



COMPASS BIBLE CHURCH
LONG BEACH



A NOTE FROM PASTOR JOSH

The shortest chapter in the Bible contains its biggest message:

Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!
For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!
Psalm 117

This psalm is a clarion call for all people to render praise to the one true God. It has always been the mission of God to mobilize His people for the purpose of magnifying His name, and His people are called to joyfully embrace this effort as their own. This is why Jesus taught the disciples to be salt and light in the world. This is why Paul's earnest expectation is that Christ would be magnified in his life (Phil 1:20). And this is why Peter implored Christians to live in a way that the nations will glorify God on the last day (1 Peter 2:12).



In the coming year, Compass Bible Church Huntington Beach wants to continue in this mission. We are seeking to plant a church in Long Beach so that the name of Jesus would be exalted in south LA ounty. We expect God to answer our prayers for laborers, for Jesus to build His church, for souls to be saved, and for God to receive the praise due His name.

My prayer is that this booklet would stir you up to pray for and partner with the ministry of Compass Bible Church Long Beach. May the God who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think be magnified in His church.

For His Glory,
Josh Petras



MISSION STATEMENT

***We exist to glorify God by
making disciples in Long Beach.***

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20



THE 8 DISTINCTIVES

1

THE BIBLE IS CENTRAL

While the Bible is not an end in itself, it is certainly the indispensable "compass" for our knowledge and understanding of God and his plan for our lives.

Because God's written revelation to us is 'living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword' it is our intention to allow it to utilize Compass preachers to get to our hearts and minds as they open the word and let its message out. Our goal is that Compass pastors won't use the Bible to preach their messages, but that the Bible will use Compass pastors to preach its message: God's powerful and life-changing truth!

WE SHOWCASE EXPOSITORY PREACHING

2

3

WE SEEK TO MAINTAIN A HIGH VIEW OF GOD

In a day when many have attempted to reduce God to be their spiritual therapist, it is important for us to remember that God, our Creator, is the highly exalted, transcendent, King of all things. We cannot afford to think less of God than he really is. We dare not respond to him as merely our comfortable friend and fail to worship him as our Sovereign Lord.

It is imperative that we understand what God's word says about how one becomes a disciple of Christ and thus a child of God. We cannot truncate, sterilize, simplify, adjust or in any other way modify the message of the gospel that was once and for all delivered to God's people in God's word. We will not shy away from clearly articulating God's truth on heaven, hell, sin, judgment, repentance and faith. It will be our goal to hold tightly to a biblical gospel.

WE WORK TO PROCLAIM A BIBLICAL GOSPEL

4

5

WE HAVE A GENUINE RELIANCE ON PRAYER

We understand that the mission, the goals and the values at Compass Bible Church are humanly impossible. We do not inherently possess the wherewithal to make disciples or aid them in knowing, loving and serving Christ. These are works of God and we will always rely on him as we ardently ask him to accomplish these biblical objectives among us.

To effectively and efficiently accomplish all that God has called us to do, we cannot maintain the all-too-common "20% of the people do 80% of the work." At Compass we must always encourage that "each part does its work." (Eph.4:16b)

WE HAVE HIGHLY COMMITTED PARTICIPANTS

6

7

WE WILL LOOK TO AUTHENTIC AND SACRIFICIAL LEADERS

The kind of people that God calls to lead at Compass Bible Church is extremely important. Obviously our pastors and teachers must meet the biblical qualifications as set forth in the books of 1 Timothy and Titus. Beyond that we expect our leaders to follow in Apostle Paul's example of being authentic, forthright, honest, hard-working and sacrificial. In a phrase we expect that our leaders set the example of saying to Christ daily: "any thing, any place, any time!"

It is our concern that we work to regularly launch more Bible-teaching churches that are resolved and constrained to move into more communities with a biblical purpose, a biblical mission and clearly maintained biblical values. It is our hope that Compass will never lose its commitment to this end.

WE WILL ALWAYS BE WORKING TO PLANT NEW CHURCHES

8

THE LEADERSHIP TEAM



JOSH PETRAS

Josh currently serves at Compass Bible Church in Huntington Beach, overseeing The Press and assisting with the preaching ministry. Prior to this, Josh served as Pastor of High School Ministry at Grace Community Church in Los Angeles, while earning his degree from The Master's Seminary (M.Div, D.Min). Having taught the Bible since 2006, Josh has a desire to see people come to know Jesus, to be satisfied in Him, and to relentlessly serve Him all their life. Josh and his wife Katie have three children – Jude, Chloe, and Sophia – with another on the way in December.



BRUCE BLAKEY

After 14 years in banking, Bruce entered full-time pastoral ministry in 1991. Bruce spent 24 of those 33 years as the Senior Pastor of Believers Fellowship in San Antonio, Texas. The last 3 years Bruce has served at Compass Bible Church in Huntington Beach, helping to plant a church in Long Beach, leading the weekly Adult Bible Class, and ministering in Club 65, a ministry to older believers. Bruce has been married to Roberta for 47 years. They have 3 married sons and 12 grandchildren.

WHY LONG BEACH?

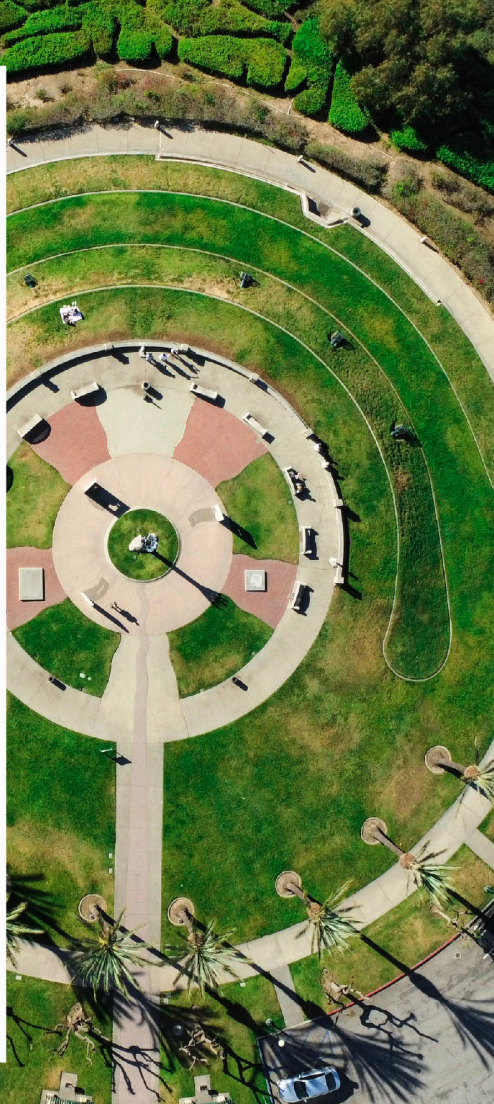
When Jesus stated, “and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth,” He described an expanding circle of evangelistic reach. The good news of the kingdom would move from Jerusalem, to neighboring areas, and eventually to the ends of the earth.

Compass Bible Church Huntington Beach started in 2014, with the aim of reaching local neighborhoods in north Orange County. However, the Lord has brought hundreds of people across the county line from Long Beach and Lakewood, clarifying the need for another faithful gospel witness in south LA county.

With a population around 450,000, Long Beach is the 7th most populous city in the state of California.

The city motto, “The international city,” rightly describes the diverse population within Long Beach.

The harvest is plentiful, but there is a tremendous need for gospel-proclaiming laborers. While there are some churches in the city preaching the good news, much of the city is not engaged in any sort of church activity, and many churches have abandoned the biblical gospel. Our prayer is that Compass Bible Church Long Beach will be a light in a dark place, and that thousands will be transformed by the matchless glory of Jesus Christ.



WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

PRAY

Would you please commit to praying for us? There is nothing of eternal significance that we can accomplish in our own strength (John 15:5, Psalm 127:1). Pray for the witness of the church, wisdom for the elders, provision for meeting spaces, and for people to be saved, sanctified, and equipped. Pray that God would magnify His name in Long Beach.

JOIN

Are you considering joining Compass LB from the start? We would love for you to join us in our work of making disciples, especially if you live in the Long Beach / Lakewood area.

The first of four Long Beach Fellowship Nights will be on Friday, October 25. These services, held in Long Beach, will include preaching, praise, prayer, and time to connect with those who are going to be part of this church family. Attend one of these events to let us know you plan to join the church.

For questions, e-mail info@compasslb.com



GIVE

We are asking the Lord to provide a place for our church to begin meeting on **Sunday, February 2**, and to ultimately provide a 24/7 facility! We are seeking funds for:

**START-UP
COSTS**

**INITIAL
MINISTRY &
OUTREACH**

PASTORS
(Salaries for
all staff)

**PARKING
SPACES**
(24/7 facility)

Our goal is to raise 1 million dollars so we will be able to move into a 24/7 facility within Long Beach! We know it will not be cheap or easy to find such a place, but we are confident in how the Lord will provide and would greatly appreciate you partnering with us in this way!



Launching February 2, 2025



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