

# Voyagers Bible Church



History .....	3-5
Elders.....	6
Staff.....	7
Facilities.....	8
Statement of Faith .....	9-11

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6000 Irvine Center Drive, Irvine CA 92618

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# City of Irvine

Incorporated December 28, 1971, Irvine's strength is its people; 277,453 hard working and community minded citizens who have chosen Irvine as their home.

Irvine is a city like no other: a master-planned balance of urban living and preserved natural space at the center of Orange County in coastal Southern



California. Reflecting the visionary spirit of its University of California campus, Irvine is not only a great place to vacation; it's an exceptional destination for meetings and events, a multicultural home to over 100 company headquarters.

At the same time, Irvine is one of the most family-friendly destinations in the country, ranked "America's Safest Big City" by the FBI since 2005 and less than half an hour from some of California's best-loved attractions, including Laguna Beach, Newport Beach, Disneyland Park® and Knott's Berry Farm.

If you love sunny days and mild nights, world-class shopping, hiking and biking, and diverse dining, find it all at the center of Orange County: Irvine, California.

# About Us



Still largely agricultural, packinghouses and train tracks occupied the land many of us live on today. Orange groves stood where Voyagers Bible Church now stands.

A small group of leaders from Mariner's Church set out to launch a daughter church in this small but rapidly developing community, which was spearheaded by Dave Bennett, Chuck Corwin, Dick Wagner and others. They charted a course, which would lay the foundation for the church home we know today. It has been a wonderful journey full of rich blessings and answered prayers that have taken us from our first home in an auditorium at Deerfield Elementary School to our

present day campus on Irvine Center Drive. It has been an era of priceless friendships, committed leadership and a community of believers with a desire to yield to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

## **1978-81: Deerfield Elementary School**

From 1978 to 1981, Voyagers Bible Church conducted a single service each Sunday at Deerfield Elementary School, with limited seating for just over 100 people. Dave Bennett, our founding pastor, oversaw a fellowship far different than the bustling church

# About Us (continued)

community we know today.

In contrast to our sizable youth program and children's ministries of the present, there were only a handful of kids when the church initially started. Thus, in the earliest days, entire families attended church together.

## 1981-85: Trabuco Plaza

In 1981, Voyagers moved to a new 180 seat location in the Trabuco Plaza shopping center. It marked the first time the church had a true home, without the weekly packing and unpacking rituals, which marked every Sunday at Deerfield. It also was home to the debut of Sonrise Island. The success of Sonrise Island, in its various early forms, further fueled the growth of the children's program.

By 1983, it was apparent that God was leading Voyagers to establish a permanent church home to reach the growing Irvine community. Around this time the Irvine Company had only two parcels of land available for church use. After much prayer and by God's grace, Voyagers was able to purchase the current 3.25 acre site in 1985.

## 1985-87: Irvine Valley College

In July 1985, Voyagers moved into another "temporary" home, this time a theatre/lecture hall at the recently constructed Irvine Valley College. Although this move once again left the church without a permanent on-site administrative facility, it would pave the way for a smooth transition to our current home which would be constructed only a few hundred yards away.

Voyagers continued to experience significant growth while at Irvine Valley, and when a second church service was added in 1986, guests at both hours would occupy most of the nearly 150 seats in the Forum Hall. Approximately 200 children and youth were now a regular part of the Sunday School schedule, requiring as many as 35 teachers working every Sunday. As Irvine continued to experience a massive population explosion, Voyagers continued to minister effectively to the community. Construction of our new multipurpose building began in earnest in July of 1986.

## 1987-Present: 6000 Irvine Center Drive

On Palm Sunday in 1987, Voyagers held its first service at 6000 Irvine Center Drive. The newly completed 15,000 square foot facility offered tremendous opportunities for the expansion of ministry, with separate areas for classrooms, pastoral staff and administrative personnel.

Founding Pastor, Dave Bennett, left Voyagers in June 1988 to pursue his PhD at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena after a decade of faithful service and guidance. The radical growth of the church continued. The second floor of our building was finished, adding approximately 9,000 square feet of classroom and office space to the church building. At last, Junior High and High School groups had their own rooms in which to meet.

Jim Cecy became our full-time pastor in 1989, followed by Ray Schmautz in 1990. After going almost two years without a full-time pastor,

# Meet the Elders



Our elders devote themselves to prayer and to the ministry of God's Word as they govern over our church (Acts 6:4). They shepherd our congregation with the love of Christ (1 Peter 5:1-3). They encourage the body of Christ at Voyagers and live life in His Spirit.

Elders: (top row, left to right, top) Dan Adelseck, Chris Hedrick, Scott Nelson, Gavin Hudson, (bottom row, left to right) Steve Albin, Mark Schulz, John Kain, Mike Boomsma, (Robert Godfrey, not pictured, on sabbatical).

# Meet our Staff

**Chris Hedrick**

Lead Pastor

**Aaron Cardinio**

Junior High Director

**Kim Coyle**

Accounting Services

**Clarke Brogger**

Associate Pastor

**Kristen Opre**

Student Ministries Director

**Eddie Russek**

Tech Director

**Zack Thompson**

Children/Student Ministries Pastor

**Rani Rommelfanger**

Children's Ministries Director

**Marjie Mueller**

Interim Worship Director

**Davis Gastelum**

High School Pastor

**Lois Venanzi**

Office Manager

**Tyler Levesque**

Sound Tech

**Michael Risley**

Prayer & Disciple-making Pastor

**Tish Johnson**

Administrative Assistant

**Warren Sharpe**

Facilities Director

**Mark Vanlandingham**

Counseling & Care Pastor

**Susan Coker**

Administrative Assistant

**Abby Montplaisir**

Children's Ministries Intern



# Our Facilities



Established in 1976, the Voyagers campus consists of multiple buildings: one 6000 square foot original building which houses offices for pastors and staff, classrooms, and meeting rooms.

The children's ministry meets on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings in a 1200 square foot modular unit behind the original building.



In 2008, a new sanctuary was added that can accommodate 750 attenders.

# Statement of Faith

The following Statement of Faith is adopted by the Church in order to further its foregoing purpose

## A. Doctrines We Affirm:

**(1)** We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons ... Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (*Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Acts 5:3-4; Hebrews 1:8*)

**(2)** We believe that God is all-knowing (omniscient), as to all things existing presently and all things to come. God is all-present (omnipresent) and all-powerful (omnipotent). God is infallible and incapable of error. His purposes and plans cannot be changed or thwarted by humanity. God is sovereign in and over all aspects of His creation. (*Psalm 115:3; Psalm 135:5-7; Psalm 139:1-10; Psalm 147:4-5; Isaiah 14:24-26; Isaiah 40:28; Isaiah 44:7-8; Isaiah 46:10; Acts 2:23; Acts 4:28; Hebrews 4:13; 1 John 3:19-20*)

**(3)** We believe that God the Son became flesh in the Person of Jesus Christ, who was begotten by the Holy Spirit, who was born of the Virgin Mary, and who is true God and true man. (*John 1:15; Matthew 1:18-25; Matthew 26:38; John 11:33; John 8:40; Hebrews 1:8; Hebrews 2:14*)

**(4)** We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins as a substitutionary sacrifice and that all who believe in Him are declared righteous on the basis of His perfect obedience (or perfect life) and shed blood. (*2 Corinthians 5:14; Mark 10:45; Romans 3:24-26; Romans 5:8-9; 1 Peter 3:18*)

**(5)** We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ, in His ascension into heaven, and in His present life for us as High Priest, Intercessor, and Advocate. (*Romans 1:4; John 20:25-27; 1 John 2:1; Hebrews 7:25; Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9-11*)

**(6)** We believe in the personal, bodily, visible return of Jesus Christ to establish His kingdom over which He will reign in righteousness and peace. (*Acts 1:11; Matthew 24:30; Revelation 20:4-6; Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 11:2-5*)

**(7)** We believe that the Bible, consisting of all the books of the Old and New Testaments, is the written Word of God, our final and infallible authority in faith and life, inerrant in the original autographs. (*Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21. We use the word inerrant as defined in the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy.*)

**(8)** We believe that humanity was created in the image of God and that Adam and Eve sinned and consequently experienced not only physical death, but also spiritual death (which is separation from God); as a result, all people are born with a sinful nature and, apart from Jesus Christ, are eternally lost. (*Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:17; Genesis 3:6; Romans 5:12-19; Ephesians 2:1-3; Ephesians 4:18; Mark 7:20-23*)

# Statement of Faith (continued)



**(9)** We believe that all who by faith receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are born again by the Holy Spirit and immediately become children of God, a relationship in which they are eternally secure; this salvation is not the result of any human effort or merit. (*John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:28; John 3:1-16; John 10:27-30; Romans 8:31-38; Philippians 1:6*)

**(10)** We believe that there is only one baptism of the Holy Spirit, occurring at salvation; at that time, the Holy Spirit baptizes believers into the body of Christ and indwells each of them permanently. (*1 Corinthians 12:13; Romans 8:9; John 14:16-17; Ephesians 4:5; Galatians 3:26-27*)

**(11)** We believe that the Holy Spirit distributes spiritual gifts to every believer, to be used for building up the body of Christ; these gifts are to be exercised according to biblical guidelines and priorities. (*1 Corinthians 12:1-14; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Peter 4:10-11*)

**(12)** We believe that all Christians are “new creations” and that, though we still sin because of the influence of our flesh, we are indwelt by the Spirit of Christ. Therefore, each Christian must make the moment-by-moment choice to walk either according to the flesh and experience sin or according to the Spirit of Christ and experience the abundant life in Christ. (*2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:11, 18; Romans 8:9, 13; Galatians 5:16-17, 24; Ephesians 4:22*)

**(13)** We believe in the bodily resurrection of all people: believers are resurrected to enjoy eternal life with God; unbelievers are resurrected to experience judgment and then eternal suffering apart from God. (*1 Corinthians 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 20:4-6, 12-15; John 5:28-29; Daniel 12:2; Revelation 21:1-8*)

**(14)** We believe in the reality and personality of Satan, and that, when given the opportunity, he attempts to defeat Christians; however, Christians can overcome Satan’s schemes by applying biblical truth in the power of the Holy Spirit. (*Ephesians 6:10-19; Luke 10:18; Job 1:6-12; John 8:44*)



**(15)** We believe that the Church consists of all people who have truly put their faith in Jesus Christ and that the purpose of the Church is basically threefold: to give God the worship and praise He deserves; to build up every believer to spiritual maturity; and to make disciples of every nation as, through word and deed, we act as ambassadors for Christ. (*Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 4:4-6; Matthew 16:16-18; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 5:13-16; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 4:11-16*)

**(16)** We believe that Christ commissioned His Church to observe believer baptism and the Lord’s Supper until He returns. (*Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:37-38; Acts 8:26-39; Acts 10:44-48; Acts 16:31-34; Romans 6:1-4; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26*)

**(17)** We believe that Christ is the head of the Church and that the local fellowship is to be governed by elders, men chosen on the basis of biblical qualifications. We believe the Bible teaches that men be both the primary authorities in the church and the primary teachers of biblical doctrine. (*Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 4:15-16; Acts 14:21-23; Acts 20:17, 28-32; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 2:11-15*)

**(18)** We believe that all Christians should order their lives according to biblical priorities, including: (a) the cultivation of their personal fellowship with God through Bible study and prayer; (b) the fulfillment of their biblical responsibilities toward members of their families; (c) the active expression of their love for fellow believers through commitment of time, effort, abilities, and resources; (d) sharing Jesus Christ with nonbelievers through word and deed; and (e) engagement in useful work and/or service. Although each believer should use the energy and abilities God has given for the upbuilding of the Church, the extension of the gospel, and the general welfare of society, these efforts should be consistent with personal spiritual growth and proper development of Christian marriage, family life, and nurture of children. (*John 15:1-27; John 17:15-23; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12; Ephesians 4:28; Titus 2:14; Galatians 6:10; 1 Timothy 5:3-16; Ephesians 5:22-6:9; Colossians 3:18-4:1; 1 Peter 3:1-7; Titus 2:10; Proverbs 31:10-31*)

**(19)** We believe that God has established marriage as a lifelong, exclusive relationship between one genetic man and one genetic woman and that all sexual activity outside the marriage relationship, whether heterosexual, homosexual, or otherwise, is immoral and therefore sin. (*Genesis 1:27-28; Hebrews 13:4; Romans 1:18-32; Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 18:22, 20:13; Matthew 19:4-6, 9; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 15-20; Jude 7*) We believe that God created the human race male and female and that all conduct with the intent to adopt a gender other than one's genetic sex is immoral and therefore sin. (*Genesis 1:27; Deuteronomy 22:5*)

**(20)** We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (*Psalms 139*.)

**(21)** The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Voyagers Bible Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Board of Elders is the final interpretive authority on the Bible's application.

## B. Doctrines On Which We Agree to Disagree:

Two Christians, even though they are in the same local church and part of the same leadership group, may agree to disagree about certain doctrines. Some examples are: modes of baptism; the dating of the events in Genesis; the order of events associated with the Lord's return; and the degree of separation from worldly practices. When teaching is done in any such area, it should be made clear that these doctrines are not essential for salvation or leadership. We may state the case for our position, but we should point out that, in many cases, sincere and intelligent Christians hold different positions. (*Romans 14:1-15:7; 2 Timothy 2:23-24; Titus 3:9*)



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