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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrate Compassion Tampa Bay: ministry fair offers stage for local ministries to share their passion with the community

Temple Terrace, FL April 23, 2007 - Some 15-to-20 local ministries will come together on the grounds of First Baptist Temple Terrace on May 26, 2007 for *Celebrate Compassion - Tampa Bay, the Memorial Weekend Ministry Fair*. The first annual, free event, presented by Christ Cross America, begins at 11 .a.m. and runs until 2 p.m.

Guests of all ages can visit the ministry booths, the bounce houses and crafts areas, and hear Honorary Chairman, Tony Velong, Temple Terrace Chief of Police, share his testimony and an encouraging message (11:20 a.m.). Spirit FM 90.5 will host the stage area, while Lupton's Catering will provide hot dogs, sausages and chips to all, for free.

"There should be something for just about everybody to enjoy," said Christ aCross America director J. Boe Ellis. "It's just like an art festival, only instead of artists, we're bringing ministries together to share with the community how Christ is using them to reach the lost and the suffering in Tampa Bay. That's the focus. Whether it's caring for special needs children, or building bicycles for inner-city youth, you'll find them here."

Ellis founded Christ aCross America Ministries, a Temple Terrace-based not-for-profit, last fall and plans to use cross-country tours and local outreach events to live out its mission.

"Our purpose is to raise public awareness and support for ministries serving Jesus Christ in their local communities in what we call the war zone. It's the trenches," Ellis said. "The weekend ministry fair concept is just a fantastic way to connect neighbors to servant-hearted ministries, and in the process, introduce folks to the real reason we serve others."

It's an all out devotion to Jesus Christ, according to Ellis, who is asking, along with one of the fair's participants Mike Olsen of God's Pedal Power, that everyone in the community bring a used bicycle to donate for inner city youth.

"Mike fixes up the bikes and gives them away, with a bible," said Ellis. "That's the kind of on-the-ground ministry we want our neighbors to understand."

Some ministries in attendance might be more familiar, like Somebody Cares Tampa Bay, which puts on an annual concert in Clearwater called Raise the Roof, or Abe Brown Ministries, which is well known for its work with prisoners and their families. Other ministries, like Everyday Blessings, might have a number of staff and volunteers providing foster care and adoption services, while ministries like Life Change Concepts (financial budgeting) and 10:10 Wellness (fitness and nutrition) are just one-or-two person operations for now.

"I am just excited to be a part of (the fair)," said Chris Hughes, director of 10:10 Wellness. "We are all about leading people into healthy, Christ-centered activities they can get excited about. And this ministry fair will help me share that message with folks I might not have otherwise been able to meet."

A complete list of participating ministries is online at www.christacrossamerica.org, where you can also learn about the Christ aCross America, cross-country bicycle mission tour set for this June and July.

“We’re actually leaving that day, from the ministry fair,” said Ellis, who with his pregnant wife and five kids will be headed for Port Angeles, WA to begin a 53-day cycling tour which culminates July 25, 2007 in Jacksonville.

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Event Site Host

First Baptist Temple Terrace, Pastor Buff McNickle, (813) 988-1138

Our Corporation

Created as a Florida not-for-profit corporation in the fall of 2006

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Mission / Purpose

Christ aCross America will create awareness and support for ministries doing the work in communities, in the “war zone” for Jesus Christ, and in the process, leading people to personal relationships with Him.

Our Vision

That ministries everywhere will be better resourced to care for the lost and the suffering and to lead them into personal relationships with Jesus Christ; and that communities will be actively more aware of His life transforming work done through His faithful servants.

Our Core Value

To be a witness for Jesus Christ as we use bicycle tours and community outreach events to promote and support followers and share their stories.

Board of Directors

J. Boe Ellis, James D. Lucier, Jeffrey S. Ruby, Christopher J. Hughes, Frank Cagnina

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