

Lighthouse Community Church Nondenominational Mission Overview

October 2018

Vision Statement: *“We exist to proclaim the reign of Jesus Christ over all things; glorifying and enjoying God, now and forever!”*

Our Mission: To worship the Lord our God who has given us new life in Christ by His Spirit, to be witnesses of Jesus Christ in this world in order to make the one true God known, to be used of God to make disciples through the proclamation of the Gospel, to build up the Body of Christ and to live in the world as servants of Christ and ambassadors of His kingdom.

- 1) God is worthy of our praise and only we who know Him, because He has revealed Himself to us and has opened our spiritual eyes to see, can and must worship Him. (Psalm 95:1-7, 100:1-5; John 4:21-24; Ephesians 4:18-21; Revelation 4-5)
- 2) As those to whom God has revealed Himself through His Word and in His Son Jesus Christ, we are sent into the world to make Him known. (Isaiah 52:7; Matthew 11:27; John 17:1-3, 6-8; Acts 17:22-31; Hebrews 1:1-4; I Peter 2:9)
- 3) Because the Gospel of Jesus Christ *“is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes”* (Romans 1:16), we who by God’s grace through faith believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are sent into the world to proclaim the Gospel in order to make disciples of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:7-8; II Corinthians 5:17-21, 6:1-2)
- 4) Since the “Church” Jesus came to build (Matthew 16:18) is the *“ekklesia,”* the *“called-out assembly,”* we are called to live in fellowship, *“koinonia,”* with other believers and to build up the Body of Christ in love and truth. (Acts 14:21-23; Romans 12:3-8; I Corinthians 12:12-31; Ephesians 4:1-16; Colossians 1:28; II Timothy 2:1-2, 3:16-17, 4:1-5; Titus 2:1; Hebrews 10:19-25).
- 5) Living together as disciples of Jesus Christ we are called to live as servants, in our families, in the Church and in the world, doing good works to all people as a response to God’s love and grace to us. (Micah 6:8; John 13:34-35; Matthew 5:13-16; Luke 6:27-36; Galatians 6:9-10)

Believing this to be our mission, our support (financial and otherwise) of other Christians, Churches and “Mission organizations” is guided by the following “Criteria for Missions”:

- 1) Must demonstrate an intent to verbally proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 24:14; Matthew 28:18-20; II Timothy 4:1-2; I Peter 3:15; Luke 24:46-48)
- 2) Hold to the Word of God in Scripture as the ultimate authority for all teaching. (II Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 4:12; Romans 10:14-15; Acts 8:4; II Timothy 4:2-3; Romans 1:16)
- 3) Teach salvation by faith alone, in Christ alone, and not by works of any kind (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; I John 5:11-12; Galatians 2:15-17)
- 4) Be careful to avoid even the appearance of tolerating the teaching of false religions. (Exodus 10:1-2, 5; Joshua 24:19-20; Luke 4:18-19; John 8:31-32; Revelation 12:9; II Thessalonians 2:9-10; Colossians 2:16-17; II Corinthians 6:14-18; Matthew 12:25, 30)
- 5) Be accountable for the stewardship of all funds by reporting sources of funding and the use of funds annually. (Matthew 25:21; I Chronicles 29:14, 16; Luke 16:10-11; Romans 14:12)

Believing that the five aspects of our “mission” (see above) are all used by God to bring glory to Himself, we acknowledge that only the proclamation of the Gospel itself is *“the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes”* (Romans 1:16; 10:14-17). At the same time, because it is God, through His Spirit, who prepares the soil for the Gospel proclamation, believers are called to do acts of mercy also to unbelievers, to show kindness, love and compassion even to our enemies (Luke 6:27-36), with the intention to give the *“reason for the hope that is in”* us (I Peter 3:15, 2:12; Ephesians 2:8-10; Colossians 4:5-6).

Colossians 3:17: “Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

The purpose of “Short-term mission trips”

- 1) To build relationships with believers, churches, ministries, missionaries on the ground who are sharing the Gospel and serving people in the name of Christ.
- 2) To support the ongoing ministries of the Church throughout the world ... indigenous believers doing God’s work where they live.
- 3) To respond to the material and physical needs identified by the indigenous Church/missionaries who are on the ground sharing the Gospel and serving people.
- 4) To promote and encourage Biblical discipleship by becoming involved with those we walk alongside through prayer, by maintaining contact, providing materials, Bibles, financial support, etc.
- 5) To seek the spiritual growth of those who are going as they learn what God is doing in other places, as they give thanks for God’s provision, and as they serve in the name of Christ, preparing and equipping them toward greater confidence and boldness to share the Gospel as they live as servants of Christ in their own sphere of influence and live out their calling as disciples of Christ, especially after returning from a mission trip.
- 6) To motivate the Body towards a greater engagement in God’s mission (see above) to make Himself known and to make disciples who will grow and mature through the study of and application of God’s Word to every area of their lives.

Conclusions from the Scriptures listed above and the whole of God’s Word ...

- 1) God the Father has entrusted to the Body of Christ a mission that cannot be fulfilled by any other gathering of people, organization or social group.
- 2) Apart from the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ good works themselves cannot lead people to a true knowledge of God or bring salvation, which comes only through faith in Jesus Christ.
- 3) Ministries or missionaries who receive financial support must be engaged in the proclamation of the Gospel with the goal of making disciples of Jesus Christ.
- 4) Short-term mission teams must serve alongside Christians and ministries who meet the “Criteria for Missions.”
- 5) Ministries of Lighthouse must have the desire, intention and opportunity to share the Gospel with those whom we serve in order to call people to faith in Jesus Christ and fellowship with His Body.
- 6) Trusting God to use our efforts to prepare the soil of people’s hearts for the truth we proclaim, we will give ourselves in the service of the King in various ways at various times, believing it is ultimately the Holy Spirit who directs our path and who brings fruit from our labors.

I Corinthians 3:5-9, 11: *What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field, God’s building. ... For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ!*”