

## Christian station gets faith stretched

Dan Nelson – pastor

Calvary Chapel of the Ojai Valley

While most of us were attending Graduations, cramming for finals, or making summer vacation plans, some were scrambling for a response to a seeming impending doom. There are certain times in one's life when you are forced to learn about yourself, your faith, and how far you have grown. For the team that runs the only Christian radio station that broadcasts from Ojai, this is how the summer season began.

Over the last few years, listeners across Ventura County, from Thousand Oaks to our own back yard; have relied on 89.5 K-Life to bring them the music of inspiration and hope with the message of Jesus Christ, 24/7. When they turned on their radios one day not long ago to find nothing, absolute silence, that deafening sound rippled shrills of panic to every edge of our beloved county. Imagine having one of your favorite sources of lift and encouragement suddenly ripped away without warning. I would like to say that life continued uninterrupted, but that wasn't the case. And the reports came streaming in.

After the "911 calls" come into our main studio in San Luis Obispo from loyal listeners, the next call usually comes to me. I have the privilege of serving our community as general manager for our local station, which broadcasts from the tower on Sulphur Mountain to extend our reach to homes, cars and businesses from here to Simi Valley. These duties also include satisfying various FCC requirements including maintaining our local studio and public file in Oak View behind Calvary Bookstore. Normally this is all pretty routine unless the unexpected and catastrophic happens: technical failure.

There are some kinds of problems in life that require our total attention because it is that important. I am convinced that trying to live life without God is like having a fan with no electricity in these days of sweltering heat, or having a really cool car with no gas. Some things are required to enjoy all the benefits of the other. For an awesome Christian radio station like K-Life that touches the lives of teens and young adults with the right kind of message every day, you can have all of the best planning and programming, the most powerful music and amazing personalities in the studio, but unless the signal gets to the radio and ears of the listener, it is all nothing. As a pastor, I know all too well how critical it is that the message is actually heard.

The good news is that people of faith began to pray and God worked miracles throughout the process. I wanted a supernatural visit from heaven that included equipment that spontaneously began working as though brand new, but that didn't happen. Instead, God worked more practically through his people. Engineers and technical staff worked together with local volunteers to get something back on the air. But with a critical piece of technology desperately needing repair, the temporary fix just wouldn't sound right and everybody knew it. Some people decided to pray even more for the station because

they realized the practical vulnerability of something that is easily taken for granted as just "being there" when you turn on the radio. Others decided to be part of the answer by donating money toward the equipment costs. And still for others, just being patient in the process was a spiritual journey unto itself.

Excitedly, I can now tell you that the station is back on the air in full swing and hitting home runs again. On-air favorites, Jon, Noonie, Matt and Mike are bringing it as ever before and the whole thing is a work of God, a nonprofit ministry that impacts lives and brings answers that Jesus provides to people desperately needing them. Our local volunteer team widened in the process also; thank you Michael, Anna, Matt, Mike, Barry and Andrew for being there to "hold the rope" when we needed everyone on-board. And the many local "Street Team" volunteers, prayer partners, donors and loyal listeners are all thanking God together for both his faithfulness and for using the challenge to stretch us all and teach us some things.

If you are reading this and do not have at least one pre-set on your stereo programmed to 89.5 FM, I have to ask, "Why?" You are possibly delaying one of your biggest blessings or your next main avenue of evangelism to the teen or young adult in your life! Get up and get to your radio right now! Why are you still sitting there?

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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. 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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### **Sunday Worship:**

**9:00 & 10:45am**  
Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley  
195 Mahoney Ave., Oak View

### **Mid-Week Study:**

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