Preparing in Promise

Welcome to Long Beach Alliance Church

Zunday, December 20, 2020



GIVING

MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Remember, all giving needs to be into the church office (or postmarked if by 'snail mail') by December 31 to be included for your 2020 giving summary!

Christmas Eve Service

Thursday
December 24
6:30PM

* masks & social distancing required

LBAC Year-to-Date Financial Report

<u>Budget</u> <u>Received</u> <u>Budget %</u>
Weekly: \$12,803.78 \$19,562.27 152.8%

Month-to-Date: \$25,607.56 \$28,201.16 110.1%

Year-to-Date: \$192,056.70 \$182,072.25 * 94.8%

Disbursed YTD: \$187,472.00 GF Balance: \$35,294.86*

*Denotes General Fund (GF) balance after subtracting \$47,232.00 of Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP)
Small Business Loan funds. LBAC's application has been submitted for the promised complete loan
forgiveness and is expected soon. Until then, we will report the GF balance with PPP funds subtracted.

Worship Songs ~ Sunday, December 20, 2020

Joy to the World

V-1

Joy to the world, the Lord is come,
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart. Prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

V-2

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns,
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy.
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

V-3

No more let sin and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found
Far as, far as the curse is found

V-4

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love

What Child is This

What child is this who laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping
This, this is Christ the King
Who, shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring Him laud
The babe, the Son of Mary

(What Child Is This – Continued) V-2

Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and lamb are feeding
Good Christian fear, for sinners here
The silent world is pleading
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through
The cross be born for me, for you
Hail, hail the word made flesh
The babe, the Son of Mary

V-3

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh
Come peasant king to own Him
The King of kings salvation brings
Let loving hearts enthrone Him
Raise, raise the song on high
The virgin sings her lullaby
Joy, joy for Christ is born
The babe, the Son of Mary

Tag

This, this is Christ the King Who, shepherds guard and angels sing Haste, haste to bring Him laud The babe, the Son of Mary

Light of the World

O Jesus, Son of God, So full of grace and truth The Father's saving Word, so wonderful are You The Angels longed to see, and prophets searched to find The glory we have seen revealed

V-2

You shone upon the earth, but who will understand
You came unto Your own, but who will recognize
Your birth was prophesied, for You were the Messiah
Who came and walked upon the earth
Your glory we have seen, the One and only King
And now Your living in our hearts

(Light of the World - Continued) Chorus

Light of the world, Light of the world,
Light of the world
You shine upon us (2x)

V-3

In You all things were made and nothing without You In heaven and on earth, all things are held in You And yet You became flesh, living as one of us Under the shadow of the cross Where through the blood You shed, You have made peace again Peace for the world that God so loved

Chorus

Light of the world, Light of the world,
Light of the world
You shine upon us (4x)

Tag

And yet You became flesh, living as one of us
Under the shadow of the cross
Where through the blood You shed,
You have made peace again
Peace for the world that God so loved
(Repeat Chorus)

Advent Confession 4

God of Hospitality and Wonder, You welcome us to a table that invites those who are different than us. At times this invitation has made us uncomfortable, unsettled, and defensive.

Our discomfort comes from an unwillingness to see other peoples' perspectives.

Our unsettledness comes from a dependence on the status quo.

Our defensiveness comes from a belief that our understanding of You is the only correct one.

Help us to surrender ourselves to the abundance of Your invitation. Inspire us to embrace the fact that diversity is strength, not weakness. Gather us to welcome the stranger, care for the oppressed, and feed the hungry.

Forgive us for our short-sightedness and open us to Your Gospel that we might better embody the community You call us to be.
In the wonderful name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Noel

V-1

Love incarnate love divine
Star and angels gave the sign
Bow to babe on bended knee
The Savior of humanity
Unto us a child is born
He shall reign forevermore

Chorus

Noel, Noel
Come and see what God has done
Noel, noel,
The story of amazing love
The light of the world given for us
Noel

V-2

Son of God and Son of man
There before the world began
Born to suffer, born to save
Born to raise us from the grave
Christ the everlasting Lord
He shall reign forevermore (to chorus)

Come Adore Him

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord
For He alone is worthy
For He alone is worthy,
Christ the Lord
We'll give Him all the Glory
We'll give Him all the Glory,
Christ the Lord

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald Angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinner reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King

V-2

Christ by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus our Immanuel
Hark the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King

V-3

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace,
Hail the Sun of righteousness
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new born King

Churches Helping Churches

By Sam Miller

For many, COVID-19 hit from every direction and all at once. Take Maria (name changed for privacy), for example. She's a young adult who worships at Long Beach Friends Church had been cleaning homes with her mother, but her clients no longer let anybody into their homes. The other ways she might have scrambled for income – selling home-cooked Mexican food, or buying bottled water in bulk

CHURCHES helping CHURCHES GRANT APPLICANT DATA TRENDS

Analysis

Size

Most churches are small in attendance (28 have attendance below 120 people) and have small budgets (28 have budgets under \$160k). There was a tapering off in numbers as the sizes grew, but a small "bubble" of churches applied that have a budget of over \$500k (4 churches).

Drop in giving

There was no real trend in how much a church has lost in giving, the numbers were fairly spread out from <15% to >75%.

Use of fund

Most of the churches planned to use the majority or some of the grant to provide for their needs in their congregations and local neighborhoods. The majority of churches (25) also plan to use some of the funds to support their infrastructure (salaries, rent, equipment).

and reselling it at crowded soccer games – were, likewise, impossible in a no-contact, no-gathering economy. Her kindergarten-aged daughter was home from school. Unable to pay her rent, she knew her eviction was looming. Then Maria was hospitalized with the virus. Then so was her mom.

On top of all that, COVID-19 made her struggles unseen by the rest of the world. With so many people forced inside, with volunteer programs put on hold and church services cancelled, the crises that might once have been known to dozens of contacts were

now invisible, as she was. And Maria wasn't unique in her situation. Suddenly, everybody needed help, and the potential helpers were locked in their homes.

A last piece: charitable giving lives downstream from life, and churches have seen significant effects as a result of the virus. Long Beach Friends, for example,

has seen giving drop 10 percent since the pandemic began, while needs – in the congregation and in the larger community around it – have gone up immeasurably. Other small churches around Long Beach have seen offerings shrink by up to 80 percent.

"I think one can feel inadequate," said Carl LaBarbera, a Seal Beach businessman who founded Kingdomworks SDG Foundation. In the face of such overwhelming need, he turned to fasting and prayer. He asked himself, "'What can we do?'" and felt the Lord encouraging him to let go. "I'm very methodical, analytical, but this is a hundred-year event." It needed a hundred-year response, and he wanted "to be used in a good way to be a small part of something greater that [God's]

orchestrating. You do what you can do."

Key Data Points Size of congregations - Total Attendees Represented by ALL Applicant Churches: 4,180 - Average Weekly Attendance: 107 Churches by weekly attendance 19 Churches by weekly attendance 19 Churches by budget level Churches by budget level 19 Churches by budget level Churches by shortfall of giving due to Covid Churches by shortfall of giving due to Covid

CHURCHES beloing CHURCHES BY THE NUMBERS

\$132K

Given by Kingdomworks SE

\$126K

Given by fourteen local churches combined

\$258K

Grants received b 40 churches This fall, LaBarbera's foundation did something. Along with fourteen Long Beach churches, the Churches Helping Churches initiative distributed grants of \$7,000 apiece to more than 30 churches in Long Beach. Most of the churches are small – the median annual budget is \$80,000 – and all are struggling in this season.

The newly formed Long Beach Church Collective, led by Eric Marsh, took responsibility for recruiting the churches that would provide the grants. "Every church we asked said, 'We're in!'" Marsh said. "I'm really proud of the churches in our city. There are some churches best positioned to serve the most vulnerable, and there are other churches that recognize they have more than they need. This initiative brought the two together."

"When COVID-19 hit, our Long Beach Alliance leadership prayed God would bring healing and love to people in spite of all of the crazy pandemic limitations. We were delighted when we observed that our church had gradually built the largest surplus of funds in our 90+ years of ministry in Long Beach! As we prayed that God would show us how to best invest in His Kingdom, we became convinced God had given us such a large surplus in order to help those who might be experiencing unexpected deficits," said Long Beach Alliance pastor Chris Lankford. "Churches Helping Churches was a wonderful bridge which allowed us

CHURCHES RECEIVING GRANTS

		00
Church	Amount	Paster
Rhema Word Bible Church	\$7K	Pastor Trevor Johnson
1st Providence Missionary Baptist Church	\$7K	Artist Lanier
Cabrillo Church in Christ	\$7K	Jeffery Bradley
St. Paul Baptist Church of Long Beach	\$7K	Prentice Head III
Praise Temple	\$7K	Bruce Riley
Cristo Viene	\$7K	Mateo Cabello
Abundant New Life Family Ministries, Inc.	\$7K	Janet M Carter
Fountain of Life Covenant Church	\$7K	Rev. Dr. John Teter
The ROCK Christian Fellowship	\$7K	Gregory Sanders
Chosen Generation Fellowship Church	\$7K	Cedric Nelms
Long Beach Friends Church	\$7K	Joseph R Ginder
Fellowship Community Church	\$7K	Pastor Michael Withers
Covenant Presbyterian Church	\$7K	Rob Langworthy
City Church of Compton	\$7K	Pat Dirkse
Citylights Community Church	\$7K	Tom Demorest
Good News Church	\$7K	Steve Richardson
Awaken Ministries	\$7K	Antonio Perez
Crossroads Long Beach	\$7K	Suzette Zarate
Hope In Christ Community Church	\$7K	Ed Robinson
Truth and Love Christian Church	\$7K	Walter R. Tucker III
Greater Union Baptist Church	\$7K	Kenneth D Tillman
Iglesia Cristiana de la Comunidad	\$7K	Manuel Espinosa

CHURCHES RECEIVING GRANTS

Church	Amount	Paster
The Salvation Army Long Beach Citadel	\$7K	Captain Sergio Garcia
Iglesia Cristiana Emanuel	\$3.5K	Pedro Valle
Iglesia de Cristo Buenos Samaritanos (ICBS)	\$7k	Nestor A. Padilla
Iglesia Primer Amor	\$7k	Pedro Rivera Jr.
Ministerio Bautista Logos, Inc	\$7k	Ps. Jose Mejias (Tin)
Mision Nuevos Comienzos	\$7k	Sergio O Chinchilla
Long Beach First Church of the Nazarene	\$3.5K	Pastor Ramon B. Urrutia
Iglesia De Dios(COG) la Gaviota	\$7k	Jose Angel Molina
Iglesia de Jesucristo Manantiales de Agua Viva	\$7k	Miguel Loera
Centro Cristiano Casa De Restauración	\$7k	Lupe Rios
Centro Cristiano Semillas de Fe	\$7k	Santos Martinez
Pacto de Gracia (Grace Memorial Baptist Church)	\$3.5K	Franklin Montoya
Ministerio de Restauracion Familiar	\$3.5K	Ana Maria Espino & Carlos Espino
Los Angeles Word of Truth Church	\$5K	Bishop Reginald Givins, Sr
Family of Faith Christian Center	\$5K	Sherman Gordon
Light & Life West	\$5K	Charles Latchison
New Liberty Baptist Church	\$5K	Eddie Patterson
39 Churches*	\$251K*	

*GraceLB gave a gift of \$7,000 directly to City Church, a recent church plant in the Wrigley neighborhood of Long Beach. Including this obration, the total number of churches is 40 and the total amount year (before the truman training) is \$258\$K. Since (City Durch is the legis) approars of The Long Beacl Church Collective, we decided to not count this in our public number. The Collective did not receive any benefit from this donation.

CHURCHES THAT DONATED Grace Seal Beach Bethany Long Beach Jeff Levins Parkcrest Christian Church Darren Rouanzoin; Jon Rosene GraceLB Beth Balmer, Daniel Long Light and Life Christian Fello Cornerstone Church Antioch LB Myesha Chaney, Wayne Chaney All Saints Anglican Cathedral LB Christian Fellowship Jaci Anderson; Barb Sunofsky I B Alliance Church Chrie Lankford Sierra Madre Congregational Josh Swanson Revive Church Noemi Chavez: Josh Chavez

to connect to others in the body of Christ who were in need. God never gives us a blessing just for ourselves. God always gives to us so we can give to others. Like a miracle of multiplying bread and fish, God has multiplied his blessings through Churches Helping Churches to bring authentic healing and love to our community and world."

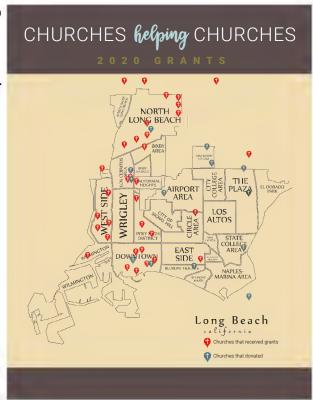
The grants helped pay for an industrial refrigerator at one site, Chromebooks for students at another. Some churches bought canopies to help them safely regather outdoors, while others purchased computer equipment to stream their services online. Churches that were struggling helped their

congregants pay their utility bills and rent. Churches that were really struggling used the grants to pay their own utility bills and their own rent.

At The Rock Christian Fellowship, church leaders had already been stretching to provide food aid to families in acute need. Early in the pandemic period, they were making 15 regular deliveries, but now that number has more than doubled. Their regular budget could barely cover the expense.

The grants all include \$1,000 earmarked to distribute food, anticipating just such a need. "This will prohibit ... deep concerns," says **Gregory Sanders, lead pastor** at The Rock. "A percentage of our general offering has always gone into a fund for people who need help with funerals, clothing, shelter, food - and that fund has really been accessed over these last few months. Part of this [grant] has helped us maintain that fund."

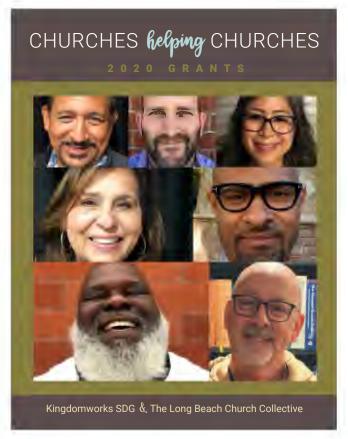
Most of the churches planned to use some money for equipment, rent, or salaries. Like The Rock, many intended the funds for outreach and support to surrounding communities, and also to provide direct assistance to church congregants.



At Long Beach Friends Church, the grants were directed primarily to families facing urgent, temporary housing crises, like Maria and her family. This has been a heart-wrenching period for pastors: their flocks are hurting, physically and financially and emotionally. They're mourning deaths without leading funerals and performing Sunday services over the phone. They're feeling their own inadequacies as leaders. It was into this place of dependence that these grants dropped.

"While the help doesn't solve all of the problems, it has been a tangible offer of hope in a difficult time. It has been deeply appreciated. Hope is valuable," says Long Beach Friends' pastor, Joe Ginder. "When people are cared for in a hard time, it is empowering for the future. That hope and empowerment from the wider body of Christ are the things that will last. It's not only 'What would Jesus do?' but 'Look what Jesus did!'"

Earlier this fall, Sanders led his congregation through the story of Jehoshaphat: "The armies are against him, he's the leader and he's overwhelmed, and one guy stands and says 'Don't worry, the battle is not yours, it's the Lord's,' Sanders said. "Sometimes doctors need a doctor. Sometimes the encourager needs the encourager."



Preparing in Promise

The Promise of Unimaginable Peace

Advent Week #3 · Long Beach Alliance Church · December 20, 2020 · Pastor Chris Lankford

1) Welcoming the Prince

(Psalm 118:26-29; Luke 2:8-14; Isalah 9:6-7)

2) A Very Unexpected Kiss (Psalm 85:2-4, 7-13)

3) Finding Room for Peace (Isalah 28:16; Romans 10:9-13, Psalm 32:1-5)

Verses Sheet

(PLEASE READ ALONG IN YOUR OWN BIBLES EACH SUNDAY, IT IS GOOD PRACTICE FOR READING
THE BIBLE ON YOUR OWN FROM MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY!)

Psalm 118:26-29

- Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!
 We bless you from the house of the LORD.
- The LORD is God,

 and he has made his light to shine upon us.

 Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,

 up to the horns of the altar!
- You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.
- Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

Luke 2:8-14

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Isaiah 9:6-7

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Psalm 85:2-4 & 7-13

- You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin.
- You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.
- Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!
- Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.
- Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.
- Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.
- Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.
- Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.
- Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our and will yield its increase.
- Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

Isaiah 28:16

16 Therefore thus says the Lord God,

"Behold, I am the one who has laid
as a foundation in Zion,
a stone, a tested stone,
a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation:
'Whoever believes will not be in haste.'

Romans 10:9-13

⁹ If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Psalm 32:1-5

- Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
- Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.
- For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
- I acknowledged my sin to you,
 and I did not cover my iniquity;
 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
 and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

LBAC's Family Calendar & Events

Sunday, December 20

Parking Lot & Livestream 10:30AM

Worship & Celebration!

MISSIONS

Link to LBAC Missions!

GROWTH GROUPS

Link to LBAC Growth Groups! Mid-week Adult Bible Studies

Monday, December 21

Tuesday, December 22

10:00AM Staff Team Zoom Meeting

7:00PM Pure Desire Outdoor & **Zoom** Mtg 7:00PM SIA Outdoor & Zoom Mtg

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Link to LBAC Children's Ministries! Sunday Mornings:

Gospel Project @ 9:30AM Fun-N-Funky @ 11:15AM (on hold)

AWANA

Link to LBAC AWANA

Wednesday Nights September-May (on hold)

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Link to LBAC Youth Ministries! Click Here For Youth Group Live Stream Events Every Tuesday & Thursday Night @ 7:00PM

Thursday, December 24

6:30PM Christmas Eve Parking Lot Service

7:00PM Youth Group In-Person & Zoom(HS)

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Link to LBAC Women's Ministry!

Women's Ministry Event Information Contact: deva@charter.net

Lydia House Meals Ministry Contact: mcoliver789@msn.com

Women Connecting with Missions 3rd Tuesday each month @ 7:00PM (on hold)

Crafty Women

2nd Saturday each month @ 10:00AM (on hold)

MEN'S MINISTRIES

Link to LBAC Men's Ministry! Contact: mensministry@lbac.org

Friday, December 25

8:00PM NA Zoom Mtg.

Sunday, December 27

8:00AM Red Cross Blood Drive Parking Lot & Livestream 10:30AM Worship & Celebration!

long beach alliance church offices

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