



December 10, 2009

Dear Calvary Family,

As I have thought about writing this letter, words from Ecclesiastes keep flowing through my mind – “*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven..*” Nope I’m not leaving, in fact no one is leaving, but a new season is upon us, a new season for Pastor Stacy and our youth program.

A New Season for Pastor Stacy: Stacy has been a youth pastor to all four of my children and hundreds of other kids over the course of his time here. It’s almost hard to believe but Stac has been a partner in ministry, and a friend for about 11 years. Nationally the average length of time that a youth pastor stays in a church is less than 2 years! We have been blessed with a long-term youth pastor, who loves God and has loved our kids. It’s been a good season...and the season coming up is going to be good as well.

Over the course of the last 2-3 years I have had a number of conversations with Stacy about his future ministry. It’s been a difficult decision for Stacy but in recent months he has decided to make a switch that I and the leadership fully support. Stacy will officially be given two pastoral roles. He will be the Gathering Pastor at our Midtown gatherings and in addition he will be our Pastor of Next Generation Ministries.

Calvary is more committed than ever to reaching the next generation (12-29 year olds). As the Next Gen Pastor, Stacy will help broaden our ministry to college students (particularly those who attend Midtown) and he will coach and oversee the people who will be stepping into new roles of leadership with our middle school and high school students.

A New Season for Our Youth Program: It has always been our preference to hire from within Calvary. (The last person we hired from outside the church was the other Pastor Dan!) So when we knew that Stacy was going to make a move, our staff leaders along with the leadership team began looking first at the people that God had already drawn to Calvary. Through prayer and a series of conversations we soon focused our attention on four people. The more we dug into references, had conversations, and prayed, the more we felt that there was a potential place on the youth team for all four of these individuals. Ultimately three of the four accepted our proposal.

So let me do a mini-introduction of our new youth team.

- Jeremiah Kingshipp traveled with Vic and Kay from Texas a handful of years ago. He was on the youth staff at Oakhills Church in San Antonio (Max Lucado – Sr. Pastor). He has a Bible degree from Abilene Christian University. He is the father of three and married to Lara. At Oakhills he was primarily responsible for the Middle School program. At Calvary Jeremiah will be our full-time Middle School director. Jeremiah brings great communication skills, a love to teach the Bible, and a heart for connecting and having fun with kids.

- Sara Pensyl is currently an IT project manager at Raytheon, but her passion is heart-deep in youth ministry. At a young age, she already has a long history of youth ministry experience. She has been involved in summer ministry at a Christian camp. She has been involved as a leader in two different youth programs. The camp director as a reference said that if we didn't hire her, he would! Sara is married to Marc and brings great organizational skills, leadership ability, and a desire to see kids experiencing authentic community. Sara will be our part-time Senior High Director.
- Aaron Hart is a young man who has grown up here in the Centre Region. He was a football player and a great leader at State High. Since high school, besides getting married, he also has a couple of years of college under his belt and has become an excellent cook! Aaron is still in the process of figuring out God's call on his life. This last year Aaron got involved in Calvary's youth ministry and immediately we saw that he has a heart for God, for the kids, and for the church without walls. He is the kind of young man with whom you would want your son to hang out. Aaron will be in our Ministry Apprenticeship program putting much of his time into our youth program.

These three along with Kim Dick – continuing in a part-time role – will work as a team for our youth. The Gathering Pastors, Sherilyn Jameson, and our Leadership Team were all involved in this decision and support these decisions moving forward. I am looking forward to what God will do.

Sometime in January we will do a proper job of saying thank you to Pastor Stacy and a proper job of commissioning our new team. Meanwhile, if you get a chance to thank or encourage either one, feel free!. One thing I can tell you about all four (Kim Dick included) is that each of them love God, and love our kids. With Pastor Stacy coaching them – in his role as the Next Gen Pastor – I see another good season of youth ministry ahead of us.

If you have any questions about this new season, please feel free to contact me or Pastor Stacy. dan@calvarysc.org or stacy@calvarysc.org

Thanks for your prayers!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large initial "D" and a trailing "an".

Pastor Dan