



MERGE

Where a vision for city impact
meets a desire to serve San Diego

Vision San Diego is a part of the North American Mission Board's Strategic Focus Cities initiative

PLANT GARDENS

This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce... Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." Jeremiah 29:5, 7

Plant gardens. Cultivate something that will last. That's exactly what Generation Church of Oceanside and partnering Horizon Presbyterian Church from Phoenix were led to do. On May 28, 22 volunteers created a memorial prayer garden for the South Mesa Chapel on Camp Pendleton.

This base is the largest installation of military personnel in the world. To put it in perspective, it's larger than the state of Rhode Island! And there are only three chapels on base. That's like expecting three churches to meet the needs of 60,000 people. (See *Memorial*, page 2)

7

Summer Highlights

20

Summer Missionaries

July 18-25

World Changers

June 11-17

PowerPlant

15

Upward Sports Camps

15

Volunteer Teams

20+

Block Parties

Dozens

of local churches involved in Faith in Action Xtreme

Summer Missionaries Make County-Wide Impact in San Diego

Taylor Morris has three goals for this summer.

"I want to grow in my walk with Christ, serve the community, and increase God's fame in San Diego. That's it—that's my top three."

Taylor is one of 20 summer missionaries serving through Vision San Diego to work alongside local churches and church plants as they meet needs in their neighborhoods. Beginning June 1, they'll work with kids at community sports camps, plan block parties and Vacation Bible Schools, and minister through Faith in Action Xtreme, an effort to tackle five of the biggest problems in San Diego.

"These summer missionaries are vital to ministry here in San Diego, especially during the summer months, when we serve alongside thousands of volunteers from around the country," said Anne Decker, Director of Partnership & Mobilization for Vision San Diego. "They really learn how to equip others to do ministry, and we hope that by experiencing missions in a culture other than their own, they

go home with an even bigger vision of how God can work."

Through partnerships with the California Southern Baptist Convention and the Georgia Baptist Convention, six additional students will serve as summer youth interns in local San Diego churches as part of Xtreme Summer, an initiative of the San Diego Southern Baptist Association. They'll lead teens in training, Bible studies, and evangelistic events focused on meeting spiritual needs among San Diego's youth.

"At a time when young people face obstacles we never would have imagined just a few years ago, it's our calling to show them what it means to have a real, life-altering relationship with God," said Narri Cooper, Xtreme Summer's director. "If we want to see our city transformed, we have to reach this generation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

The additional support and encouragement the missionaries will bring is right in line with what God is doing in San Diego, says Director of Missions Dwight Simpson.

"I've said it before, and I'll keep saying it: This is San Diego's hour of favor with God. He is opening doors and moving in ways that can only be credited to Him. Our prayer for the summer is that we'll continue to see ways we can join in the work He is doing."

For more information on summer opportunities in San Diego, and how you can join in, go to visionsandiego.com/xtreme.



Blackabys, San Diego Pastors Call for Spiritual Awakening



People who are surrendered and committed to God and His Word can be catalysts for revival in their homes, their cities, and throughout the world.

That was the message of Fresh Encounter 2009, an event that brought renowned authors Henry and Richard Blackaby to San Diego on May 15-16. The conference, hosted by Horizon Christian Fellowship and sponsored by Vision San Diego and a coalition of ministries and pastors, drew 1,000

attendees to hear how personal spiritual awakening is a natural starting point for widespread revival.

The Blackabys were joined by San Diego pastors Mike MacIntosh and Miles McPherson, who led sessions on *Staying Strong in Ministry* and *The Revived Church Reaching the City Together*, respectively. Each

message called for Christians in San Diego to bend their hearts and minds toward the plans God has for this city.

"God is using Henry and Richard Blackaby around the world to call His people to renew their love relationship with Him, so that they can return to being 'on mission' with Him to reach a lost world," said Thomas Bush, Vision San Diego Prayer Director and Fresh Encounter event coordinator. "Through this conference, we are trusting God to renew His people, making them agents of revival, available to God to bring revival to our region."

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Vision San Diego Prayer Director

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When we seek God, He works in us to cultivate "spiritual eyes to see," said Richard Blackaby. When we wonder why revival isn't happening, he added, it could say more about us than it does about how God is working. (See *Blackaby*, page 4)

Memorial (from page 1)

With such a large population, the transient nature of people on base (including chaplains), and increased budget cuts, there's no way the chapels can carry such a great load without extra support. Talking with Chaplain Marc DiConti of South Mesa Chapel, it's obvious how important partnering churches are to ministry on base.

"We (chaplains) come and go every two years. Outside organizations

offer stability we can't bring."

Fortunately, Generation Church has responded to the need for long-term partners. For Chris Martinez, a church planter working with Generation, the prayer garden is just the beginning of a relationship with the Chapel. He hopes this partnership will "not be a one-time project, but ongoing."

Despite the increasing need for partners, when asked what is the chapel's greatest need, Chaplain DiConti said, "We need prayer!"

The memorial prayer garden will provide a meaningful place for people to do just that.

Once the project is completed, a plaque will be placed as a memorial to those who've lost someone in battle. "We've all lost someone in some way," said Josh, a Marine who attends Generation Church, and took the day off to help with the project.

Beyond dealing with loss, many Marines deal with the emotional wounds of war, including Traumatic Stress Injury. Chaplains are left with

the daunting task of responding to this great need, yet DiConti says one of the greatest ways to respond is prayer.

"Why not use prayer to help them? Why not use that to bring them in?"

On Camp Pendleton, that's the hope. Just as the grounds in front of the chapel were restored to life, may those who come to the Memorial Prayer Garden lift their hearts to God in prayer, find healing, and ultimately find abundant life in Him.

Blackaby (from page 3)

"Could it be that God's people aren't recognizing His activity?" he asked. "Is it possible to see God working and changing lives, and totally miss what's going on?"

That ability to sense and see where God is working is available to all believers, especially those who know that they are inadequate on their own to transform an individual life, much less an entire city

"Don't say, 'I'm just an ordinary person,'" Richard Blackaby said. "If you are, then you are the substance out of which God usually calls."

Henry Blackaby echoed his son, encouraging his listeners to make knowing God their top pursuit, so that He has fully surrendered vessels through which to work.



Worship was a vital part of Fresh Encounter 2009 Conference.

"Out of the overflow of a relationship with God, He makes an assignment that is always God-sized, and it has God-sized potential beyond what we can imagine."

During the weekend's final session, Pastor Miles McPherson of The Rock Church, honed his focus to

San Diegans, urging pastors and leaders to be fearless in preaching the truth, tireless in praying for revival, and responsive to how God is moving throughout our county.

As San Diego churches work together toward this year's Faith in Action Xtreme initiative, we trust God will use people who are committed to Him above all else to be catalysts for revival.

For more information on Henry and Richard Blackaby, and other Fresh Encounter events, go to www.blackaby.org. To obtain recorded copies of Fresh Encounter 2009 messages, contact the Horizon Christian Fellowship Bookstore at (858) 244-2944 or bookstore@horizonsd.org.