



## Southlands Church announces the 3rd annual Manna Mercy and Justice Grant

for local small churches and recent church plants. Through 2019, Manna Grants have been awarded to 21 churches throughout Southern California totaling over \$160,000, with an additional nearly \$10,000 in gifts to non-recipient churches. We also provided monthly equipping to these church leaders, along with a venue for them, so that they could be encouraged and strengthened by fellow pastors and planters. This year we intend to award 10 grants to churches in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego Counties.

At Southlands we are gospel-centered, Spirit empowered communities on mission. Further, we believe that the local church is the vehicle for the transmission of the gospel of Jesus Christ into each community. This belief has led us to plant 16 churches in the last 20 years. Through our experiences, we are very familiar with and empathetic to the challenges that smaller churches and church plants face.

In 2 Corinthians 8 we read about how the Jerusalem Church was in great need. Paul encouraged the Corinthian Church to come to their aid and give of their material abundance just as the Jerusalem Church had contributed to them spiritually. He referred to Exodus 16 in which the Israelites collected manna and how those who were only able to collect little still had enough and those who collected much did not have too much. Through the Manna Grant we have a desire to come alongside local churches and assist in the challenges they face financially in order to see the Gospel effectively spread in Southern California.

The cooperation between the churches in Corinth and Jerusalem led to the following: Strength amongst the local churches, unity as they suffered and rejoiced together, awareness of one another's struggles, triumphs and characteristics, mutual accountability, dependence upon God in the form of other churches for wisdom and provision, and equipping through Paul's encouragement and writings.

Our prayer is that similar to the relationship forged between the Corinthian and Jerusalem Churches, this Manna Grant program would be a tool through which we mutually encourage one another to greater strength, unity, and awareness, and look to one another for accountability, dependence and equipping as we see the local churches reach further into Southern California for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## DETAILS

With this cooperation in mind amongst smaller Southern California churches, it is our desire to provide ten grants ranging from \$5,000-\$10,000 in 2020. Regardless of denomination, these grants will specifically go to Bible-based, Christ-centered, disciple making churches. The purpose of these funds is not to provide funding for day to day operations, but rather to propel churches forward into new or existing endeavors of mercy and justice ministry.

These grants are specifically for churches that have been planted in the last five years or average fewer than 200 in attendance. Grant recipients are not required to reimburse these funds. Further, recipient churches are not asked to be a part of any formal network of churches or denomination in so receiving this grant. To compliment this grant, Southlands will provide a once per month leadership training from February-November for all recipients in which participants are further equipped and have the opportunity to build community with fellow church planters and leaders. Recipients will receive half of the grant funds up front and the other half mid-way through the year as mercy and justice endeavors proceed.

The process for choosing the recipients is very simple. Please complete either the two page or online application and return the application by January 24, 2020. Based on application content, finalists will be chosen. Thirty minute interviews of all finalists will be conducted by the grant board on February 5-6, 2020 to determine the recipients. Grant Recipients will be determined by February 15, 2020.



Please email questions, completed application and supporting documents to

[kristine@southlands.net](mailto:kristine@southlands.net)



Please call Kristine Nethers if you have questions.

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