

## PARADISE: An Unparalleled Journey, An Unrepeatable Gathering

### Questions

At this very moment, is the Father drawing this generation of students into a significant re-awakening to the greatness of His Son and the advances of His kingdom?

If so, is it possible that Christ the King might assemble multitudes of His younger followers so they might as never before:

- *awaken* to the supreme majesty of God's Son
- *adore* Him as King, and
- *arise* to bravely join Him in accelerating His kingdom purposes?

Scores of national and local leaders in ministry with students are answering this question with a resounding YES!

### A Vision

- Thousands of students begin a journey to awaken to the supreme majesty of God's Son, to adore Him as King, and to arise to bravely join Him in accelerating His kingdom purposes. On the journey toward transformation, they sense the King is calling their generation to assemble before Him.
- Thousands of "sacred pilgrimages" that began in students' private and small-group experiences of worship during the previous months become sacred pilgrimages involving travel. From every point on the map the students converge at the geographic center of the nation.
- As they arrive, they find a grassy field in middle America extending one mile in each direction.
- In the center of that field stands the foundation for a throne. The foundation is immense in size and regal in appearance.
- Circling the foundation are thousands of students. With lifted faces many can imagine the ultimate throne in heaven. In their mind's eye, majestic God sits enthroned with the risen Christ at His right hand and the glorious Spirit descending on them.
- With Christ the King as their sole focus, students sing and proclaim praise to Him; they ask for personal and national cleansing; and many receive from Him specific callings on their lives. As never before they awaken to all His supreme glory means, they adore Him as their King, and they arise to join Him in the greatest adventure of their lives.
- Nothing is sold, no artist or speaker appears, and no performance stage is erected.
- With no human distractions the students and their leaders worship Christ with a purity and passion they may never have known before.
- They experience a taste of PARADISE and depart never to be the same.

The journey and the gathering: PARADISE

The date: Sunday, May 25, 2008 (Memorial Day weekend)

The location: Paradise, Kansas

The Web site: [www.paradise08.com](http://www.paradise08.com)

From every corner of the nation, a generation will assemble near the geodetic center of the U.S. Many will pray that God might make this the epicenter of a nationwide Christ-awakening. Paradise, Kansas is remote, allowing believers to worship without the distractions of the city.

PARADISE is a journey to *awaken* students from every part of the body of Christ to the supremacy of God's Son, to call them to *adore* Him as King, and to inspire them to *arise* to bravely join Him in accelerating His kingdom purposes for this generation, converging in a national worship gathering on May 25, 2008, convened at the geographic center of the nation.

#### The Elements of Worship

- The music of this generation of younger believers (including music written by students)
- Proclaiming to God the words of Scripture
- Hearing the thunderous, audible "voice of God" speaking Scripture to His children
- Quiet times of prayer and both solemn and joyful reflection on the implications of Christ and His kingdom

#### The Worshippers

PARADISE is targeted to spiritually sensitive college and high school students from churches and ministries nationwide, along with their shepherds and leaders, who evidence a growing heart to see, worship, and glorify God's Son as sovereign and supreme. Each church and ministry has the freedom to determine who is prepared to attend.

#### The Ownership of PARADISE

The vision for PARADISE was sparked in the heart of a youth leader during a series of morning devotionals. One family in ministry covered expenses for launching the initial phases of PARADISE until it could become a tax-exempt entity. Thus, PARADISE is not attached to or indebted to one denomination or one organization. From the beginning PARADISE was meant to belong to no one but the Lord Jesus Himself and to His people everywhere. The growing list of leaders now serving the vision is available on the Web site

#### Anticipated Impact

Only Christ the King can empower students to return home changed. He will determine how they will live out commitments made while standing in His presence. Most leaders will leave the ultimate impact to Christ, knowing however He chooses to move will be beyond what they could have imagined.

On the other hand, some leaders already have begun to imagine possibilities such as these:

- Students returning to almost every community in the United States might be used of God to spark a Christ-awakening, first in the church and then in the land. Of course, sovereign God alone will determine how and when He will move.
- Students and their leaders, returning with both the passion and the strategy to introduce a generation to Christ, could be used of God to see historic numbers of new believers.
- Students might take the lead in local and national initiatives to break down barriers that divide groups of people or to help bring justice to the most vulnerable in society.
- Many high school seniors moving into college may stay vibrantly connected to Christ, the church, and collegiate ministry organizations in numbers unseen in recent history.
- Missions-sending organizations might see an upswing of applications from students who cried out, “Here am I, send me,” when Christ called them to North American or international mission trips.
- Some of those same students might present the gospel in an understandable way to the last unreached people groups on Earth.

#### Ownership by Students

The PARADISE Web site will be consistent with Wiki and Web 2.0, meaning that students who come there will find meaningful and substantive ways to speak into and fine-tune the PARADISE gathering.

Students also will find on the Web site many online tools and resources they can use to communicate their passion for PARADISE. The young telling the young through social networking sites and emerging forms of digital communication may eclipse the communication efforts of adults.

#### Purity of Administration

PARADISE® is a 501c3 organization. The following policies in the Constitution of the corporation carry the force of law.

- Only one name will be exalted at PARADISE—the Name above every name.
- Nothing will be sold before, during, or after PARADISE.
- No cause, ministry, or product will be promoted at PARADISE.
- No individual, real or projected, will appear before participants at PARADISE.
- Registration fees will be used for no other purpose than to cover the actual costs of the gathering. Any remaining funds will be sent back to the groups who attended.

#### Personal Challenge

You are the shepherd to your group. You are the one who must decide who has issued the invitation to assemble in Paradise. If the invitation is from man, you may well decide

traveling to the center of the nation is far too much trouble. But if the King has said come, then:

- preparing your flock for this sacred pilgrimage will be one of the most important assignments of your life,
- worshipping beside your students as they adore their King will be one of the most moving moments of your life, and
- equipping your students when they get home to join their King in advancing His purposes will be one of the greatest adventures of your life.