

# TLC OUTREACH PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

## OUR VISION

To be a church where every believer's life is characterized by habitual and purposeful involvement in outreach & missions, both at home and abroad.

## OUR MISSION

**E**xpose our church to outreach opportunities, **E**ducate believers about the world of missions, **E**quip Christians to maximize their outreach gifts, and challenge disciples to **E**xport God's purpose for their lives through living the Great Commission. *Isaiah 12:4; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 12:31; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:14-15; Revelation 5:9 & 7:9*

## OUR VALUES

- **G**lobal perspective in all TLC ministries
- **L**inking with TLC missionaries in mission endeavors
- **O**ptimal missionary care
- **B**acking fewer missionaries with more resources
- **A**lliances with like-minded organizations and nationals
- **L**ed by the Spirit

**Global perspective in all TLC ministries:** From preschool to seniors, we endeavor to translate our value of making international missions a church-wide priority by encouraging all TLC ministries to incorporate missions education and participation into their ministry.

**Linking with TLC missionaries in mission endeavors:** We believe that personal relationship and shared ministry experiences between the locally based and internationally based members of our church to be of paramount value! To live out this value, we will minister together as often as possible via Short Term Missions in the missionary's locale. It is a given that not all our missionary's settings and ministries are a natural fit for STM. Due to this fact, some settings will no doubt receive more teams than others; we accept this reality.

**Optimal missionary care:** Recognizing the compounded stress and struggles that confront missionaries on a daily basis and, simply because we value and love our missionaries, our perpetual goal will be to continually improve our care of our (God's) missionaries! Some of our goals include: regular contact, free quality housing while on furlough, counseling services and complete relational honesty & safety.

**Backing fewer missionaries with more resources:** Far too many missionaries, when home on furlough, never receive the "R & R" they need and deserve! We believe the primary reason for this is that they are supported by far too many churches and are thus committed to "visiting overload" while supposedly "home getting rest." Relational depth with the Local Base is therefore quite unrealistic. Moreover, Local Base motivation to pray and give will rise and fall in direct proportion to relational connection. To counter this, we endeavor to fund our missionary partners as much as we are able. Additionally, we will seek to establish a shared missionary support network with only a handful of geographically proximate churches.

**Alliances with like-minded organizations and nationals:** We recognize the value of partnering with like-minded sending agencies. Equal to this (and perhaps even more so) we recognize and embrace the fact that a Spirit-filled national is the optimal minister to and for the people of his or her country. Therefore our goal is to partner with nationals—and their local church—in a manner that is welcomed and subservient.

**Led by the Spirit:** Convinced that “Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain” (Psalm 127:1a), it is our earnest desire to follow the Spirit’s leading in the why, when, where, how and who of missions. Believing that missions is empowered by prayer, we will endeavor to build up a praying church so that all ministries—especially missions— are bathed in prayer!

## **OUR PLAN: “G.R.A.C.E.”**

**Go** share the gospel and make disciples

**Reconcile** people & creation back to God

**Assist** national leaders & local churches

**Care** for the poor, ill & victimized

**Educate** the next generation

## **EXAMPLES OF G.R.A.C.E. FROM TLC MISSIONARIES**

### ***Go share the gospel and make disciples:***

- **Johan & Christa Combrinck** have trained 1000s of African pastors, most of whom possess only a portion of the Bible and very little understanding of it.
- **Jonathan & Karen Finley** have planted three churches in the “near extinct evangelical witness” suburbs of Paris. The Finleys also work with immigrants from French speaking West Africa in mission efforts back in Africa.
- **Mark & Brenda Hall** evangelize and disciple unreached youth & young adults in Guadalajara, Mexico.
- **Marty & Carol Pelton** serve as trainers of new missionaries with Wycliffe who literally serve to the farthest ends of the earth.
- **Ken Taylor** reaches out to Japanese non-believers via Black Gospel Choirs & “seminars” (an effective outreach since the origin and “Author” of the lyrics derived from the Bible are sung and “studied”). Ken also helps plant churches and disciple new believers via a small Bible school he and his late wife Bola founded.
- **Doug & Dee Valenzuela** have planted two thriving churches in the suburbs of Naples, Italy unlike any else in the whole country in terms of size. The Valenzuelas continue to successfully employ large biennial evangelistic outreach “Festivals” that have provided the converts that make up the two respective churches they have helped plant.

## ***Reconcile people & creation back to God:***

- **Dennis & Denise Ahern** travel the world and help missionaries in crises to be reconciled back to God, family and fellow servants. Dennis' gift of helping missionaries in the midst of crises has also been of great service to TLC on the "home front."
- **Purpose Leadership Adventure for Youth ("PLAY")** that brings together children from South Africa's three ethnic groups in a camp setting that accomplishes both camp outreach ministry and also serves as a catalyst for racial reconciliation.

## ***Assist national leaders & local churches.***

- **John & Beth Aldax** are invited by Navajo Christian leaders to lead missions teams each year to the resource-poor Navajo of Arizona, primarily in repairing homes of the very poor and providing water and septic systems where none have ever existed.
- **Jonathan & Jocelyn Broyles** serve in Thailand as regional leaders in their mission agency OMF. They are tasked with the challenge of supporting, developing and growing 80 teams that minister throughout Asia.
- **David & Mitzi Shinen** with Wycliffe have helped thousands of Eskimo (Yupik) believers from Siberia to Alaska & Canada possess the Bible in their native language.
- **Marty & Denise Shaw** serve as key leaders for the mission agency WorldVenture. They prepare & train missionaries and national leaders from all over the globe.
- **John & Janie Stark** were the catalyst for bringing the gospel in printed form to three language groups in Nigeria. They now apply their expertise by training others to do similar work as well as developing and delivering the gospel to unreached peoples via indigenous language audio recording devices.
- **Robert & Nancy Weber** on Easter Island, translating the Scriptures into Rapa Nui. They are closing in on a career-long mission: to provide the Rapa Nui with the New Testament in their mother tongue for the first time in history!

## ***Care for the poor, ill & victimized:***

- **Johan & Christa Combrinck**, with TLC members, raised enough for two orphanages for children who have lost their parents to AIDS and/or are HIV positive themselves.
- **Dan & Candi Whitney founded & lead "Camp Attitude,"** a camping ministry in Oregon that specializes in serving special needs youth and reaching out to their families! Dozens of TLCers staff the camp each summer.
- TLC also partners with **Little Flock Children's Homes, led by Viji Cammauf**, a holistic orphanage in Chennai, India. For over half a decade now, TLC has been sending annual dental/medical teams to conduct clinics.
- On staff with **Mercy Ships International, Amy Nyquist** directs the TLC connection to the "floating hospital" ship that provides first rate health care to thousands in the coastal regions of Sub-Saharan Africa.
- In addition to these partners, TLC provides funding and emergency assistance in response to major disasters & refugee crises nationally and around the globe.

## ***Educate the next generation:***

- Based out of a children's home in **Sri Lanka**, a couple connected with TLC both assist the ministry of the home as well as providing nation-wide counter-abuse training in youth agencies and schools.
- Linking with national churches and **Music Camp International, Connie Fortunato** employs pioneering, innovative music camps for children that make outreach to the children & their families possible in countries where traditional mission work is resisted.
- **Prakash Institute, led by Loren & Sylvia Eckhardt**, is comprised of two connected institutes, one for young men & one for young women, both of which provide basic education, vocational training and spiritual guidance to needy youth who would have virtually no hope for a better life without Prakash!
- One more couple whose names we cannot cite (they are based in the **Middle East**), offer theological education for Egyptian, Iranian, Iraqi and Palestinian pastors! They also participate in ministering to refugees.



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