

# Launching a **PEACE** Center



**P·E·A·C·E**

THE PEACE PLAN

Hey Church!

God calls us to care about what He cares about most; his lost children being found. He calls us to care about “the least of these” and the growth of his church; growing warmer through fellowship, deeper in discipleship, wider through ministry and extending all around the world through evangelism. That is what God wants!

Let’s focus our outreach efforts on doing the five things that Jesus did during his ministry time on earth. We have defined it as the PEACE Plan. It is our desire to not only do what Jesus did but also to focus on empowering churches around the globe to do the same.

### **The PEACE Plan Vision**

There are 5 global giants- problems that affect billions of people throughout the world:

- Spiritual Emptiness
- Self-centered leadership
- Poverty
- Disease
- Illiteracy

There aren’t enough doctors, teachers, missionaries to solve all the issues in the world. But there is an army of believers sitting in churches waiting to be mobilized. God can use ordinary people to do extraordinary things!

What are the antidotes to the 5 global giants?

- **P**lant churches that promote reconciliation
- **E**quip servant leaders
- **A**ssist the poor
- **C**are for the sick
- **E**ducate the next generation

PEACE is a grassroots church to church strategy. Churches do PEACE in their own community, then your church connects with a church in another country, then they do PEACE in their local community. Every church is a sending a receiving church. Everyone and anyone can make a difference in the community!

Let’s turn an Audience into an Army!

Consumers into Contributors!

Spectators into Participators!

It will CHANGE the world!

# WHAT DID JESUS DO AND TEACH?

He...

## **P-Planted Churches that Promoted Reconciliation**

Provided a plan for people to be reconciled to God.

Matthew 9:36-38, 10:7-10, 16:13-19, 28:20, Mark 1:14, 3:13-19

## **E-Equipped Servant Leaders**

Taught leaders to become servants.

Mark 3:13-19, 4:33-34, Luke 10:1-11, 14:1-11, John 13:3-5

## **A-Assisted the Poor**

Helped those in need.

Matthew 6:2-4, Mark 6:32-44, Luke 11:41, 12:33, 18:22

## **C-Cared for the Sick**

Cared for and healed those with disease.

Matthew 4:23-24, 8:1-3, 7-10, 9:1-2, 6-7, Mark 3:1-5, 9-11, 6:53-56,  
Luke 7:7-11, 13:10-14, John 4:46-54, 5:2-9

## **E-Educated the Next Generation**

Educated the Children.

Mark 9:36-37, 42:10-16, Luke 10-21

## WHAT IS A PEACE CENTER?

The PEACE Center was established in Lake Forest, California as an outreach tool to the local community of Orange County to bring people to Christ. One by one, ministries were launched that met specific, tangible needs of this community and the PEACE Center has continued to grow. But a PEACE Center is more than a place that provides important resources to the community. It is a place for people to find hope in the midst of difficult life situations, a gathering point where people can receive God's love, mercy and forgiveness. It provides opportunities for volunteers and staff to walk alongside those whom God has brought through the doors. Most importantly, a PEACE Center provides an avenue for people to enter the Family of God and transform their lives through His never failing, unending love.

When people walk through the PEACE Center door, we want them to experience the gift of presence. There is no way possible to meet their every need, but we can be there to listen giving freely of our time. Kay Warren highlights this so beautifully in her book *Dangerous Surrender*. She says, "Of all the gifts God gave us, he gave us the greatest one – he gave us himself. Now he expects us to do the same for others...every interaction with a person is a chance to treat people the way Jesus did. It's an opportunity to make the invisible God visible." With this in mind, we encourage the PEACE Center staff and army of volunteers to be present for those we serve and allow God to use us for his glory.

## ANDREA'S STORY

Andrea is a 62-year-old, divorced woman living on disability income. One day she was walking through the park and noticed a man digging in a trash can. She realized he was her son's best friend from childhood, John. Her heart went out to him and she decided to bring him to her church's PEACE Center for assistance. John met with a Resource Guide where they formulated a plan to help him find transitional housing. He was given assignments with each meeting which addressed his tangible and spiritual needs. As a result of meeting every other week with a Resource Guide, he accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior. But the story did not end there.

Andrea saw what God had done in John's life through the PEACE Center and confided in the Resource Guide that she too was experiencing difficulties in her life. Basically homeless, she was renting a pop-up trailer on a lot for \$400 a month. She had no running water, no bathroom and no facilities where she could store and make food. She was paying her rent as well as making payments to a \$3000 credit card bill every month on her small disability income. When asked further, it was discovered she had allowed her son to charge items on her credit card. He was living nearby in a 4-bedroom house with his family and a daughter who were not aware of her situation. Andrea did not want her children to know that she was homeless and surviving on very little means.

With the assistance of a **Resource Guide**, they developed a plan of action to address her needs. First, they began by contacting transitional living homes. Andrea eagerly completed applications and followed-up weekly until God opened a door for her. While they waited for housing to become available, they worked on reconciliation with her family. She spoke to her family about her situation and her son began making monthly payments on the credit card debt. She consulted with **Legal Aid** regarding her finances. Andrea received medical care for her physical health through the **Medical Clinic** and food from the **Food Pantry**. She met every other week with the Resource Guides for months. Andrea steadily made progress toward her goals. The most important part of the meetings was time spent thanking God for walking with her, talking about God's purpose for her life, and encouraging her walk and witness to other women in the transitional living home. Today, Andrea is living in a small SDI subsidized apartment. She praises God for providing her loving assistance through her church's PEACE Center.

Andrea's story is one of hope, reconciliation and love. The goal of the PEACE Center is to guide people to the love of Jesus Christ while helping to meet their physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Launching a PEACE Center requires staff and volunteers to step out in faith and trust that God will provide what is needed to minister to those He brings in the doors.

# PLANNING

## DEMOGRAPHICS

- What are the demographics of your congregation?
  - Age?
  - Socio-Economic Status?
  - Ethnicities/Nationalities?
- How many people or what percentage of your congregation are currently serving in ministry?
- Whom do you want to reach for Jesus through the PEACE Center?
- Where are those you want to serve located?
- What are the needs in the congregation/community at large that you want to meet?
- How will you reach out to the community?
- How will people get to your Center?
  - Are you located near a bus route?

## STAFFING AND HOURS OF OPERATION

- What staffing do you currently have?
- What staffing do you anticipate you'll need?
- How many days a week will the PEACE Center be open?
  - Will your target community need the PEACE Center open primarily during the weekdays, evenings and/or on weekends?

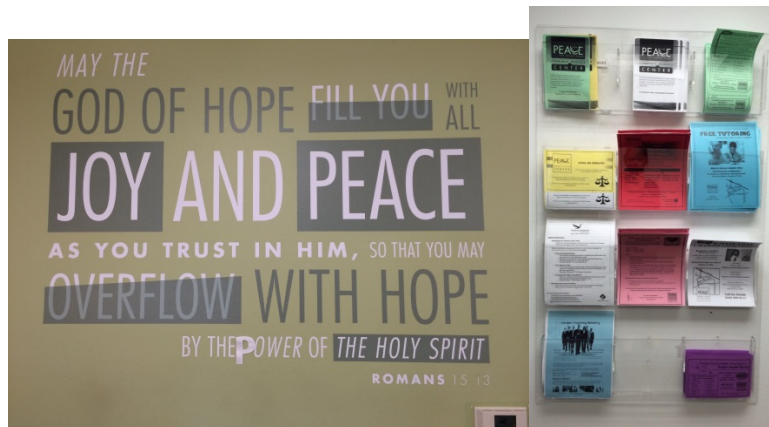
## RESOURCES

- What resources are currently available at your campus for your congregation?
  - Support Groups?
  - Counseling Ministry?
  - Ministries available for all age groups?
- Will you establish a benevolence fund to help church members? To help those you serve at the PEACE Center?
- Who do you partner with in the community?
  - School District?
  - Other Churches?
  - Nonprofit organizations?
  - Local Police Department/Sheriff?
  - Social Service?
  - County Government?
- How do you feel about partnering with the government?
  - For example, the Medical Insurance Assistance Ministry.
- Do you know of mental health resources available within your community?
- Who is available to initiate partnerships?
- How will your ministry be communicated from the pulpit, emails, bulletin, etc?

# PHYSICAL SPACE

Physical space impacts how ministries operate.

- What space is available for PEACE Center ministries?
- Do you have a reception area?
- Do you have offices that can be used for ministry?
- Do you have classroom space available?
- Do you have storage space?
- Do you have a waiting room?
  - The waiting room is a place where ministry can be done in a subtle way. With that in mind, what is the design of the waiting room?
  - Do you have a TV available to stream sermons or show slides featuring ministries and church events?
  - Consider putting scripture on the walls to encourage guests.
  - Do you have means to communicate with guests about services available?
    - Bulletin board(s)?
    - Literature holder for fliers?





## **SPIRITUAL**

The PEACE Center strives to be a place where people can be shown the love of Jesus, not just an “agency” that provides services well. This will take time and an investment in raising up and discipling those who are staffing and serving at the PEACE Center.

- Serving God in this capacity often requires great faith. How will you emphasize this to your staff and volunteers?
- Although we want to help everyone, there are limits to what the PEACE Center can do. It is important to teach surrender to your team. Establish healthy boundaries for staff and volunteers and teach them to give the issues we cannot solve to God.
  - For example, a single mother of 3 children is homeless. Resources are limited. How is this situation handled?
- What spiritual resources do you have available to your guests?
  - Fresh start DVDs/books?
  - Bibles in languages needed to reach your demographic?
  - Copies of Purpose Driven Life.

## **EMERGENCY/SAFETY**

The physical safety of staff, volunteers and those being served is very important. Staff and volunteers will need guidance about how to manage difficult situations and be made aware of healthy boundaries that will protect their personal safety.

- What kind of security is available at your campus?
  - Do you have security staff who can work at the PEACE Center?
- What emergency/safety training will you provide to staff and volunteers?
- How will you train staff and volunteers to handle guests who are unhappy and get loud while your programs are in progress?
- What safety precautions will you put in place? For example, volunteers may desire to help one of the PEACE Center guests on their own time. How will you communicate boundaries for safety, such as not going in the car alone with guests?

# PEACE CENTER START UP CHECKLIST

## INITIAL SET UP

- Establish PEACE Center hours of operation.
- Determine staffing.
- Set up Phone line and phone recording.
- Set up social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) and PEACE Center email account.
- Staffnet Training for staff/volunteers and access.
- Set up ministries in Ministry Manager/Ministry Explorer.
- Design quarterly newsletter (See Example A in the Example and Reference Section).
- Set up classroom availability on Outlook.
- Directions to PEACE Center.
- Establish site as an Access bus stop.
- Know the nearest bus stop location and how to get to your site via public transportation.
- Create PEACE Center brochure (See Example B in the Example and Reference Section).

## RESOURCE MATERIALS

- PEACE Center brochures in multiple languages targeted to your communities (See Example C in the Example and Reference Section).
- Church Resource Binder.
- Bibles in multiple languages (targeted to your communities).
- Purpose Driven Life in multiple languages (targeted to your communities).
- PEACE Center business cards (See Example D in the Example and Reference Section).
- PEACE Center newsletter for volunteers.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- Call 211 and add PEACE Center as an agency.
- Contact local Social Security Office for local services and referral opportunities.
  - Set up meetings with Case Managers.
- Contact Lake Forest PEACE Center to register as a Certified Enrollment Entity for the Insurance Application Assistance ministry (if applicable).

## VOLUNTEERS

- Recruitment.
  - Patio table before and after services.
  - Through CLASS 301 and SHAPE Guides.
  - Social Media.
  - Bible studies at church.
  - Small Groups.
  - Ministry Faire.
  - Announcement from the pulpit.
- Record volunteer service hours in ministry through Ministry Manager.

## EQUIPMENT

- Dedicated phone line.
- File Cabinets.
- Binders.
- Petty Cash box.
- Petty Cash.
- Single day bus passes (optional but recommended).
- Gift cards (optional).
- Ledger for logging cash, bus passes, gift cards, etc. in and out.
- Copier.
- Computer(s).
- Printer.
- Extra printer ink.

## **DONORS**

- Establish donation account for direct and on-line giving.
- Establish and account for benevolence donations.
- Spreadsheet for donor demographics, thank you notes, Christmas cards and newsletter.
- Create newsletter focused on donors (See Example E in the Example and Reference Section).

## **SECURITY**

- Establish security availability.
- Protocol for how security will operate.
  - How to contact.
  - When should they be called?
  - When the Lake Forest PEACE Center was established, there was no security present. Now there is security on-site.
  - Consider having a male present if security presence is not available.

## **EMERGENCY/SAFETY TRAINING**

- Emergency plan that includes instructions in the event of:
  - Fire.
  - Earthquake.
  - Need to call 911.
- Protocol for contacting security.

## LESSONS LEARNED

A volunteer offers to serve because they feel connected or drawn to the ministry. They have an expertise and/or giftedness and want to use their skills to serve God. Our role is to help the volunteers see beyond their expertise. We want them to see their role as a dual one: offering their expertise/giftedness and sharing the hope that comes from a relationship with Jesus.

One of our main goals is to encourage each volunteer's walk with God. As our love for God increases, we become passionate about wanting to talk about Him. It's only natural that we would want to share this relationship that has changed our lives with others who need Him too. Sometimes just recognizing this simple truth can free us up to be more courageous about sharing the gospel.

God brings people through the doors of the PEACE Center for a reason. A volunteer may be the only light in that person's life for that day, month or year. We are the face of Jesus to those we serve, showing His love to our guests. We must remember we are salt and light.

### **SALT AND LIGHT • Matthew 5:13-16**

<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot."<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

<sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

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