Paramount, CA



July 25, 2021 (562) 531-6820

connecting people to Jesus, people, and God's mission

### CURRENT CHURCH PLANTS

Pat & Julie Dirkse I Amoldo & Viviana Escobar City Church of Compton | Compton - est. 2009 Larry & Carol Barber Church of Grace Garden Grove - est.2011 Samuel & Irma Alvarado Iglesia La Nueva Familia South LA - est.2012 Navin & Pabitra Bhandari US Nepalese Christian Church Paramount - est2012 Javier & Jenni∧lcaraz La Roca, Panorama City, CA- 2013 Cristobal & Virginia Caro Iglesia Cristiana Evangelica Elohim, Mexico est.2007 Rudy & Edna Rubio Reformed Church of Los Angeles Lynwood est.2018 Jonathan & Charrise Mathew Compton est.2018

### CHURCH PLANTS SUPPORTED

Brian & Laura Warth Chapel of Change Paramount - est.2012 Jon & Janna Ziegler Goldline Church North East LA est.2015 Tommy & Fatimah Forester Epiphany Fellowship South LA - est.2016

### NEW PLANTS OF OUR CLASSIS

Chris Marquez Reformed Church Of LA, Wilmington est.2020

CHURCH REVITALIZATION Larry & Yolanda Dove Park Hills, Los Angeles - est.2012



Every Wednesday in July, from 7pm to 9pm. This is a family-friendly event. We hope to see you there!

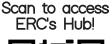


ONLINE & IN PERSON

join us in the Sanctuary or on YouTube, Facebook, & ERCLA.TV at 7pm every Wednesday.

Congratulations to proud parents Mariano and Stella Allende and proud big sister Destiny on the birth of Ryder Caleb Allende at 2:20am on Sunday, July 18th, at 7lb 14oz.

English: 9am 10:30am 12pm 7pm | Spanish: 10:30am 12pm | Napelese: 9:30am (sanctuary) (outside) (activity center) (blue building)





2nd Offerings 7/4 RCA Missions | 7/16 Vision Fund

## Weekly Offering

YTD Offering: \$1,670,317.43 YTD Budget: \$1,566,000.00

Last Week's Offering: \$38,603.00 2021 Weekly Budget: \$54,000.00

Scan to give!



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# Psalm 88: "Walking with the Lord even in the Darkness"



The Lord is the God of my salvation. (Psalm 88:1) Scripture reading: Psalm 88

### Christians are not exempt from difficulty.

- Jesus was very clear that trouble and persecution would occur. (John 15:18-20) - It is important for Christians to manage their expectations during difficult times and when experiencing darkness.

- Regardless of what is going on, Christians should trust in the LORD like the Psalmist and continue to go to him in prayer.

- "Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it." Charles Swindol

### Navigating difficult times - Maintaining our connection with God.

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is [God's] megaphone to rouse a deaf world" *C.S. Lewis (Book: The Problem of Pain)* 

Though the Psalmist feels hopeless, punished, confused and alone, he tells God all about it. He keeps walking with God.

Scripture example of continual prayer from Psalm 88

- V 1 day and night I cry out to you.

- V 9 I call to you, LORD, every day.

- V13 in the morning my prayer comes before you.

Pray continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

"The very presence of these prayers in Scripture is a witness to God's understanding. He knows how men and women speak when they are desperate." Unknown Commentator

### The grace of God in darkness

The Psalm wants us to see that God identifies with people who lament, are in darkness and pray like Psalm 88.

God's grace goes to and through Christians to other people. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4: "so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God"

### Time of Reflection:

Pray the difficult prayer of where we as individuals might be at this time.
If you are not experiencing difficulty, is there anyone that you know who is going through a difficult time? Pray how you can help them.