

WHY CHURCH?

We Are Called to Fulfill a Mission

Have you ever stopped and asked yourself, “**Why church?**” Why do we gather every week, worship together, hear the Word, pray, fellowship, serve, and give? The answer is bigger than simply having a place to come on Sunday. **We are here because Jesus has given His church a mission.**

The church was never designed to exist only for itself. God brings us together to build us, strengthen us, teach us, and equip us, but then He sends us back into the world with a purpose. **We come into the church to be strengthened, but we don't stay inside the church to keep everything to ourselves. We are gathered so that we can be sent.**

Jesus made this clear in **Matthew 28:19–20: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...”** Jesus didn't tell His disciples simply to gather people into a building. He told them to **go and make disciples**. That is the mission of the church.

This is also at the heart of the Victory Outreach mission: **to evangelize and disciple hurting people with the message of hope and the plan of Jesus Christ.** We are called to reach people, develop disciples, raise leaders, and help people discover their dignity, reach their full potential, and experience belonging and destiny. That is why God has placed Victory Outreach Temecula Valley in this community. **Our assignment is to reach Temecula Valley and go beyond.**

1. WE ARE CALLED TO GO

Matthew 28:19 begins with the words, “**Go therefore.**” Jesus was showing His disciples that fulfilling the mission would require movement. We cannot always wait for people to come to us; sometimes we have to go to them.

The Gospel was never meant to remain inside a building. The message of Jesus was meant to move from person to person, home to home, neighborhood to neighborhood, city to city, and eventually nation to nation.

We gather here because we need to be strengthened and equipped, but what God does in us is meant to move through us when we leave. **We come together to grow, but we go out to reach people.**

Going doesn't always mean traveling far. It can mean reaching the person beside us at work, in our neighborhood, or in our community. It can be a conversation, a prayer, an act of kindness, an invitation, or simply sharing our testimony.

When we **go** to evangelize, we are living the mission. When we **invite** someone to church, we are living the mission. When we **serve** our church, community, and city, we are living the mission.

The question isn't simply, **"Does our church have outreach?"** The question is, **"Am I willing to participate in what God is doing?"**

2. WE ARE CALLED TO MAKE DISCIPLES

Jesus said, **"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations."**

A disciple is more than someone who simply believes in Jesus. A disciple is someone who chooses to follow Jesus and allows His teachings to shape the way they live.

Jesus didn't say, "Go and make church attenders." He said, **"Make disciples."** A person can attend church every week without truly becoming a disciple. They can know Christian vocabulary and hear the Word without allowing God's Word to change their lives.

Salvation is the beginning of the journey, not the end.

When someone gives their life to Jesus, we want to help them grow. We want to help them learn how to pray, understand God's Word, develop their relationship with God, serve others, discover their gifts, and become spiritually mature.

That is why the church provides opportunities such as **Newcomers and Next Steps, Believer's Lifestyle, Aspire Nights, and Small Groups**. These are ways we walk with people and help them grow.

Think about a baby. When a baby is born, we celebrate—but we also expect that baby to grow and mature. The same is true spiritually. **When someone comes to Christ, we celebrate their new birth, but we also help them grow in their relationship with Jesus.**

Everyone can participate in discipleship. You may not preach or lead a Bible study, but you can encourage someone, pray with them, share your testimony, and walk alongside them. **Discipleship happens through relationships.**

3. WE ARE CALLED TO REACH TEMECULA VALLEY AND BEYOND

Jesus said to make disciples **"of all the nations."** The Gospel is not limited to one culture, one background, or one location. **The Gospel is for everybody.**

Jesus had a worldwide vision, and the church must never become so focused on itself that it forgets the people outside its walls.

Pastor Steve Piñeda said, **"Hayward is my pulpit, but the world is my congregation."** What a powerful picture of the heart of missions. Our pulpit may be local, but our assignment is global.

God has placed VOTV here for a purpose: **to reach people, restore families, disciple young people, develop leaders, and help people discover hope and their God-given potential.** Temecula Valley is our assignment, but it is not the limit of God's vision.

Think about a stone dropped into a pond. The stone touches one place, but the impact doesn't remain in that one location. Ripples begin moving outward.

That's what happens when God changes one life. One person reaches a family, that family influences another family, and the impact continues to move outward—from reaching the valley to reaching the world.

What God does in us is supposed to reach beyond us.

Hope Fest gives us an opportunity to bring hope into our community. Run for Hope gives us an opportunity to extend the mission beyond our community. Whether we serve, invite, walk, run, raise support, volunteer, or encourage someone else, we can participate.

Sometimes our participation reaches places our feet may never go.

4. WE ARE CALLED TO DEVELOP PEOPLE

Matthew 28:20 says, **“Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.”**

Jesus is talking about more than simply giving people information. He is talking about helping people understand His commands and put them into practice.

The goal isn't simply to know what Jesus said. The goal is to live what Jesus said.

Spiritual maturity means becoming more like Christ—more loving, forgiving, faithful, compassionate, willing to serve, and concerned for people who don't yet know Jesus.

So we should regularly ask ourselves, **“What is God's Word changing in me?”**

The church should help people not only learn about Jesus but learn to **live like Jesus**. As our lives are changed, God can use our lives to help change others.

5. WE ARE CALLED TO GO WITH HIS PRESENCE

The Great Commission is a big assignment, but Jesus did not leave us to accomplish it alone. He promised, **“And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”**

There will be times when we feel inadequate. There may be moments when we don't know what to say or when we face rejection. But Jesus says, **“I am with you.”**

The Great Commission may be bigger than our ability, but it is never bigger than God's ability.

Faith is like a GPS. We may not see the entire road, but we trust God and take the next step. **We take the step, and God works through our obedience. We plant the seed, and God brings the increase.**

So what is your next step?

Maybe it is inviting someone to church. Maybe it is serving at Hope Fest. Maybe it is joining Run for Hope. Maybe it is starting a small group or discipling someone.

Do what you love, and do what you can.

Don't wait until you feel completely ready. Start where you are and take the next step God puts in front of you. Reach someone. Encourage someone. Pray with someone. Invite someone. Serve someone.

You may not feel equipped, but God will equip you as you go.

CON- DON'T JUST COME. GO.

So, church, **why church?**

Because we have a mission to fulfill.

Jesus called us to **go, make disciples, reach people, teach His Word, and trust His presence.**

Church is not simply somewhere we attend; **it's something we participate in.** We come to be equipped so we can go and serve.

God has placed Victory Outreach Temecula Valley here for a reason. We are called to reach Temecula Valley and beyond and live out the mission Jesus gave His church.

So the question is not simply, **"What is the church going to do?"**

The question is, **"What am I going to do?"**

Who will you reach?

Who will you invite?

Who will you disciple?

Where will you serve?

Don't just come to church—be the church.

Don't just hear the mission—live the mission.

Don't wait for someone else to go.

Jesus said, **"Go."**

So church, **LET'S GO!**

God isn't calling us to watch others fulfill the mission. **He is calling every one of us to participate.**

There are people in our valley and around the world who need hope, and God has placed us here on assignment.

Let this be our prayer:

"Lord, here I am. Send me. Give me Your heart for people and courage to take my next step."

Jesus gave us the mission and promised, **"I am with you always."**

So let's be a church that **goes, reaching Temecula Valley and beyond.**