



Mission Lutheran Church

Laguna Niguel

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# Mission Lutheran Church

*Changing lives through Jesus Christ*

*In the...  
Church,  
Community, and  
World*



# What is Mission: GO!?

We are a church committed to taking an active, aggressive role in serving Christ in our community and the world. That world is a hard place and the challenges before us are equally hard. **To borrow a phrase, we do these things not because they are easy, but because they are hard!** **Mission: GO!** is a personal challenge to each of us to do everything we can in the name of Christ to change the lives of the people in our world. If we want to know what **Mission: GO!** is then we need only to find the closest mirror and ask ourselves what each of us in the congregation intends to make of it and what God is calling us to do. God calls us each of us to do his work, to be his hands, to raise his voice.

If you perceive **Mission: GO!** as loosely-defined, then you have hit the nail on the head as the true calling of **Mission: GO!** resides in the hearts and souls of each of us. Our church is the platform, the springboard, the launching pad for something much, much more that can be achieved only if by we as individuals doing the incredibly hard things necessary to effect change. Taking hard positions, making difficult sacrifices, leaving our comfort zones with pride knowing that the reason we do so is because Christ is way out in front of us on this and we are merely following his great commandment. We do these things through grace and it is because of that grace that we serve.

We as individuals, through the collective power of **Mission: GO!**, can chose any mission we are called to pursue — e.g. to eradicate hunger in our midst, to ensure safe and comfortable beds for every person in our world to sleep, to ensure that this time next year thousands of people who live their lives literally on the ground can be freed from immobility by a wheelchair, that people suffering from imminently curable conditions can have the treatments they need, and that those who have never experienced Christ's grace in their world can learn of his life changing good news. The people benefitted by these changes will know that their lives are different because people committed to Christ wanted to share His grace with them. These challenges are not easy and were certainly never intended to be simple. They are difficult, but worthy, and more importantly they are done at the specific call of the Christ we serve. As one sagem in the church said recently - "this is graduate level work, it's not supposed to be easy."

The global news is permeated with stories lately where just being a Christian is a decision of life or death and where too many problems exists for any one of us to handle alone. Our church must stand as the launch platform for true, meaningful, and systemic change in our world. If we are a people called to change lives through Jesus Christ, then we need to brace ourselves for the reality and difficulty of that effort and prepare ourselves to do the overwhelmingly difficult but eternally important work to effect that change.

Each of us needs to ask ourselves what we can do to be the force for change. Spouses need to talk to each other, friends need to call on their many respective friends, parents needs to talk to their children, children need to ask their parents, and all of us need to commit ourselves to one another in doing something amazing that alone we could never do, but together could change the world!!

*One Mission - Three Areas of Emphasis . . .*

*Church  
Community  
World*



## Community

*Family Assistance Ministry*

*Project Hope Alliance*

*Salvation Army*

*South County Outreach*

*These are just some of the ways we are sharing  
God's Love in the Community*

"Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land."

- Deuteronomy 15:11

## World

*Acres of Love*

*OURE International*

*Free Wheelchair Mission*

*International Justice Mission*

*Plant with Purpose*

*These are just some of the ways we are sharing  
God's Love in the World*

"...not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

- Ephesians 2:9-10



# *Acres of Love*

SAVING CHILDREN. CREATING FAMILY.

Providing abandoned and orphaned children with love, dignity, and hope in residential family care.

## WHO THEY ARE

Acres of Love is a global movement of compassionate individuals, private and public foundation, churches, and corporations who have embraced an entrepreneurial approach to solving the orphan crisis in South Africa. Moving away from institutional model of orphan care, we work to enable and empower children to thrive, not just survive.

## WHAT THEY DO

The mission of Acres of Love is to rescue and care for children abandoned or orphaned due to AIDS, abuse, and extreme poverty in South Africa.

We also advocate for the rights of orphans to obtain world class health-care, education, and nutrition. Our Forever Family Homes are recognized and licensed by the RSA Department of Social Services and Population Development as Child and Youth Centers Homes in South Africa.

## WHO THEY SERVE

We serve the most vulnerable population of children in South Africa. Many come to us on the brink of death, with substantial emergency medical needs that require immediate proactive intervention. A growing number of children are designated to us due to our ability to receive children with complex special needs and provide them with the highest possible care. At this time over 38% of our children have moderate to severe special needs.



# CURE International

## cure

INTERNATIONAL



### Whom Do They Serve?

*Royalty.*

Throughout the accounts of His life, Jesus often talks about the *kingdom of God*. It's a place where the last are first, and the king Himself identifies with the "least of these."

CURE serves children who, because of their disabilities, are often the *very* last: The last to be included. The last to be protected from abuse. The last to be afforded dignity. And, sometimes, even the last to be given food in their own homes.

We say *healing changes everything* not only because it brings an end to physical pain but because it means restoration of dignity, protection from abuse, and inclusion in family, school, and culture.

CURE's work is not limited to physical health. We are just as focused on the spiritual health of the children we serve. Often, they are told their condition is due to a curse. Through healing, we get to show them the God who hasn't cursed them, the God who loves them, dearly.

He even identifies with them. They are royalty in His kingdom.

What an honor for us. Together, we get to serve royalty.



# Free Wheelchair Mission

**FREE  
WHEELCHAIR  
MISSION**



Free Wheelchair Mission (FWM) is a humanitarian, faith-based, nonprofit organization that provides wheelchairs at no cost to people with disabilities living in developing nations. In collaboration with a network of like-minded partners, FWM has been providing wheelchairs to those in need around the world since 2001, providing dignity, independence and hope through the gift of mobility.

Our Mission is to provide the transforming gift of mobility to people with disabilities in developing nations as motivated by Jesus Christ.

Our Vision is to be a world-class provider of mobility, transforming the lives of 100,000 people with disabilities annually.

With an estimated 100 million people around the world today in need of a wheelchair without the means to get one, FWM strives to distribute over 100,000 chairs annually, and continues to pursue our goal to distribute 1 million chairs by the end of 2016. Free Wheelchair Mission continues its focus and commitment on becoming a leading provider of mobility in developing nations, but beyond placing recipients in a chair, FWM is bringing transformation that opens doors to education, employment opportunities and community that these individuals only dreamed of before receiving the gift of mobility.



# International Justice Mission



## IJM

We are International Justice Mission. Our global team has spent nearly 20 years on the front lines fighting some of the worst forms of violence in Africa, Latin America, South Asia and Southeast Asia. We partner with local authorities to:

### RESCUE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

We help local authorities find individuals and families suffering from violence and oppression and bring them to safety.

### RESTORE SURVIVORS

We provide trauma therapy and counseling to survivors of violence and give survivors education, training and tools to thrive.

### BRING CRIMINALS TO JUSTICE

We work relentlessly in local courts to ensure traffickers, slave owners, rapists and other criminals are restrained from hurting others.

### STRENGTHEN JUSTICE SYSTEMS

We identify gaps in the systems that protect the poor, and then work with police and courts to address these challenges.



# Plant With Purpose



Plant With Purpose, a Christian nonprofit organization, reverses deforestation and poverty around the world by transforming the lives of the rural poor.

## ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

The rural communities we partner with are facing a vicious cycle of extreme poverty and environmental degradation. Too often, desperation drives families to cut trees in order to clear more farmland or earn cash by selling charcoal or fire wood. The rampant deforestation ultimately leads to worse conditions for farming families as it depletes the soil and compromises its ability to retain water, resulting in lower crop yields and less income. Plant With Purpose is equipping farmers to get at the literal roots of poverty through reforestation and sustainable farming techniques. By restoring their land, farmers are producing more food to put on the table and more income to provide for household needs. Not only does family nutrition increase, but the additional income also means parents can send their children to school, provide for health care, and meet other needs - all while restoring the land and creating hope for the future.

## ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

The vast majority of rural families have little or no access to formal banking systems, leaving few alternatives other than turning to loan sharks who charge oppressive interest rates. Village Savings and Loan Associations provide a financial safety net.

## SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Plant With Purpose invests in the whole person through partnerships with local churches. We believe that local churches best understand the needs of their communities and can lead the way in creating change. We equip churches in their efforts to help people experience God's love. Our church mobilization program trains churches to work with their communities to meet needs using local resources.

