

# Calvary Bookstore: A Spiritual Resource

Dan Nelson

2006

Ojai Valley News

In recent years, we have seen a paradigm shift in corporate America from "Personnel Departments" to "Human Resources". This transition represents a growing awareness of the most important aspect of most organizations: people. Recognizing the value of the human contribution in industry represents a new way of thinking about capital resources.

Living in one of the most beautiful areas of Southern California, we are also surrounded everyday by another type of resource that we can easily take for granted: natural resources. From the amazing expanse of our local ocean to the majesty within our mountains and the myriads of wonders in between; our backyard is replete with natural resources of all kinds. There is enough to keep us learning and adventuring for a lifetime.

There is another type of resource that abounds in our neighborhood: spiritual resource. Like very few other places on the planet and throughout history, our community boasts a diversity and wealth of access to spiritual resource. One of these local information depots is Calvary Bookstore, a non-profit Christian resource center in Oak View.

The scriptures say, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings" (Hosea 6:6). On Sunday mornings throughout the valley, people gather to worship God and learn of His ways. As part of that experience, it is pretty common to hear a message from the Bible with an application to our everyday lives. The intention is that these truths and spiritual principles would begin to be applied to people's lives and the result would be a deeper connection with the presence and changing power of God, new wisdoms in choices, and a more amazing abundant life experience.

History shows us that this learning opportunity as part of worship has always been part of the church experience since the beginning. The book of Acts records that first century followers of Jesus would generally gather in homes on Sunday morning to pray, eat together, enjoy fellowship, and be taught of God's ways.

Today, every individual in our community who wants to own their own copy of the Bible can. If someone needs a Bible, they can even get a free one at Calvary Bookstore. There are also myriads of convenient translations available, some

contain special study notes inside, and others are multi-colored or multi-lingual. Just about every variation conceivable exists. It is amazing to consider that it was only a matter of centuries ago that people were sentenced to death because of their insistence that the Bible should be available to common people in their own language; namely English.

In addition, there are so many other resources including scripture commentaries, teachings, spiritual writings of all sorts, life stories and testimonies, study aids, audio, video, etc., that sometimes it may be difficult to know where to begin. I am excited that Calvary Bookstore exists to help provide spiritual resources to our community and support the many ministries that take place throughout the valley and beyond. It's staff of volunteers are inviting the community to celebrate 3 years of service on Saturday at it's new location at 195 Mahoney Ave. Free hotdogs, soda, jolly jump, and giveaways will be from 12-2pm, all are welcome.

The Bible says, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth". (2 Timothy 2:15) I believe we need to be diligent in our value of our "human resources" and protect human life wherever we can, both locally and abroad. I believe we need to be diligent in our stewardship of our natural resources, and protect the environment that it can be enjoyed by future generations. I also believe that we should be diligent to support, protect, and use our spiritual resources and grow in our connection with God. We have so many resources available; what will you do with them?

Dan Nelson is a frequent contributor to the Ojai Valley News and currently serves the Ojai Valley Ministerial Association and community as editor of the Religion Column. This article was published in 2006. Permission is freely granted to reprint the article in its entirety. Dan Nelson is pastor of Calvary Chapel Christian Church of the Ojai Valley.



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[www.calvaryojai.org](http://www.calvaryojai.org)

## **Sunday Worship:**

**9:00 & 10:30am**  
Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley  
195 Mahoney Ave, Oak View

## **Mid-Week Study:**

**7:00pm Thursday**  
Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley  
195 Mahoney Ave., Oak View