



## The President's Perspective



### The Pentagon Report

"For the word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword..."

Hebrews 4:12

"So shall my word be that goeth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Isaiah 55:11

As many of you know, we were in Washington, DC this past week conducting services at the Pentagon. From a ministry and personal perspective, it was a highlight of my life. I was privileged to speak on Wednesday, June 8 at the Pentagon Prayer Breakfast. At the conclusion of my message, three men accepted Christ as Savior. I was informed later that this is highly unusual and almost never occurs. I was impressed, as was our H.O.P.E. Ministries team, with the dedication of those who know Christ in that facility and with their desire to be used of God in these days.

On Thursday, June 9, we conducted two services in the Pentagon courtyard. From the outset, we saw God's gracious hand at work. Rain had been in the forecast all week, however the day was absolutely beautiful with partly cloudy skies. Three of our team transported all the sound equipment to the Pentagon for security inspection and delivery to the courtyard. Their day began at 4:00 am. Getting through security and into the Pentagon with the number of items that we brought in can be difficult. However, our men had everything set up by 9:30, an hour and a half before we were to begin. Both services were very well received. Just how many were saved, I do not know. I was told, by one of the Chaplains corps., that numerous people had no doubt called of Christ for salvation at the end of the services, and that many more would be saved in the following days. Because we were in a very public part of the Pentagon where large numbers of employees eat their lunch, and the potential of being accused of "coercing" people toward Christianity, we were not allowed to give a typical invitation, or to ask for an outward response on the part of those who accepted Christ. While we could not do a normal type invitation, there were no restrictions on the gospel message I preached. The Pentagon Chaplain later informed our entire team that our event was "cutting edge evangelism" in the Pentagon. Never before had a preacher been allowed to present the message of the gospel in the courtyard. I am honored and humbled that the Lord allowed us to be used in this great way.

At the conclusion of one of the courtyard services, one of the Army Chaplains came up to me and expressed great appreciation for my message and our being there. As he shook my hand, he placed a special coin in my palm. I thanked him for the coin, but did not realize until later the significance of that gesture. Another Pentagon employee informed me that being given a coin like that from a military person means that they consider you one who has profoundly and powerfully affected their life. That coin and the entire incident will be something I will treasure the rest of my life. Over and over we were told how much our ministry was appreciated. Later in the day, when we had returned to our hotel rooms, the Chaplains office called to tell us that the soldier, who assisted us in getting our equipment into the facility, had received Christ as Savior that afternoon. Evidently he had received one of our DVD's, watched it several times, and had realized his need of Christ. He stopped by the Chaplain's office and after being counseled, accepted Jesus as Savior. I trust that you will pray for God's continued blessing and saving power on the word that was preached.

In addition to the three services we conducted, we were able to take a detailed tour of the Pentagon facility. It was an extra special treat to stand outside Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's office. I have a new appreciation for all that our military leadership does in the defense of freedom. I also have a greatly deepened sense of urgency to pray more diligently for our men and women in uniform.

As we left the Pentagon, the Chaplain's Assistant told us, "It's not a matter of IF you'll be back here to conduct services, but WHEN." At present, we are working on the details of returning either next year or 2007.

When I arrived home from DC, I already had several messages from Pentagon officials requesting additional information about our ministry and the gospel. I believe that what we saw during our two days at the Pentagon is just the beginning of great things that God is going to do. My heart is overflowing with praise to our Lord for what He is doing and for His allowing us to have a small part in His great work of evangelism.

One last note. None of this would be possible if it were not for the great staff of servants who labor with us. Many thanks go to the following people for their outstanding work in preparation for and labor during this event:

Walter Johnson (Event Coordinator)

-great job in planning and coordination!! Never better!

Bill Saunders (Audio/Visual engineer)

-thanks for your tireless efforts and making us all sound better than we really are.

Jose' Young (Crusade Soloist)

-outstanding job, as usual. You always prepare my heart and everyone's for the word.

Daybreak Quartet

-super job. You have the God-given ability to draw people in to hear.

David Carter (Youth/Outreach Coordinator)

-you are a vital part of all we do, in your contagious enthusiasm and sense of humor.

Tal Weberg

-your friendship is treasured; your fellowship is always an inspiration.

Betsy, Rachael, Nathan and Hannah (Greatest family in the world)

-you are the most vital part of my life. Without you, I could not do it. God used you greatly in the lives of those at the Pentagon. I heard that over and over again.

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