost.

A multitalented worship band comprised of artists and musicians from various local churches inspired the crowd throughout the night with familiar songs and hymns, interspersed with Scripture readings delivered in English, Spanish, and Russian. Pastors and their spouses assembled near the stage for a challenge and stirring time of intercessory prayer, coupled with a spiritual blessing.

Everyone in attendance was encouraged to pray together in small groups all over the Pavilion amphitheater, being led with specific requests. As a sign of unity, and in keeping with Ephesians 4:3-6, individual churches, denominations, and leaders throughout the evening remained anonymous, instead giving all the focus to the one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism – one God and Father of all. Each message was translated into three languages, along with signing for the hearing impaired, giving everyone an opportunity to hear in their own language. Commitment to each other and the church body, regardless of denomination or language, was an underlying theme, clearly demonstrated by each participant in the carefully planned program.

Many were encouraged by the spirit of unity that was on full display the entire evening, and people left with a renewed sense of purpose for what God can accomplish in His church when brothers and sisters dwell together in peace in Salem, the city of Shalom.

"The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand" (Acts 28:2-3). The last two chapters of the book of Acts record the amazing story of the Apostle Paul's final journey with fellow prisoners to Rome, the storm, an unexpected shipwreck on the coast of Malta, a venomous snake bite, and the miracles of healing on this small island in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea.

As many of you already know, I am deathly afraid of snakes; but I continue to go to places like Africa, India, Thailand, and now Malta. I promised my family that I would not start any fires or pick up any large bundles of firewood when I visit the island. Ha, ha! I'm sure there aren't many dangers from snakes in modern Malta, but I know there is a tremendous opportunity to share the message of Jesus Christ with many precious souls on this island.

Romans 10:14-15 reminds us of the importance of going. "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" I am truly looking forward to our upcoming trip to Malta in mid-September. It is very humbling, and I am deeply honored to follow in the steps of the Apostle Paul to take part in this first-ever outdoor evangelistic festival in history.

Malta is a small country (part of the European Union) that has largely been ignored or overlooked by modern evangelists; yet it is a regional center for business and much of the shipping commerce in that region of the world, plus it is a major tourist destination for many Europeans. An estimated 420,000 people live on the island, but the population swells in the summer months to more than 1.5 million. The evangelical Christian church

ALL FOR JESUS

population is quite small and relatively new to the faith. Currently there are an estimated 800 believers and only seven evangelical churches on the island. Local missionaries, Brent and Renea Liebe, with all seven churches, have agreed to partner together, inviting RSA and Josh Brewer of LifeLight to direct an evangelistic outreach near the capitol city in Ta' Qali National Park. Our goal is to saturate the 8x18-mile island with the Good News like never before and hopefully reach more than 20,000 people within a week of ministry.

All for Jesus,



We have moved!

**New address:
1790 16th Street SE
Salem OR 97302
(same PO Box 4275)**



We are grateful to Don Annotti and Corp Inc for the 11 years that they provided office space and very affordable rent for our staff. They were gracious hosts, but they also became a successful and growing construction company. Corp Inc was forced to hire additional staff to handle their workload. RSA was also growing and needed to make room for new staff members, interns, and volunteers.

With God's leading and the hard work of Phil Strom, Director of Operations, we've found a new home that is spacious and well-equipped for ministry. Located in the industrial-business area of South Salem, we enjoy a pleasant creek side location and have more than 4,000 square feet of second-story office space, with ample storage capacity for ministry supplies.

Sadly, we regret that we have to say good bye to our friend and co-worker, Phil Strom who has decided to take a management position in a family-owned McDonald's business chain. We will certainly miss Phil's management skills, his diligence, servant's attitude, friendly smile, and leadership abilities.



Upon arrival, the RSA team quickly noticed these bleak living conditions. Greater than the impact of their surroundings, however, was an overwhelming sense of spiritual poverty and hopelessness. This would be one of the toughest outreaches the RSA team would experience so far.

see full story on page 6





Enormous swells of salt water crashed over the boat. The men, normally comfortable and experienced on the sea, panicked as all sense of control evaporated in the spray of the relentless wind and waves. They had followed Jesus onto this small boat—hardly a match for the common winds of the Galilean sea—and now, as they faced imminent death on their way to a foreign shore, the very one whom they risked their lives to follow lay sleeping in the stern.

Reading this passage in Matthew, we can't help but sympathize with the disciples. Most, if not all of us, would be astonished if anyone were not terrified at such a time. How could Jesus sleep so peacefully?

And yet, this short, three-verse story captures the depth of our call to discipleship: following Christ means fearing Him in every situation and place—so much so that no circumstance, no matter how wildly out of control, can sway our trust in His sovereign plan. Jesus slept because He knew His purpose. If His Father willed it, no storm could keep Him from fulfilling that plan.

Traveling thousands of miles from home, our team followed Christ to a foreign shore and into foreign circumstances. They did not know what sort of challenges lay ahead. All control belonged to God.

Despite its beaches, Villa El Salvador, Peru is not normally considered a go-to vacation spot. This developing district in Peru lies in an arid desert where dust abounds and fresh water scarcely exists. Some well-developed areas of the district look both modern and affluent, yet most are composed of shantytowns with no electricity or running water.

Upon arrival, the RSA team quickly noticed these bleak living conditions. Greater than the impact of their surroundings, however, was an overwhelming sense of spiritual poverty and hopelessness. This would be one of the toughest outreaches the RSA team would experience so far.

Over the next ten days, the team advanced in faith as they served in the district's slums, prisons, orphanages, schools, rehab centers, and local churches. Every medical clinic, clothing distribution, women's conference, senior citizen breakfast, or the evening festivals posed, out of necessity, a new oppor-



tunity to trust in God's plan. As team members followed God's lead, amazing things occurred; by the end of the trip, 2,051 people came to Christ. When the group visited a local high security prison, 173 of the 176 people present stood up at the invitation to follow Christ.

In each venue, the team was moved by the desperate spiritual and physical needs of the residents. Many Peruvians needed encouragement, a hug, or a loving hand on their shoulder with the reassurance of prayers offered to a God that was aware their needs.

Ruth Daniels, International Event and Teams Coordinator, felt the team could not have made such an impact without having trusted in God's sovereign navigation.

"We were extremely busy every day,"

she recalled. "Early in the morning to late at night, we ministered to people. There were so many hurting individuals with stories of physical hardship and disappointment that we were exhausted by the end of the day. But God gave us strength to keep going!"

It is precisely in the moments when we surrender our need for control that God uses us most—we too are called to trust Him enough to peacefully sleep while He is at the helm. For many team members, this meant taking on roles for which they hadn't originally signed up.

Team member Mike Powell originally

planned to take photos to document the trip. One particular morning, he went to a medical clinic early to do just this when another team member, Bev Schmidgall, told him that someone needed prayer.

"I wasn't expecting to pray for people," he said. "It's not in my nature to lay hands on people and to pray for them." But Mike surrendered control to God in that moment.

"It wasn't me. It was God—the Holy Spirit working through us and using us





Thank you to our friends and donors!

We want to say thank you to the many partners that have sacrificially given to the Reid Saunders ministry over the past 15 years. Because of God’s mercies and the many faithful friends of this ministry, God continues to supply all of our needs and positions us to say “Yes!” to more opportunities. The early years of struggling to get by are a constant reminder to us to be thankful for where we are and the friends that make ministry possible. Many others have also given of their own time by volunteering, sewing, being prayer warriors, or through participation in mission trips and festivals.

Our Board of Directors has been diligent in their responsibilities to ensure purposeful planning and oversight of spending. Partnering ministries have followed through on their commitments and promises. Monthly donations have risen to a consistent level. Our year-end appeal, golf tournament, and dessert benefit have all been successful in meeting established goals.

So, YES! we have much to be thankful for and we know that we must be diligent and above reproach in our spending to maintain your trust. Thank you again for your support and friendship. It is a pleasure serving God with you!

for what He is doing,” Mike said. “I just set my camera down from there on and was very blessed to listen to their life stories. Everyone I prayed with wanted to accept the Lord, and only two of them wanted to wait. It was incredible to see their responses.”

Of the 574 people treated at the medical clinics, 83 people made the decision to follow Christ—a number the RSA team had never witnessed in any previous series of clinics.

First-time team member, Matt Maceira, was able to share his testimony in a rehab center and several public schools. After sharing at the rehab center, he invited the men to accept Christ as their Lord and personal Savior. All of the men in the room stood up. Fifteen rededicated their lives to God, and fifteen accepted Him for the first time. When Matt shared again in a school, around 200 students came forward to accept Christ. Location after location, he and the team watched God work wonders.

“It is amazing to me that the Lord has taken an old, violent, dopamine, street person and has given me a life beyond what I could ever imagine,” Matt said. “It’s amazing to be any part of God’s plan, because outside of Jesus Christ, I am nothing and I have nothing.”

True discipleship demands trust—even in the face of death. In the new, challengingly foreign nation of Peru, God worked through our small, simple team as they daily sought to loosen their grip on earthly security. As we are called to follow Christ onto every foreign shore, the roar and crash of relentless waves must not terrify us. Yes, we may even sleep; for we follow an all-powerful God, One whom even the wind and seas obey.

You can read more of the team testimonies on our website - reidsaunders.org/2017/05/peru-family-festival-2017/





REID SAUNDERS
ASSOCIATION

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Until all have heard... Mark 16:15



REID SAUNDERS
BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

Creekside Golf Course
Monday, August 28

Starts at 1:30pm

This year the Hole-In-One contest is being sponsored by Roberson Motors. The prize for the Hole-In-One is a new Jeep Compass. Grand prize for the raffle will be a weekend at The Inn at Whale Pointe in Depoe Bay, donated by Keith and Dee Scott.

Contact: Kaylyn Blum 503-581-7394 or kaylyn@reidsaunders.org
to register a team or discuss opportunities for sponsorship.
Please register by August 15

