



Interview from WTVM, Columbus, Georgia

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LifeFest Memorial Day Celebration

Posted: May 25, 2009 03:46 PM EDT

By Taylor Barnhill

COLUMBUS, GA (WTVM) - Despite the Memorial Day rain, several families headed out to Lakebottom Park to celebrate the holiday with food, fellowship and fun at the Second Annual LifeFest.

Mark Swift, Pastor of Calvary Chapel told News Leader Nine, "The whole purpose of LifeFest is to honor the sacrifice of our military: past, present and future, and to celebrate life."

Event attendee, Shari Dusold added, "It's in honor of Memorial Day and all the soldiers who fought and gave their life for our country and for us."

Calvary Chapel teamed up with several organizations in the area to bring a free event revolving around Life.

"Celebrate life that we have because of soldiers' commitment to our nation and the sacrifice they made. Secondly we're Christians so we're celebrating the life of Jesus as well," explained Swift.

With music, food and vendors they hope the effort shows members of the military just how appreciative the community is.

Dusold said, "Even though we can't be out there with them side-by-side, we are thankful, honored and grateful for what they're doing."

"Make sure you thank a soldier today or tomorrow or in the coming weeks. Give that gratitude for the sacrifices they make to their countries, families, city, nation and the world around us as well," added Pastor Swift.

People of all ages enjoyed the festivities LifeFest had to offer.

"It's a wonderful experience. There are a lot of people out here. We're hoping to get a lot of good support for "Thank You Soldier" and it's great to be able to see people who remember our fallen brothers and soldiers and those who still serve us today," said owner of "Thank You Soldier", Jonathan Gates.