

# Living Light

*Serving Christ in the San Fernando Valley*



## God's creating and redeeming presence is alive in this community.

Our ministry exists to bear light and to bring individuals into the living presence of Jesus Christ the Light of the World.

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.*

As a worshipping community we gather together knowing that God's word is truly a light to our path. We live in that light as we minister to one another. We live in that light as we reach out to our community in word and deed. We live in that light as we network with one another.

The Light shines on.

### Let there be Light:

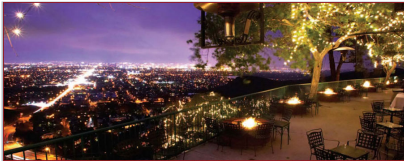
In our lives, in our homes, in our relationships.

### Let there be Light:

In our communities, in our work and recreation, among differing cultures and age groups.

### Let there be Light:

In our maturing faith, in our children, and in the promise that there is no darkness that can overcome the Light of God.



# Valley Girls No More!

Granada Hills began as an agricultural area in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is located in the San Fernando Valley just miles north of Hollywood and a few more miles north of Los Angeles. During the 1950's it was the fastest growing area in the country. Most of the new immigrants were from the Midwest. During a ten year period, Granada Hills grew by more than 55, 000, changing from an agricultural community to part of the megalopolis of Los Angeles. It continues to be a highly populated area because of its proximity to Los Angeles and the entertainment industry. Granada Hills is conveniently located at the junction of four of LA' s busiest freeway systems. To the observing visitor it would appear that this has become of the most culturally and ethnically diverse towns in the area in just a short time. Within this three mile radius there is also huge socio-economic variation. The present economy has challenged the life and family systems of many in our neighborhood. Caring for the hungry and the less fortunate has become an apparent need. There is a strong need for activities for families and children who have come to the area in recent years. There is also a significant aging population of those who have lived here since the 1950's who are now feeling displaced. There seems to be an observable need for all in this community to find identity and

The day of the "Valley Girls" has passed. Transformation and transiency have caused many to be very uncertain about the future. A ministry with purpose and consistency and sensitivity is needed. Mainline congregations are mostly remnants of those who built their homes in the 1950's. Fewer than 15 miles east of the area are several successful mega churches including Cornerstone.

( Formerly led by Francis Chan )

There is a need for a dynamic and compassionate presence in this part of the valley.

What does not show on a demographic report is that in the last 15 years or so there is a whole group of children of first generation immigrants who have grown up in the area and have become fluent English speakers. They have learned to live successfully in the culture of the San

## Demographics

**Granada Hills  
91344**

Current population:  
**50,937**

Largest Lifestyles Group:  
**Affluent Families**

Households with no Faith  
Involvement  
**49%**

Non-anglo population  
**52%**

Average Household  
Income  
**\$100,988**

College Graduates

**249, 637 people  
within three  
miles.**

**More than half  
of them half no  
religious  
affiliation!**



## GETTING STARTED

1. Build prayer teams, hold prayer meetings
2. Look for grants and funding sources
3. Write a proposal
4. Hold meeting with Porter Middle school.
  - a. Meetings with staff
  - b. Speaking at orientation 8/30-8/31
  - c. Interview faculty to share concerns
  - d. Work with YMCA after school staff and executive director
5. Attend neighbor council meetings and Chamber of Commerce
6. Network

## A VERY COOL EVENT!

**We have a small grant to host an event called “Care Abounds in Communities.”**

This will enable us to do the following:

Host a block party in the street in front of Porter Middle School.

1. Contact every caring agency in the community to participate with us.
2. Offer free space and support
3. Have an excuse to talk with almost everyone
4. Collect food for the hungry
5. Get to know other servant communities.
6. Have a great party for our neighbors!

# An Evangelical Worshipping Community

Planning to be well established by fall of 2012

**Open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit we are discerning that our call is to target two specific groups.**

At first glance the groups might seem incompatible:

1. Seniors or those over 50
2. Families with students in middle school.

**Why this unlikely combination?**

1. There are plenty of both in the area.
2. Others are targeting young families.
3. It is possible that they need each other



**Just across the street from Living Light is Porter Middle School, a magnet school for gifted and talented youth.**

Many of the students gather on the property each day as they wait for rides or for friends. On Tuesdays there is an early release day. Often students loiter for several hours. Recently we asked students to help us with projects and began to build a relationship with the school administration. The students have asked to spend more time with the pastor and members of the church. Already two families have attended worship as a result of this minor effort in reaching out. With additional staff, organization, and support this program has the potential to grow quite rapidly.



Porter Middle School is a very ethnically diverse magnet school for gifted and talented students. We have already come to appreciate their creativity and initiative. Students who are already gathering on the property will attend a more structured after school program. Each day will have its own style, each month will have its own focus. We would anticipate about 40 students to participate initially. Supervision will include: Pastor, Coordinator, assistant Coordinator, Volunteer Mentors, Special Mentors, Detail Mentors; each with specific job descriptions, background checks and a common understanding of the goals of the program. The ratio will be one adult per every 8 students or smaller.



The following are examples of daily activities:

Monday	Snack and Chat	3:00-4:00 pm
Tuesday	Super Tuesday	1:30-4:00 pm
Wednesday	Music Moments Family Dinner and Bible Study	3:00-4:00 pm 5:00-6:30 pm
Thursday	Visual Arts	3:00-4:00 pm
Friday	Snack and Chat	3:00-4:00 pm

In addition to reaching the unchurched and bringing the Gospel to them, the goals of the program are the following:

1. Provide a safe place for students
2. Introduce the arts back into the community
3. Provide opportunities to train young people to be worship leaders.
4. Develop drama for worship
5. Assist and support parents

We have carefully prepared a hierarchy of mentors and job descriptions. Every person involved will be a person of faith with an understanding of needs of young people. Every possible effort will be taken to insure the safety of all in every way.



It may be possible for this to be an intergenerational program at times. Seniors could share wisdom and tell stories of growing up. Both could share faith stories and the challenges and blessings of being a follower of Christ.

We have already had many conversations with the administration of the middle school. The YMCA is also offering us support in our planning efforts.

# Our Budget

Small and Growing

## Staff

Musicians \$12,000

Pastor 0

## Outreach

Middle School \$ 6,000

Publicity \$ 5,000

Block Party \$ 2,000

Seniors \$ 2,000

## Rent

\$12,000



## Living Light

15950 Chatsworth St..

Granada Hills, CA

91344