

When my family and I were first introduced to Parkside Chapel 38 years ago, we were quickly drawn to the blue-collar church culture of focusing on Jesus' command to: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" and "love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39)

Throughout the years, despite distractions of economic and racial struggles, 911, political divisions, Covid, and every other problem known to our world, the leaders at Parkside have consistently helped keep us focused on "seeking God, His Kingdom, and His righteousness," and trusting Him for everything else. (Matthew 6:33)

In addition to the incredible church family at Parkside, I have grown very appreciative of our Community Ministry Partners who assist us in this journey and minister to people often outside of our normal reach. We heard from six of these ministry partners on October 1, the Saturday morning of our Missions weekend. For those who missed their excellent presentations, let me briefly summarize.

Crown Valley Youth Ranch

Founded and led by several Parkside members, this beautiful 10-acre ranch in Woodlake ministers to underserved kids with one-on-one and group mentorship/discipleship. Their mission is to help young people make better choices and come to know the Good News of Jesus' love and sacrifice for their eternal life. For more information: CVYR.org, 564-2897.

Child Evangelism Fellowship ... Good News Clubs

Provides after-school Good News Clubs on elementary school campuses throughout Visalia. Many school campuses are open and in need of volunteer workers. They will train and equip you! For more information, contact: Pastor Gordon: 734-3775, gordon@parksidevisalia.org.

Care Pregnancy Resource Center

Education, After Abortion Support, Pregnancy Loss Support and Life Coaching. Contact: 625-5550

Good News Jail Ministry

Bringing hope to the forgotten, ministering in our local jails with Bible Studies, Worship Services, Crisis Counseling, Life Skills Training, and Critical Notifications. Seeking volunteers and partnerships. Contact: Chaplain David May, 735-1674.

Visalia Rescue Mission

Serving the poor and those in need with the love and power of the Gospel of Christ so that they might become God-dependent and contributing members of their community. VRM offers overnight services for men with a separate location for women and children, Life Change Academy, and Transitional Living for mothers with children. Contact: 740-4178.

Hands in the Community

Connecting those in need with those who can help and provides a network of resources to assist individuals and families in need while showing the love of Christ. Volunteers needed. Contact: 625-3822.

Should you have questions about any of our Ministry Partners, feel free to contact me, ron@parksidevisalia.org, 734-3775, and I will find someone with answers!

Keep loving God, loving people, and helping connect others to the transforming love of Jesus!



By Ron Story, Community Life Pastor