

SOMEBODY



LOVES YOU

TWENTYNINE PALMS 2008 MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER VICTORY FIELD

I. PASTOR/EVANGELIST RAUL RIES

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Thank you for your time and attention, and may God bless you.



RAUL RIES BIO

- Age:** 60
- Date of Birth:** August 30, 1947
- Place of Birth:** Mexico City
- Pastor/Founder/President:** 1974 -- High School Outreach
 1975 -- Hidden Manna Corporation
 1979 -- Calvary Chapel West Covina
 1980 -- Manna For Today Radio
 1982 -- Calvary Chapel Bible School West Covina
 1985 -- Calvary Chapel Missions
 1993 -- Calvary Chapel Golden Springs
 1993 -- Somebody Loves You Ministries
 *Somebody Loves You Radio
 *Somebody Loves You Crusades - Evangelist
 1993 -- Golden Springs Bible School & Pastoral School
 1994 -- So Send I You International - Missions
- Radio Broadcast:** Somebody Loves You Radio
(Syndicated, 30-minute daily program heard worldwide)
- Author:** Fury to Freedom (*translated in six languages*), Hear What the Spirit is Saying, Things of the Spiritual Realm, Who Do You Think You Are, Five Deadly Sins, Seven Steps to a Successful Marriage, God Answers Prayer, Raising a Godly Family in an Ungodly World, Living Above Your Circumstances, Wake Up! Time is Short, Understanding God's Compassion, Follow Me and a devotional - Practical Living from God's Word.
- Films:** Fury to Freedom (*Feature Film -- drama/autobiography*)
 A Quiet Hope (*Documentary -- Vietnam War*)
 Venture in Faith (*Documentary*)
 Damascus Road: Raul Ries (*Documentary -- Life Story*)
- Awards/Merits:** Two Purple Hearts -- Vietnam: Tour of Duty '66-67
 Three Masters Degrees from Azusa Pacific, CA:
 *Master of Ministry
 *Master of Divinity
 *Master of Arts in Religion
 Doctor of Ministry Degree -- Fuller Theological Seminary, CA
- Notables:** Vietnam Veteran
 Eighth Degree Black Belt in Kung Fu San Soo:
 *Owns studio in Diamond Bar, CA
 *Teaches twice a week
- Family:** Wife: Sharon Ries
 Three Sons
- Residence:** Southern California

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RAUL RIES BACKGROUND

Known, now, as a compassionate pastor with a tender mission, Raul Ries, 60, was once known as a violent, dangerous combatant.

As Senior Pastor of Calvary Chapel Golden Springs, Raul Ries' name has become synonymous with a zealous love to reach the troubled, down and out, and youth of America. Though the mention of his name today draws admiration, respect and love, his name once evoked fear in family, friends and foe.

Born in Mexico City in 1947, Ries grew up watching the abuses of his alcoholic father. Anger and hatred became his most intimate friends -- and as much as he hated the behavior of his father (so much, in fact, that he wanted to kill him), that very behavior became Raul's trademark.

In 1957, at the age of 10, Raul moved to the United States with his mother. She brought her children to California, where her parents lived, to start a new life. Soon after, Raul's father joined his family in the U.S., and the violence continued.

To his high school friends, Raul was a violent and dangerous foe. Well-versed in the martial art of Kung Fu San Soo, he fought his way through the early 1960's.

After a brutal fight, Raul was given the "option" to go to jail or join the U.S. Marine Corps.

At the age of 19, Raul Ries headed towards Vietnam in the 1st Marine Division for a special combat role in a highly trained and aggressive Marine battalion. As he witnessed the deaths of his fellow Marines, Raul's anger towards the world grew into fury. Those that battled beside him saw him as an angry, bitter individual.

Ries' Tour of Duty in Vietnam lasted until 1967. After spending six months in Oakland Naval Hospital, he was honorably discharged, receiving two Purple Hearts from the Marine Corps.

In civilian life, Raul became successful in his Kung Fu studio and appeared to have everything he wanted, including a wife and children. Nevertheless, what Raul needed was peace, and that seemed unattainable. He was obsessed with violence and angry at the world.

After years of abusing his wife, Raul came home one night to find her bags packed.

"I knew she was going to leave me. The only thing on my mind was that I would not allow anyone to leave the house," said Raul.

He took a .22 caliber rifle out of the closet and loaded it. His intentions were to kill his wife and children, then shoot it out with the police to end his life.

Raul Ries BACKGROUND

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It was at that moment that a miracle took place. As the television came on, he saw Pastor Chuck Smith of Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa being interviewed by Kathryn Kuhlman about the miraculous transformation of the hippies during the Jesus People Movement.

"At first it made me angry, but, I kept listening to him talk about the love of God and I knew this was my last chance and only hope of life."

Raul Ries dropped to his knees and prayed for the first time in his life.

"I knew something had happened," said Ries. "The love of Christ flooded my mind and soul. The anger and hate was replaced with God's love," he concluded.

Raul had found peace at last.

This peace continued for the next 40 years, as he grew closer to the Lord, until that fateful night in February of 2007. At that Wednesday evening service, Raul knew something was wrong physically but what lay ahead was completely unexpected.

Over the next couple of days, Raul experienced flashbacks for the first time since the Vietnam War; he was alone and surrounded by the enemy in Vietnam. All five senses were alert to the sights, sounds and smells of the jungles of Vietnam.

He knew, rationally, that he was in his home in the United States but the fears of war came rushing back. He lay prostrate in his home office, praying and praising the Lord as tears ran down his face. Both he and his wife, Sharon, thought their time in ministry was coming to an end.

After some medical tests, it was discovered that he needed his gallbladder removed. The doctors thought, perhaps the stones were causing a chemical reaction in his body that was affecting his brain, so the gallbladder came out. However, that was not the end of the flashbacks; they grew more intense and more frequent. Further tests followed and Raul was diagnosed with seizures that affect the senses.

That could have been the end of his ministry but Raul's family, the church and Pastor Chuck Smith prayed for him. After much prayer, he felt the Holy Spirit heal him. Raul has not experienced a flashback since that fateful time in 2007 but his ministry has been enhanced by this experience.

Today, more than 30 years after his miraculous conversion, Raul Ries is heard internationally on more than 350 radio stations and translators on the daily 30-minute syndicated radio program, Somebody Loves You. In addition, he pastors a congregation of more than 14,000 people.

He also serves as evangelist for the Somebody Loves You Crusades, which take place in arenas and stadiums throughout the country. These two ministries reach out to people of all ages and walks of life. Special emphasis is focused upon youth, troubled teens and young adults.

With such a large congregation, there are many ministries focused on reaching out to our youth, the elderly or infirmed, war veterans and law enforcement agencies.

Raul works both here in the states and throughout Latin America with conferences to equip the saints for the ministry. His wife, Sharon, focuses on preparing women for ministry and teaching through the Women's Ministry and Women's Conferences. Married for more than 35 years, they share the same desire to serve the Lord and see souls saved for Christ.

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RAUL RIES MINISTRY PROFILE

Raul Ries, 60, is the Senior Pastor of Calvary Chapel Golden Springs and President of Somebody Loves You Ministries.

After his miraculous conversion in 1972, Raul began to read and study the Bible extensively regardless of his former poor study habit in high school. In 1974, he began a home Bible study with seven other committed individuals. He started to preach and counsel the youth during the noon hour at his former high school, Baldwin Park High. Soon after, Raul would visit several high school campuses each week conducting Bible studies.

Calvary Chapel West Covina grew out of Raul's home fellowship. As the fellowship grew, it moved to the Kung-Fu studio, then to the Fox Theatre and was soon meeting weekly at a converted Safeway store in 1979 with 800 people.

In 1993, the congregation moved to Diamond Bar into a 101,000 square-foot corporate building on twenty-eight acres. Calvary Chapel Golden Springs (as it is now known) draws between 12,000 and 14,000 in attendance weekly.

Somebody Loves You Ministries, directed by Raul Ries, encompasses radio broadcasts, crusade evangelism, concert outreaches and film/video production.

Raul Ries is heard internationally on more than 350 radio stations and translators on the daily 30-minute syndicated radio program, Somebody Loves You.

Somebody Loves You Crusades, since its inception in 1993, has drawn more than 314,000 in attendance with some 22,347 registered decisions for Christ. The high-energy Crusades feature popular Christian rock and alternative bands with a simple and straightforward message by Raul Ries. While attracting all ages, the Crusades have a high percentage of youth in attendance.

His great love for the Word made him pursue higher education and he now holds three Master Degrees from Azusa Pacific University and a Doctor of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary.

Author of several books, including *Fury to Freedom* (the story of his early life and dramatic conversion -- translated in six languages), Raul Ries has inspired four films: *Fury to Freedom* (a feature film dramatization of the book); *A Quiet Hope* (a riveting and stirring documentary detailing seven soldier's accounts of the Vietnam War and its aftermath), *A Venture in Faith* (a documentary of the history of the Calvary Chapel movement) and *Damascus Road: Raul Ries – Autobiography* (a documentary of his life).

He has been sought worldwide to share his life changing testimony about God's amazing grace.

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FACT SHEET

WHAT: Somebody Loves You Crusades are contemporary, public evangelistic events that seek to present the Gospel of Christ to all walks of life. Driven by popular, cutting-edge music, the Crusades feature a simplistic, yet relevant, message by Evangelist/Pastor Raul Ries. Crossing denominational and ethnic lines, and garnering support from area churches, businesses and individuals, the Crusades have attracted more than 314,000 people since their inception in 1993. The Crusades have also met physical needs through the collection and distribution of food in the communities in which they are held. To date, there have been more than 68,000 meals distributed to needy families in those communities.

WHO: Raul Ries is the featured speaker of Somebody Loves You Crusades. He is Senior Pastor of Calvary Chapel Golden Springs, a non-denominational church that draws between 12,000 and 14,000 in attendance weekly, in Diamond Bar, California. Raul Ries' half-hour radio broadcast, Somebody Loves You, is heard daily worldwide. His riveting and dramatic life story is the subject of the feature film, Fury to Freedom (taken from the book of the same name).

WHY: Gang violence, teen suicide, unwed pregnancy, racial tension, hate crimes and more are the components that make up the headlines in the nations top newspapers. In light of our nation's present economic and moral conditions, it is important to remember that God is still in control and His message of hope is vital in averting national disaster.

WHEN/WHERE:

Somebody Loves You Twentynine Palms with Raul Ries

Date: October 25, 2008 (Saturday)

Time: Base open to public 3:30 PM **Event:** 4:00 PM – 8:20 PM

- **DJ @ 4:00 PM**
- **Free BBQ @ 4:30 PM**
- **Freestyle Motocross**
- **Concert**
- **Raul Ries**

Venue: Victory Field • MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms

Bourke Rd. between 5th Street and 6th Street • Twentynine Palms, CA

Directions: [Victory Field Directions](#)

Crusade Line: 909-859-6599

Website: www.somebodylovesyou.org **Link:** [Twentynine Palms Page](#)

Sign Language: for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing

Language Translations: Spanish

Featuring Evangelist: Raul Ries

Musicians: Darryl Worley • Disciples

Freestyle Motocross: Kyle Loza • Destin Cantrell • Dan Norris • Jimmie Mcguire

Admission is Free • Bring a Friend • 909.859.6599

Festival Seating: Bring your blankets or lawn chairs

For Additional Information:

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BACKGROUND

From the time Raul Ries received the Lord in 1972, during the Jesus People Movement, he became a regular at the Friday night concerts at the tent with Pastor Chuck Smith. He saw how effective the concerts were in bringing people of all cultures and faiths to Jesus Christ.

Soon after he was converted, Ries began organizing evangelistic concerts at high schools and parks, to reach the lost youth. He wanted to reach the world for Jesus Christ and as the Lord brought more and more people to hear His Word, many souls were saved and the small concert outreaches grew into stadium festivals.

Eventually, the *Exit Festivals*, evolved, from his desire to tell the world about the love of Christ. The festivals continued with cutting-edge Christian music and a simplistic Gospel message delivered by Pastor Raul Ries. In South America, they were called the *Escape Festivals*, which saw thousands of lives changed as they packed out stadiums on the continent.

As the festivals grew in popularity, they gave birth to what is now known as, *Somebody Loves You* but no matter what the outreach is called, the message of hope, through Jesus Christ, remains the same.

The *Somebody Loves You Concerts* are driven by contemporary, upbeat, innovative music. It is not unusual to find Christian Latin artists, like *Salvador* and *Fernando Ortega*, sharing the stage with rock artists such as *Jeremy Camp*, *Tree63* and *P.O.D.*

Besides crossing the denominational lines, the concerts are reaching beyond racial schisms and attracting an ethnically diverse audience; holding concerts in cities from Bucharest, Romania to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The event's purpose is straightforward -- to reach all walks of life with the message of Jesus Christ and see souls saved; so that people, communities and the nation can experience a revival and a return to Christian values.

"The world is no longer coming to the church for answers, so we are taking the church to them through concerts in the local community," states Raul Ries. "Somebody Loves You is bringing the message of hope, love and salvation to the world, one community at a time."

S.L.Y. is just as concerned with individual physical needs as well as their spiritual needs. In many of the cities the crusades have gone into, we have collected canned foods to provide meals to needy families in the communities that have hosted the events.

"God's Word is powerful and is the same yesterday, today and forever," states Ries. "God loves man and proved it through His Son, Jesus Christ -- and at the same time, we want to extend our love towards these communities by taking care of their needs and letting them know about God's love."

The Somebody Loves You Concerts are public evangelistic events, supported by area churches, businesses and organizations. The events are non-profit and do not seek monetary gain. No admission is charged at the events, because Jesus Christ has already paid the price.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH RAUL RIES

Q. What idea(s) launched Somebody Loves You Crusades?

A. In the 1980's we began with the idea of concerts, the Exit Festivals. At that time, we identified the need for evangelizing non-believers, and felt that the best vehicle for reaching the unsaved was contemporary music. In the 1990's the Exit Festivals gave way to Somebody Loves You Crusades. Our goal -- both then and now -- is to reach non-believers and to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with simplicity.

Q. What is the purpose of these Crusades?

A. Our purpose is threefold. First, we need to offer an opportunity for evangelism, utilizing contemporary Christian music to reach the non-believer. Second, we desire to provide a non-threatening environment where people can bring loved ones, friends and co-workers. Many people who attend may not have a desire to enter a church but instead will go to a stadium. Third and most importantly, I hope to present the message of salvation and an opportunity for people to come to know Christ.

Q. After so many years coordinating major crusades, what have you learned in the area of evangelism?

A. We have learned two things since establishing the Crusade ministry. First, God has richly blessed this ministry. We have witnessed tremendous growth, but more importantly, we have seen God impact many lives. Second, people respond to the Gospel message. The simple truth of the Gospel has not changed in two thousand years. The intimacy of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ has transcended time.

Q. How do you respond to those who say that the days of mass evangelism are over?

A. I don't believe those days are over. I feel that it is God's desire to save people and our duty to take the Gospel message to the World. God's message of hope and salvation has not changed and continues to meet the needs of individuals. God is in the business of changing lives and He meets people where they are.

Q. What has been the response to the use of today's Christian music?

A. The response has been favorable. It has reinforced our intentions of providing an uncompromised atmosphere, which draws non-believers to the stadiums. The church community has also responded favorably because this music allows us to reach a diverse audience. Our goal is that of the Apostle Paul, who strived to be "all things to all people," without compromising God's Word.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH RAUL RIES

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Q. Does your message appeal to a secular society?

A. I believe it does, God uses man to bring His message to a hurting world. The times are changing and we need to respond. God's message is timeless and must not be changed; I do not propose compromise. However, I seek ways to proclaim the Gospel so that all who hear understand it.

Q. Are the Somebody Loves You Crusades a function of Calvary Chapel Golden Springs?

A. They are, in that Calvary Chapel participates in the Crusades as part of the Christian community. Somebody Loves You Crusades are a cross-denominational effort of the body of Christ to reach our communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a joint effort of the pastors and congregations from each community where a crusade is held.

Q. Does your burden for the youth play a part in the Crusades?

A. Yes, young people make most decisions for Christ, and our desire is to educate them to become the leaders of tomorrow. The Bible offers the following advice in *1 Timothy 4:12*, "Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity show yourself an example of those who believe." Fortunately, our desire to reach the youth has not limited the age of those in attendance. The Crusades attract a wide variety of ages; in fact, we have found that more and more young people are bringing their parents to these meetings.

Q. What is it about your style that crosses cultural boundaries and age groups?

A. God's Word is the tool that crosses those boundaries, not my style. God has blessed me with a diverse background, such as my Vietnam experience, training in the martial arts and education. Through these experiences, many people identify with my life. God's Holy Spirit has changed my life and shaped my message.

Q. How do these experiences help you in ministry?

A. God has used these experiences to develop discipline in my life, helping me to run with endurance the race that is set before me. God has blessed me through education. I have progressed from being unable to read English, to earning a doctorate. I pray that my background has been an example for others that all things are possible through Christ.

Q. What are your plans for Somebody Loves You Crusades in the future?

A. We have reached capacity attendance in many of the venues we are currently using. We hope to expand into larger arenas. God has opened the doors for us to take the Crusades internationally into Mexico, Costa Rica and Romania. My desire is to continue to take the Gospel message across the United States and to the world.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH RAUL RIES YOUTH

Q. What are the most critical issues that the youth face today?

A. First, the youth of today have no vision and are very complacent. They have this attitude, "Well, mom and dad have money in the bank, a house, and a car -- and I'm going to inherit it all." Young people have no motivation to go to work because they have no vision for their own personal life. They desire security but do not know how to obtain it. But it's not their fault, I believe society has shaped this viewpoint. Another critical issue they are facing is substance abuse. Many teenagers are nightclub addicts. They sleep all day and party all night. Drugs and alcohol are taking a toll on the youth of today.

Q. When you look at issues such as teen substance abuse and unwed pregnancies, who do you feel is to blame for these problems?

A. I blame the media and entertainment industries. They have glamorized premarital sex, the use of alcohol and drugs, and the use of violence to our youth. Yet at the same time, it is the responsibility of the parents to instruct their children. When we neglect our duties as parents in training our children in the way they should go, they are going to rebel.

Q. What is the answer to these problems?

A. Parents need to spend time with their family. They need to love their children and communicate with them. The best prescription for families is to pray together, eat together and read the Bible together. It is a busy life today -- but if we do this I think it's the beginning of renewal in our nation.

Q. What role do you see yourself playing in reaching out to the youth today?

A. I want to pour my heart out to them -- and I want them to see that I really care for them. Like the prophet Jude said in the Bible, I want to go and pluck them out of the fire. In addition to the children in the church, I want to reach the kids who are really drowning in sin and going down fast. My heart is to reach them before it is too late, pulling them out of the fire before they burn.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH RAUL RIES YOUTH

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Q. Do you think that cutting-edge, contemporary Christian music is a tool to reach the younger generation?

A. Yes, music is a strong influence in our world and we need to give young people a Godly alternative to the music they are listening to. Christian musicians have learned from the secular world. Once we learn what the world is doing, we modify it, make it better, and use it as an instrument for righteousness. We need to be on the edge, which means that the music may not fit in a church setting. Because of this, we must be ready to be criticized and put down. I don't believe in compromising the Gospel or the Word of God. I do believe that God can use this generation's music to reach the kids as it was done during the Jesus People Movement with the hippies.

Q. Is the church out of touch with the younger generation?

A. I think much of the Christian community is out of touch with the youth. The church is not relating to them on their level. We have become too Christianized, with our church lingo and way of doing things. When people who are "different" come into the church and are not received with the love of Christ they are turned off, and I see that. When I became a Christian years ago, I went to Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa and I was welcomed. Even though I was angry, violent and aggressive, I was accepted at that church. My life began to change as Christ and His Word transformed me. I think kids are turned off by what they see in our churches today. I also see God doing a whole new work among the youth today, but only in churches that receive them with open arms in spite of their differences. Many of our youth today are looking for the unconditional love and acceptance found in Jesus Christ.