

# **Life Christian Church:** **“Our Message and Our Mission”**

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**March 14, 2010**

- It is very important for any organization to have and know their mission and purpose.
- It is the same with every church – as it is for ours.
- For some time Pastor Rick has tried to bring greater clarification of what our mission and purpose is as a church.
- ON March 12, 1979, lying in bed, Pastor Rick had an open vision where he saw a sea of humanity, waves and waves of tens of thousands of people. He saw himself standing before them, teaching and discipling. They sat with pens and notebooks learning and taking notes. He saw great openings and aisles filled with wheelchairs and stretchers of sick and wounded people. He has come to understand that it means physical healing as well as other infirmities and sicknesses. He saw the people that were being discipled rise up and minister to these people.
- God told Pastor Rick that if he were faithful, this would come to pass. It is a fact that God wants us to reach multitudes (yet to come).
- We are to be an empowering church where every member becomes a minister.
- We are to be a place of healing, restoration, and love. A place where people can put their lives back together.
- The task today is to further clarify our mission and purpose.
- Four Elements of the Gospel:
  1. God's Original Intention – found in the garden. He wanted a family, not slaves.
  2. Satan's Deception – Adam and Eve's betrayal. Through sin death, sickness, war, and crime came into existence.
  3. Christ's Substitution – Christ purchased for us what was lost in the “fall”.
  4. Man's Restoration – the main business of the church to bring restoration in people's lives and in our world that Jesus came to purchase back for us.
- Helping people has never changed in all the years of our existence as a church.
- Individually, each of us exists to bring restoration to the people around us. To bring help, healing, strength, encouragement, and blessing to everyone around us.
- This restoration can be summed up in seven basic areas of human need.
- There are also seven redemptive names of God in the Old Testament (also known as the Seven Compound Names of God) all tied to the name “Jehovah”.
- The word “Jehovah” is the redemptive name of God. It is related to the redemptive work of Christ. All seven of these names are tied to something Jesus came to restore through the cross.
- Numbers are very important in the bible. So knowing there are “seven” names is very important. Seven is the number for completion and wholeness. Therefore, these seven are the complete wholeness of what God wants to restore in our lives through Christ. They were lost in the garden but purchased at the cross through the blood of Christ.
- These are an Old Testament prophetic picture of what Jesus was about to come and do at the cross.
- Seven Basic Areas of Human Need:
  1. Dignity: since the fall, all have suffered low self esteem, insecurity, loss of identity.
  2. Peace: peace of mind, soundness, and wholeness of mind. Most are conflicted with internal struggles; lonely, depressed, worried, and anxious. All came thru the fall. But Jesus came to restore peace of mind. We are out of alignment with God and people. But we don't have to live this way! God came to remove the conflict.

3. Direction / Purpose: have a sense that I am going somewhere with a purpose. People struggle with the lack of purpose. Today, people are aimless. Philosophy (where did I come from, why am I here, who am I where am I going) is an attempt of man to find answers apart from God. Once you are saved, you begin to have a purpose as well.
4. Health: freedom from sickness and disease which came from the fall. All sickness is a direct result from the original sin.
5. Provision: prosperity didn't originate with televangelism. In the garden there was abundant provision. We lost it through the fall but Christ paid for it at the cross. What was lost in the garden was paid for by the blood.
6. Friendship: all need a relationship, wholeness with God and man. Biggest problem is broken relationships. Relationship with God is restored.
7. Victory: all people are made to succeed. God made us to win, have dominion, and exercise authority. The enemy hates us and does everything he can to steal, kill, and destroy. Jesus came to bring abundant life.

- **Seven Compound / Redemptive Names:**

This is the wholeness of what God wants to restore in our lives. Each name describes the redemption and restoration of man's seven basic needs.

1. Jehovah – Tsidkenu: the restorer of our position of dignity.  
(Jeremiah 23:6)
2. Jehovah – Shalom: the restorer of peace, the wholeness of mind.  
(Judges 6:24)
3. Jehovah – Raah: the Lord that gives us direction and guidance.  
(Psalm 23:1)
4. Jehovah – Raphah: the Lord our healer.  
(Exodus 15:26)
5. Jehovah – Jireh: the Lord our provision.  
(Genesis 22:14)
6. Jehovah – Shammah: the Lord is "here". The Restorer of relational friendship and the restoration of the presence of God in our lives.  
(Ezekiel 48:35)
7. Jehovah – Nissi: Lord of My Victory and our glorious banner.  
(Exodus 17:15)

- We exist with this as our mission: *to restore each of these to our own life and the lives of others!!!*
- This being the case, God is about to do something great in this place but we must view ourselves as something more than just members here.
- It plays out in practical ways. Here are some things we do in our church:
  - Job fair – provision - Jireh
  - Healing groups – healing - Raphah
  - Cleansing ministries – peace - Shalom
- All that we do expresses each of these seven things.
- All of these needs create our Mission Statement: *Restoring lives to live the dream!*
- We are to view everyone as being someone who needs restoration in these areas. So we don't look at their actions, but see their brokenness and their need of Jehovah.
- When someone loses their house, they need restoration from Jehovah – Jireh.
- When someone is filled with anxiety, fear, marriage problems, they need Jehovah – Shalom.
- When someone is sick, healing is a calling card – not just for the body of Christ but for the world. Call upon Jehovah – Raphah. Take their hand and ask to simply pray and that will bring the healing restoration power of God to our world.
- *God shows up when we walk in who He has made us to be.*