



## J.R.'s Story AT PLCPC

J.R. Munoz came to PLCPC in the fall of 2019 while in the midst of a difficult transition. Even though he was raised in the church as a young person, once he left high school he fell away from the community of faith. For more than 23 years he had served our country in the Navy and knew he would be retiring in 2020. What he didn't anticipate was going through a painful divorce around the same time. He knew he "needed a change." J.R., self-described as a "fixer" who likes to be in control, says about that time, his "house of morality was on fire and I was inside trying to straighten out the picture frames." But, at a point of surrender, during this season of pain, God led him to our church through some wise advice and an internet search.

While in San Diego, J.R. participated in our services in both the Sanctuary and the Chapel. "I remember occasions in the Chapel service when I would be listening to the music and the sun would beam in from the windows right on me. I felt like my mom, who passed away six years ago, was looking down on me with encouragement." It was a hard time for him, having to face up to areas he had fallen short, but it was also where God gave him hope and assured him of his forgiveness.

God began something in J.R. during his time at PLCPC and that is why, even though he returned to his hometown of Navasota, Texas in May he has still remained with us online. For now, being at PLCPC in our virtual community is what has brought J.R. comfort during this time. "God led me to PLCPC and that is where it started for me--what God used to bring me back to where I needed to be--so for now that is where God has me."

J.R. is hoping to start a second career as a teacher. It fits well with the desire God has given him to serve. His advice to anyone who is going through transition and seeking answers is "to let go and have trust, as hard as that may be, give yourself to God and in time He will give you what you need." What a gift to our community to be in fellowship with J.R. from a tiny corner of Texas.

## The Impact of Re:Imagining

All this re:imagining has a cost. To create both our virtual engagement, and modify our in-person models of ministry, we spent significant funds in several vital areas:

- \$7,055 to upgrade our technical equipment, computers, and access points to bring both quality worship and education to our intergenerational congregation, via the Internet.
- \$30,115 to reimagine our campus as an outdoor venue and safer indoor venue for those who have returned to campus.
- Another \$149,000 to keep our preschool open with high-quality staff despite reduced class sizes.

In addition to the increased costs, we also lost income. Rent decreased \$16,110 when our ministry partners were forced to re:imagine and/or when we graciously gifted reduced rates to help those struggling to meet budget.

We also lost \$236,000 in tuition payments when we closed the preschool. Even though we could have required payment through our contractual relationship, we chose to care for our families who were already struggling with so many changes.

Even with all our extra expenses and decreased income, God has been faithful! Between a decrease in other areas of operation, a wise and discerning leadership, and an increase in giving through the generosity of many, we are expecting to close out 2020 with a balanced budget!



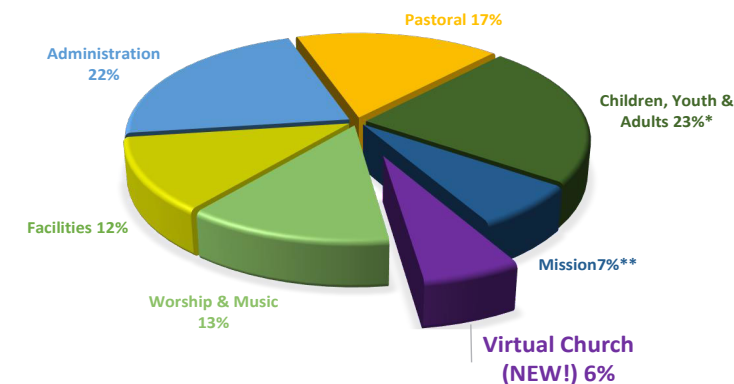
What do you imagine God doing through us to spread His love to the ends of the earth?

## Looking to the Future

Our move online for worship, fellowship, and education has forced the vast majority of us to gain new skills and a new language. This unexpected turn also allowed us to see the benefit for many of being online. Instead of viewing this season as just a chapter in our story, the Session is exploring ways to move forward with an online church even after restrictions are lifted.

**Total 2021 anticipated budget \$1,383,304\***

assuming modified use of the campus through first quarter



\*preschool not included

\*\*actual mission giving is 11% when dedicated funds are included

## We can't get there without You!

In the past, 75-82% of our budget has been met through tithes and offerings. The remainder has come from the rental of our facility, and the preschool. With the preschool remaining at limited capacity into 2021 due to state restrictions, and with the ongoing decrease in rental income we are faced with the need for 86% of our operating budget to come from your support.

It will take **\$1,189,641** to continue offering our impactful ministries and seek new ways to grow our virtual reach to share God's love with the world.

As you prayerfully consider your contribution to PLCPC for 2021, please join us in living the flow between by increasing your commitment to the church. A pledge card is enclosed for your convenience or visit [pointlomachurch.org/give](http://pointlomachurch.org/give).

There has never been a more exciting time for us to be the Church together! God is on the move and wants to use us in ways we couldn't have imagined before this year.

Will you help us follow God's lead?



# LIVING the FLOW BETWEEN

Endeavouring  
to keep the unity  
of the Spirit in  
the bond of  
peace.  
Ephesians 4:3



## Looking in the Rearview Mirror



We can all acknowledge 2020 has been a year like no other! At

our Annual Meeting in February, when our elders were speaking of all the wonderful ways God was leading us as a congregation, we had no idea the turn our world would make just a few weeks later.

There are plenty of organizations that became paralyzed in the beginning of the pandemic, but not us. As a result, in 2020 God has blessed us and we have thrived!

- We launched online worship services for our kids and adults and have welcomed visitors from all over the globe including 74 countries. We also have regular worshippers from all over our country and have had visitors from all 50 states. Prior to this season, we were averaging 435 people in worship on a Sunday morning, now we have anywhere from 350-700 devices (not just people) logging on!
- We kept our preschool open as others were shutting down in order to serve our essential workers while also providing online and at-home learning opportunities for the youngest of God's children.
- We have grown our bible studies, small groups, prayer circles, discussions, meetings, and even created new ones all through virtual platforms. Our men's ministry is booming!
- We launched an outdoor worship service, hosted pandemic pods for our kids, and provided afterschool programs.
- We brought comfort and hope to people in their homes through meal delivery, flowers, personal concerts, and a fully produced vacation bible school.
- We created a monetary fund for people heavily affected by these times and gave away resources to individuals and organizations. And so much more!

What has helped you connect more with God and God's mission during this time?

## Acknowledging the Present



We also acknowledge this has been a tough year for a lot of people. Many have lost their jobs and feel uncertain about the future. Some have lost loved ones. Most of us have lost our social networks. It feels like we are being forced to do everything differently. Even though we have continued to thrive as a church, it is important to give space for our individual and collective loss as well.

What has been hardest for you during this time?

## LIVING the FLOW BETWEEN

God has done something really unique in our community of faith. He has allowed us to be present in our loss through a middle way. God has moved us to action and used us to meet the needs of one another in tangible ways. We have allowed God's flow of love to connect us more to God and to one another.



## Andrea's Story At PLCPC



Andrea Benitez is in her third year of being the Assistant to the Red Brick Preschool. She and her husband, Jorge, and their children Jayden (age 12) and David (age 8) have also been active in our VBS and family ministries. On March 20, when both the preschool and San Diego Unified shut their doors, she wasn't sure what she was going to do, here is a little of her story:

"That day, I grabbed a bin in my office and started urgently packing up everything I could possibly need to work from home. For what felt like a long time, I didn't know what was happening with work or my kids' school and during that waiting it was stressful and very scary. I was constantly looking for the next email or phone call to find out more information. In February, Jorge and I had signed papers to buy a house in La Mesa, Mexico right over the border. With all the unknowns of my job, Jorge picked up more shifts at the hospital (he is a Certified Nursing Assistant at Sharp Grossmont). But that was scary too, being a hospital employee with Covid running rampant. I didn't know if I needed to look for a new job and, even if I did, no one was hiring.

A couple weeks in, I found out that my job was secure, and I can't tell you what a huge relief that was when the church committed to pay me even with the preschool closed. I could work at home and also be able to focus on my kids without having to worry about how we were going to pay the bills. This was especially important because Jayden, who is in middle school, was having issues with being bullied that resulted in him falling behind at school. So being able to be at home with him was both healing for him and it enabled him to catch up. David has had an IEP (Individual Education Plan) since he was two years old. At school he has extra assistance and modifications. Without my help, availability and advocacy, it would have been impossible for him to be successful with virtual learning. Having me as his teacher has given him more confidence than he has ever had before.

When the preschool returned in full this fall, the church stepped in again providing a pandemic pod for the staff kids. This has enabled me to keep working, as affording childcare is impossible. My kids come with me to campus everyday and they love being here because it is familiar, welcoming, and feels like family. And having me nearby has enabled them to relax and not stress. Now when David experiences sensory overload, I just walk upstairs and help him through the episode.

There is no bigger gift for a working parent during this unusual time. I know a lot of preschools that could not keep their staff employed or have not supported their family lives like our church. I feel incredibly grateful that I am valued here and that others have sacrificed so that we might be held together during this time. We were checked on, seen, and heard. That has enabled us to care for our own family so that we can share God's love with the littlest among us.