

# ONLY GOD KNOWS by Darrell Webb, Church Health Strategist, North Region



Nestled in rural Orange County is the growing ministry of Calvary Baptist Church (CBC). CBC has existed for nearly 100 years and, as most churches its age, has experienced many peaks and valleys.

Senior Pastor Richard Goble began his ministry at Calvary

in August of 2008. Prior to his arrival, CBC had been without a senior pastor for over three years. Although the members had remained faithful, few were added to the small congregation during that time. As a matter of fact, the church had struggled to see only 20 new Christians baptized in a span of 10 years. One year ago, however, the Spirit of God began to move in a powerful way at CBC.

The congregation prioritized prayer for the salvation of lost family and friends. They wrote the names of those for whom they were praying on black cards and nailed them to a cross that was kept on display in the auditorium. Pastor Richard did not develop an organized outreach program. The church did not use gimmicks or a big-name evangelist to draw people to Christ. Pastor Richard explains, “I simply preached and taught the Word, and people responded to the Holy Spirit. Their conviction came from hearing the

Gospel and by no other means.” Through the preaching of the Word and the persistent prayers of God’s people, in just one year, nineteen souls have been saved and baptized into the membership of CBC. Six of the nineteen were children. Pastor Richard testifies that “just after the congregation began praying for God’s will concerning starting a Christian school...these six children were the first of the nineteen who were saved and baptized.”

Although Calvary has seen its share of days in the valley, God has given Pastor Richard and CBC a tremendous vision for reaching families in their community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lord has already begun to provide for CBC to begin a Christian school ministry in the near future. Pastor Richard shares, “What God will do in the future only He knows; but this past year, we were wonderfully blessed to baptize more people than in any year of Calvary’s nearly 100 years of ministry as far as we can determine.” CBC has learned that being faithful to preach the Word of God and pray for the movement of His Spirit results in bearing much fruit for His glory.

## RESOURCE

■ **Website:** [www.sbcv.org](http://www.sbcv.org)

■ **SBCV Contact:**  
Dr. Richard Goble at  
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■ **Consider:**  
How can your church renew your prayer ministry?

