

Students Gather to Pray

Dan Nelson - pastor

Calvary Chapel of the Ojai Valley

With so much going on in the world that could be discouraging, it is quite encouraging whenever one sees acts of heroism, leadership, and faith. This past Wednesday saw all three as students across the county and in other parts of the globe met at 7am at the flagpole in front of their school to pray.

What first began among a handful of students in 1990 has grown to be an international movement. A group of teens were praying together on a Saturday when God put a powerful burden on their hearts for their friends. They went to three local high schools to pray for their fellow students, and without any specific plan, found themselves at the flagpole. Their experience brought forth a vision that would be shared with many others. Later that year, the first official "See You At The Pole" prayer event was held on campus.

Word spread of what happened like wildfire and the purpose captured the attention and the hearts of many across their home state and in various parts of the country. By the following year, held on Sept 11, 1991, an estimated one million students participated.

Because this prayer movement among young people is student led, not during school hours, and doesn't cost the school district any money, it meets all the legal requirements and concerns that some might hold. More importantly, since the purpose is to pray for their fellow students, teachers, leaders, and community, it is a conduit of peace and unity both on and off campus.

More than merely the good intentions of well meaning students, most involved are quick to remind that the idea originated in the heart of God.

This week our beautiful community joined thousands across America with students getting up early and gathering at the flagpoles of their schools to pray. I am convinced that any student willing to do this is the kind that will be making a difference with his or her life. I hope some of them prayed for me.

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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