



## STATEMENT OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE...

CHURCH SERVICES SHOULD BE A PART OF EVERY BELIEVER'S LIFESTYLE...

SHOULD BE ATTENDED FAITHFULLY...

PORTRAY THE "VISIBLE" CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST...

BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER IN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP...

PROVIDE FOR UNITY OF SPIRIT, WORSHIP, MINISTRY, AND PRAISE...

PROVIDE FOR THE PROCLAIMING OF GOD'S WORD...

BRING TOGETHER THE BODY OF CHRIST...

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE USE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

We Believe

### The Church Defined

A. The Church Universal - The doctrine of the church is one of the major doctrines of the New Testament. Our biblical word "church" is used in the New Testament to translate a Greek word which means "the called out..." The church is composed of those who are called out of the world of sin into fellowship by faith with the Lord Jesus Christ. There are three aspects to the church: the universal, the denominational and the local. The universal or the invisible church is the entire body of Christ, made up of all who follow Christ and are part of His kingdom. When we are born again, we are born into the universal church.

B. The Church Denominational - A denomination is a group of churches that are connected by their distinctives in doctrine, style of worship, and/or church structure. Most churches today are part of denominations. Some view denominations as inherently wrong due to the commonly found unyielding structures and the divisions from which the denominations originated. Although there may be bad things about denominations, God has used them and is using them for the furtherance of His work and the growth of the Kingdom. Divisions have occurred, but God always uses them for His glory. New Life is part of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. Its history will be discussed later, but it has a great influence on the character and practices of New Life.

C. The Church Local - Every member of the universal church should also be a member of the local church. God has given us responsibility to the local church which was established and sanctioned by the Lord. Relationship to a local church does not save one, but the saved are most definitely obliged to unite with other brethren for Christian service.

### The Church Established

A. The Power of God - In Acts 2:46 and 47 we find a description of the church at its inception. From the Day of Pentecost the church universal and local were formed. Acts tells us that the church was formed by the power of God and God continued to empower the church for its continuing ministry.

B. The Provision of God - Acts also tells us why God created the church: for the purpose of the fellowship, growth, and care of the saints, and for the furtherance of the work of Christ. The biblical church is never a building, but a group of people banded together and led by the Spirit into mutual efforts for evangelism to the world.

C. The Authority of God - The early Christians knew that the church was the channel of God's authority on the earth. He established the church and its authority, and authorized those in leadership to set standards and commission others for ministry. Acts 13:1-3.

### The Purpose of the Church

- A. Common Doctrine - universally, denominationally and locally, doctrine is shared and communicated
- B. Common Day of Worship - a time for Christians to assemble together for worship, teaching and prayer
- C. Common Pattern of Worship - Paul recorded in I Corinthians the pattern of worship that he followed
- D. Common Designation of Offices - leadership and authority is recognized by and through the church
- E. Common Discipline Standards - Church is to promote and clarify biblical ethical and moral standards for its members
- F. Common Plan for Mutual Aid - care for the needs of those both inside and outside of the church
- G. Common System for the Commendation of Sincere Members who Transfer from Church to Church.

### Duties and Responsibilities of the Organized Church

- A. To Preach and Teach the Gospel
- B. To Provide for Christian Worship and Culture
- C. To Provide for the Fellowship of Believers
- D. To Maintain Right Standards of Life and Belief

The International Church of the Foursquare Gospel

A. Our History: The Foursquare Church developed out of the evangelistic ministry of Aimee Semple McPherson. Although she became the founder of the movement, she would have been the first to declare that the Foursquare message did not originate with her. The aim or goal of the Foursquare Gospel is to recover for the present-day church all the benefits and blessings which marked the apostolic or early church. The Foursquare Gospel, succinctly stated, is man released from the hold of sin, redeemed to be all he was originally intended to be, empowered to permeate this planet with resurrection life, and infused with the hope of the imminent return of the King.

B. Organization

Incorporated in California on December 30, 1927.

Presidents:

- First...(1927-1944).....Aimee Semple McPherson
- Second...(1944-1988).....Rolf K. McPherson
- Current...(2009).....Glen Burris, Jr.

Organizational Structure

The President acts as Chief Executive Officer of the organization, overseeing all administrative functions of the denomination and its departments such a Foursquare Missions, the National Church Office, the Foursquare Financial, the Foursquare Insurance Fund, and other Foursquare resources ministries.

The Board of Directors has the governing power and duty to further its objectives and purposes, to control, supervise and direct the general management of the corporate affairs. The Board is led by the Chairman of the Board and includes members elected by the licensed ministers of Foursquare from across the country. The Board of Directors includes the heads of the National Church, the Director of Foursquare Missions, the Corporate Treasurer, and the Corporate Secretary. Two groups, the Foursquare Cabinet and the Executive Council are advisory groups to the Board and the President. The Convention Body has the power to make or amend the Bylaws of the Corporation and to elect its officers. The Convention Body is made up of all licensed Foursquare ministers and delegates from any and all Foursquare Churches.

Each local church is a subordinate unit of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and is overseen by a District Supervisor and an Area Pastor or Divisional Superintendent. The pastor of the church is appointed by the Board of Directors and is responsible, with the aid of the local church council, for the spiritual and physical welfare of the church.

Foursquare Application

Cardinal Doctrines

The four cardinal doctrines of the Foursquare Gospel -- Jesus Christ the Savior, Jesus Christ the Great Physician, Jesus Christ the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, and Jesus Christ our Soon Coming King -- are symbolized in the colors of the Foursquare flag and the symbols of the cross, cup, dove, and crown in the insignias.



*We are committed to:*

- A. Missions
- B. Multiracial/Multicultural Ministry
- C. Women in Ministry
- D. Evangelism/Church Planting
- E. Interdenominational Cooperation
- F. Family
- G. The Future
  - 1. College Ministries
  - 2. Youth
  - 3. Children
- H. Release of the Gifts of the Spirit
- I. Balance



## History

New Life Christian Fellowship began in 1961 as Sunnymead Foursquare Church, under the ministry of Revs. Howard and Annie Lou May. The current church property was purchased in 1974 under Pastors Frank and Patricia Shippell. In April 1986, Rev. Steve and Brenda Bryant were appointed as pastor and the church was renamed Moreno Valley Christian Center. Twelve years later, on March 15, 1998, God ordained that Moreno Valley Christian Center would merge with another Foursquare congregation in Moreno Valley, called Christian Chapel. Rev. Mike and Linda Lanphere pioneered Christian Chapel in 1984, out of Christian Chapel of Walnut, an independent Pentecostal church. Christian Chapel of Moreno Valley became a Foursquare church on November 18, 1985. Jim and Rosie Samples became pastors of Christian Chapel on January 1, 1994 and led that congregation for 4 years and into the merger with Moreno Valley Christian Center. In June 1998, the Moreno Valley Foursquare Church (our legal name) became New Life Christian Fellowship.

## Our Purpose

New Life Christian Fellowship exists to “Reach and Equip People for Daily Christian Living.” More fully stated: “New Life is committed to reaching and equipping diverse unchurched people with support and encouragement for daily Spirit-filled Christian living.” God has called us to be a multiethnic, multiracial congregation, who through the loving heart of Christ, is accepting and caring for all who have needs. Our purpose is encapsulated in the four words: Love, Mend, Train, Send. These words incorporate all we perceive the church to be:

- ...a place of fellowship marked by unconditional acceptance and tempered by discipline
- ...a place of nurture and healing for spirit, soul, mind and body
- ...a place for learning, growth and equipping to fulfill the great commission
- ...a place to serve and be released to fulfill God’s call on your life.

## Our Core Values

- Making disciples
- Focus on making disciples of children and youth
- Community of caring
- Led by the Spirit
- Excellence in administration
- Authentic worship
- Helping broken people

## Our Philosophy of Ministry

We are a people called to passionate relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Out of this relationship flows a life-long commitment to growth in worship, biblical truth, and prayer.

We seek to minister inside and outside of our church family with the gifts that God has given each of us.

We are committed to minister healing with compassion and unity through team leadership.

## Our Vision

A people starving for deeper relationship with God

A people attractive to others  
A people who worship God fully  
A people growing into ministry  
A people committed to loving others  
A people continuing to learn  
A people who exhibit acceptance  
A people of diversity

## Our Current Leadership

The financial decision making group of New Life is the Church Council. The current council members who serve for a 2 year term are Russ Aplin, Frankie Frias, Keith Boucher, Leslie Colern-Mulz, Bill Richie and Claris Ademu-John. In order to stress the unity of couples and the family and to provide a variety of points of view, New Life accepts spouses or other family as council members. However, each individual has a separate vote. Keith Boucher serves as Council President. Jena Andruczyk is the Church Treasurer, responsible for income and expenses and reporting to the council our monthly financial status. Christian and Rachel Samples are the Office Managers, responsible for the day to day accounts payable and tithes and offerings. Bill Martin is our Facilities Manager.

The eldership of this body consists of Videll and Asneth Cason, Bill and Diana Richie, Vic and Mary Samples, and Keith and Sharon Howerton. Although they may be part of the council, being a council member does not make one an elder. Elders are chosen based upon their leadership in the body, their spiritual gifts and insights, their maturity in Christ, and through guidance by the Holy Spirit. The eldership is responsible for the spiritual guidance of the church.

New Life ministries are headed by directors and teams. Rev. Keith Howerton is the Associate Pastor over a variety of areas. Men's Ministries is currently led by a team of men with Videll Cason. Women's Ministries is led by a team of with Rosie Samples as its overseer. Youth Ministries is led by Ariel Berachah, Director with Daniel Martin as assistant. Children's Ministries is led by the team of Karen Campbell, Gloria Huewe, and Amie Martin. Bill Martin is the Head Usher. Director of Worship Ministries is Bill Richie. Director of Worship Arts is Asneth Cason. Pastor Keith leads the Retirement Homes Ministries. Helen Tabera leads the Intercessory Prayer Meeting.

## Our Gathering/Teaching Structure

The Sunday Worship Services are times that all Christians that call New Life their church, come together to worship, fellowship, share, pray, and be discipled from the Bible. It is a time of ministry and operation of the giftings that God has given to this part of the body.

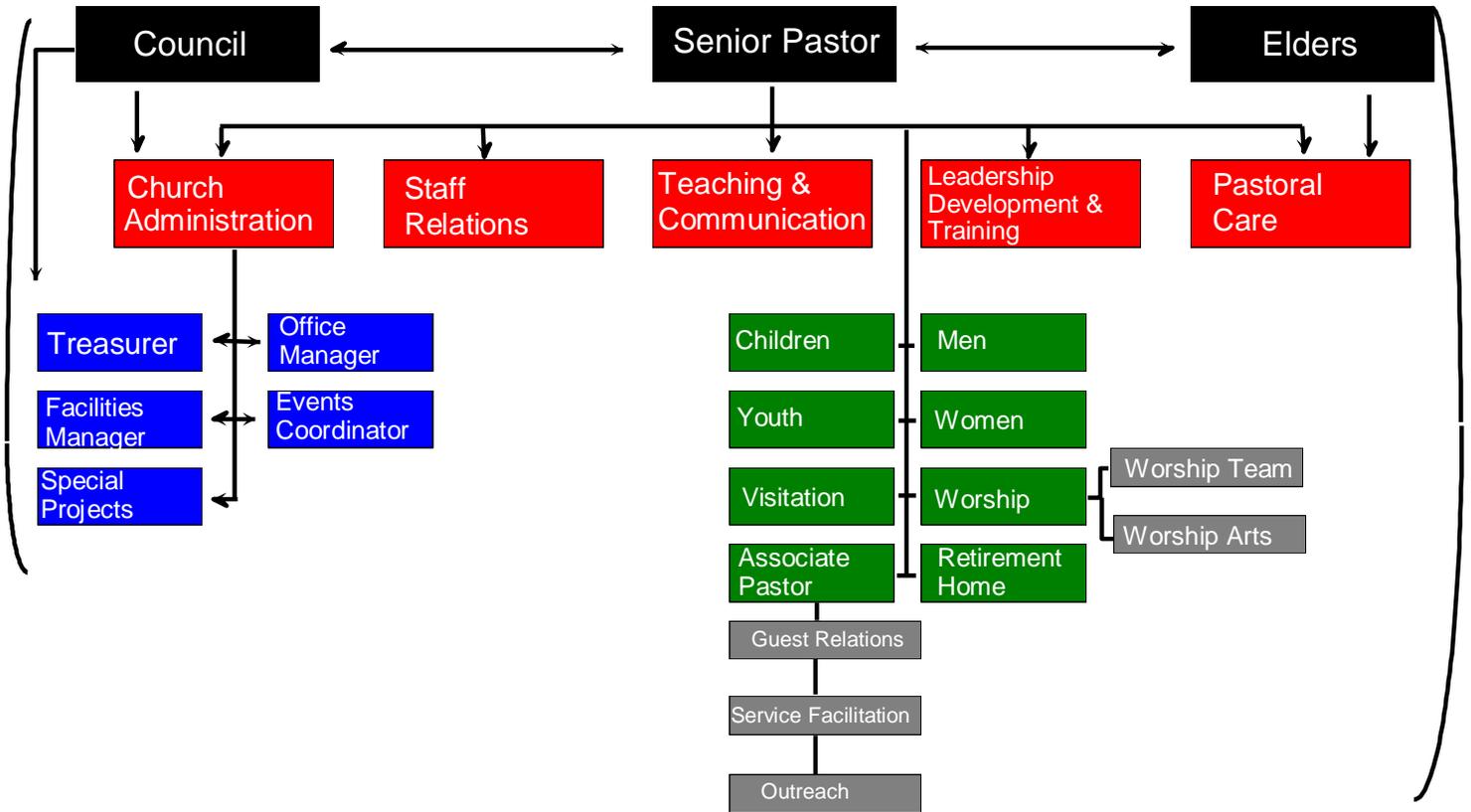
Discipleship is the biblical term for learning and growing to be like Jesus. At New Life, we encourage believers to go through a series of classes designed to facilitate this growth. Beginning with Essentials, then Seeds, Leaves, and finally Fruit, there are 4 levels that move a disciple into ministry.

Home Based Ministries is the umbrella for all of our home groups, including the Women's Bible Study and Young Adult Ministries. It was created to facilitate nurturing of the body and meeting certain needs that aren't usually touched on in other gatherings.

Love MoVal! Is the overarching ministry for all of New Life's outreach, including Laundry Love, Little Church, Door2Door and Adopt-a-school.

Youth Ministry gatherings are every Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings for all youth.

Children's Ministries functions through Kids' Clubhouse and Nursery on Sunday mornings.



1. Must have an attitude that would exhibit the characteristics of being one that is “born again”

A. Do everything as if Jesus asked you personally

Eph. 5:5-8 Servants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is slave or free.

B. Servant = “doulos”; one who is in a permanent relation of servitude to another, his will altogether consumed in the will of the other. Matt. 20:20-28

2. Must be willing to make personal sacrifices to advance the Kingdom of God.

3. Must be a person that has a burning desire to grow in their personal relationship with the Lord.

Exhibited through personal disciplines: prayer, Bible study, worship, and fellowshiping with the believers.

4. Must be one that is willing to submit to those in authority

Heb. 12:17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

This is exhibited through the responsibility of maintaining clear communications with those in authority over you.

5. Must be willing to serve those to whom they are providing ministry.

A. No one “owns” a ministry.

B. It is a privilege to serve God no matter what it is that we do.

6. We are to “have a walk worthy of our calling”

Eph. 4:1-3 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to have a walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with long-suffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

7. Because the above qualifications must be observed by leadership, there are these additional standards:

A. Must be in regular attendance at New Life for a period of 3 months for mature believers and 1 year for new converts and young believers.

B. Must be involved in other areas of church life beyond the Sunday morning service.

C. Must be involved in a home group or small group when groups are available.

## Criteria for Starting New Ministries

1. Built on leadership, not need.

Before we start a ministry at New Life, we must have a qualified leader for that ministry.

Spiritually (see qualifications)

Mentally/Emotionally (adequately trained)

Physically (not over-committed)

2. The Leader must have a call to or burden for this ministry.
3. The Leader must have a vision.
4. The Leader must have a track record of faithfulness.
5. The Leader must have a clearly defined and articulated purpose.
6. The Leader must have a clear cut strategy.

Designing the strategy:

Who am I trying to reach?

What do I want to accomplish?

How am I going to accomplish this goal?

What resources will I need?

Within what time frame?

How will I publicize it?



## STATEMENT OF FAITH

### WE BELIEVE...

CHURCH STEWARDSHIP IS THE WAY GIVEN BY GOD TO CARE FOR THE FINANCIAL NEEDS OF HIS CHURCH AND WORK. . . IS THE GIVING OF "TITHES, OFFERINGS, TALENTS, AND TIME" . . . IS SHOWING OUR LOVE TO JESUS CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE. . . IS THE GIVING OF OUR ABILITIES THAT HE HAS GIVEN TO US INDIVIDUALLY.

### WE BELIEVE...

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP IS A PRIVILEGE. . . CONSISTS OF BORN AGAIN INDIVIDUALS. . . CALLS FOR LOYALTY. . . CALLS FOR FINANCIAL AND PRAYER SUPPORT. . . CALLS FOR THE GIVING OF ONE'S TALENTS AND SERVICE. . . CALLS FOR SUPPORT OF THE MINISTERS AND MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH. . . IS ORDAINED OF GOD. . . IS HEADED BY CHRIST. . . IS DIRECTED AND GUIDED BY THE PASTOR. . . IS HELPFUL FOR INDIVIDUALS. . . IS FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS.

## Stewardship

### A. Stewardship of time

Church involvement - it is our desire that families come first in our priorities, but because of the great importance that the Lord places on the church, church involvement must also take a high priority for us. Every Christian should be a conscientious worker. Faithful attendance to church services, special meetings and other church functions is vital to both the believer and to the church as a whole. Stewardship of time also expresses our love for God. To use our time wisely we must make priority choices and even sacrifices.

### B. Stewardship of talents

God has given each one of us "talents" and "abilities" and "giftings." We are stewards of what God has given to us. The talents and abilities of every Christian are needed in every local church body.

### C. Stewardship of finances

1. Tithes: tithing or the giving of one-tenth of one's income is the financial plan accepted in all Foursquare Churches. A more satisfactory or more scriptural plan has not been devised, nor is any other plan suggested in the Word of God. Tithing is a biblical system of giving in order to raise money for the payment of salaries, the furnishing of supplies and equipment, the ownership of or renting of Facilities and their maintenance, and the investment of items needed to reach others with the message of the Gospel. Tithing is also an act of obedience and consecration as we commit back to God what He has given to us. Tithing is intended to be done at the local church on a regular weekly or monthly basis.

2. Offerings: Offerings that are given to missions, relief for the poor, or ministries outside of the church are free-will acts of generosity and marks of special grace. Offerings are other than tithes and are in addition to tithes. They are usually given for a specific purpose or need to be met.

Membership is a covenant between a Christian and the local church in which the Christian officially connects to the body and declares their intent to support and sustain the work of the local church. Membership is official, not only in a corporate sense as found in the Bylaws, but also in a spiritual sense. It is very much like a marriage and establishes a profound spiritual relationship between the members, as the cells of an organism. Life flows from Christ, the head of the church, through the church to all its connected members.

### A. The Requirements for church membership

1. Show evidence of a born-again experience and a Christian life
2. Have been baptized in water by immersion
3. Be nine years of age or over
4. Subscribe and adhere to the "Declaration of Faith," compiled by Aimee Semple McPherson; and
5. Agree to comply with the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.

### B. Application for church membership

1. Fill out and sign the church membership application form.
2. Comply with the conditions set forth above under requirements
3. Be approved by the Pastor and/or church council
4. Be accepted into the church membership at a church service

### C. "Active" church members

In order to be considered an active and in "good standing" member and entitled to vote, a member must

1. Be on the membership role
2. Contribute to the support of the church
3. Regularly attend church services, as physically able

### D. The service of church members

Members will serve their church by

1. Regular fellowship
2. Prayer
3. Giving
4. Concern for missions
5. Active devotional life
6. Willing to take responsibility
7. Working for the best interest of the church and the Foursquare Movement

### E. The privileges of church membership

Members in good standing will be entitled to:

1. Participate in all church activities
2. Vote on all matters with respect to which voting is authorized (if over 18 years of age)
3. Ratify members to the Church Council
4. Serve the church in any capacity to which appointed or elected
5. Attend Foursquare District Meetings or Conventions that are open to members.





**Membership Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

When did you first commit your life to Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

When were you Water Baptized? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been filled with the Spirit?  yes  no Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously been a member of another church?  yes  no What church? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Was it a Foursquare Church?  yes  no If no, what denomination or affiliation? \_\_\_\_\_

What type of ministry involvement have you had in the past? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are you currently involved in or plan to be involved in at New Life? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I desire to become a member of New Life Christian Fellowship:

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_





### New Life Membership Covenant: 2020

As a member of New Life Christian Fellowship and being in agreement with New Life's statements, strategy, and structure, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. I will protect the unity of my church
  - ...by acting in love toward other members
  - ...by refusing to gossip
  - ...by following the leaders

"So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up."  
Romans 14:19

"Now you can have sincere love for each other as brothers and sisters because you were cleansed from your sins when you accepted the truth of the Good News. So see to it that you really do love each other intensely with all your hearts."  
1 Peter 1:22

"...Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them."  
Ephesians 4:29

"Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they know they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this joyfully and not with sorrow..."  
Hebrews 13:17

2. I will share the responsibility of my church
  - ...by praying for its growth
  - ...by inviting the unchurched to attend
  - ...by warmly welcoming those who visit

"We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly."  
1 Thessalonians 1:2

"So his master said, 'Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.'"  
Luke 14:23

"So accept each other just as Christ has accepted you; then God will be glorified."  
Romans 15:7

3. I will serve the ministry of my church  
...by discovering my gifts and talents  
...by being equipped to serve by my pastors  
...by developing a servant's heart

"God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you."

I Peter 4:10

"He is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ..."

Ephesians 4:11-12

"Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing...He made himself nothing; he took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form."

Philippians 2:3,4,7

4. I will support the testimony of my church  
...by attending faithfully  
...by living a godly life  
...by giving of my time and resources

"And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near."

Hebrews 10:25

"...you must live in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ, as citizens of heaven..."

Philippians 1:27

"On every Lord's Day, each of you should put aside some amount of money in relation to what you have earned and save it for this offering..."

I Corinthians 16:2

"A tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain or fruit, belongs to the LORD and must be set apart to him as holy."

Leviticus 27:30

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Signature

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Date

## Membership Quiz



Please fill out  
and return to  
Pastor Jim

1. What does the Greek word for "church" actually mean? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Of what denomination is New Life a part? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who founded our denomination? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What type of organization structure is our denomination? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What year did the Moreno Valley Foursquare Church become New Life Christian Fellowship?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. List 2 of our core values: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who is currently New Life's Facilities Manager? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Which group of people oversee the spiritual guidance of New Life? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What is the first criteria for starting a new ministry? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What 3 things should every member "steward" as a part of New Life? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_