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**A B O U T
R E D E M P T I O N**

REDEMPTION | “About Redemption”

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From Our Lead Pastor

To be part of a church is to be part of a community — a community that worships the living God and expresses His love to those around them. We believe the church is not a building but a people — Spirit-led people who believe in Jesus and walk side by side, hand in hand, through the journey the Lord has purposed for each of us.

For His purpose, we gather and go, encourage and disciple, love one another, and pray for one another — all for God’s glory.

We hope and pray that you are blessed by Redemption. It is our desire to serve you and to provide opportunities for you to serve others as we all grow in our faith and relationship with the Lord.

May the Lord bless you as we welcome you to know more about Redemption.

— Pastor Esteban Vargas

1. ABOUT OUR LEAD PASTOR

Born and raised in Victorville, California, Pastor Esteban Vargas accepted Christ as his personal Savior at the age of 18. After only a couple of years of following Jesus and serving in his local church, he slowly drifted from the things of God and found himself more lost than ever. While pursuing a career in the music industry, he lived recklessly, which led to a lifestyle that eventually jeopardized both his freedom and his life. After years of that lifestyle, he realized that the only way to be saved was to surrender fully to God. In July 2008, after a supernatural encounter with the Lord, he rededicated his life to Christ and finally found the freedom, peace, and joy he had been searching for.

Following this encounter, Esteban began dating his longtime friend Ahelya, and they were married in July of 2010. Both Esteban and Ahelya attended Grace Awakening Ministries in Victorville, California, where they served under Pastor Tommy Hinojos (Ahelya's father). There, they were given the opportunity to oversee the youth ministry and participate on the worship team.

Their passion for ministry led them to establish The Victory House of Prayer in 2011, a ministry dedicated to organizing prayer gatherings for and with churches across the High Desert. Soon after, they launched The HD Platform in 2012 — a creative outreach ministry that used music, media, and events to share the message of Jesus with the community.

In 2014, Esteban and Ahelya were ordained by the Presbytery of Grace Awakening Ministries, and that same year, they planted Redemption High Desert, where they faithfully served as lead pastors.

In 2024, Ahelya stepped away from her pastoral and ministry roles to focus on raising their growing family. She remains an active part of the Redemption community. Today, Pastor Esteban and Ahelya are enjoying this new season of life with their two sons, Andrew and Isaac.

2. REDEMPTION

Redemption is a non-denominational, multi-generational, and multi-ethnic church. We held our first service on October 19, 2014, in the home of Pastors Esteban and Ahelya Vargas. From those early gatherings, the church continued to meet from house to house and city to city, faithfully serving throughout the Victor Valley area as the Lord led — and we continue with a heart to reach the world for Christ and for generations to come.

The Meaning of “Redemption”

1. The action of saving or being saved from sin, error, or evil.
2. The action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for payment, or clearing a debt.

(Romans 3:21–26; 1 Corinthians 1:26–31; Galatians 3:13–14; Ephesians 1:3–14; Colossians 1:13–14; Titus 2:13–14; Hebrews 9:11–15; 1 Peter 1:18–19)

3. MISSION, VISION, AND PURPOSE (MVP)

Our Mission, Vision, and Purpose define what we do, why we do it, and how we do it. They keep us centered on the heart of Jesus and the calling of His Church — expressed through the Great Commandments and the Great Commission.

Redemption’s MVP is simple:

Redemption is a community — followers of Jesus who gather and go to love God, love people, and make disciples.

The Greatest Commandments:

(Matthew 22:34–40; Mark 12:28–33; Luke 10:25–28)

The Great Commission:

(Matthew 28:16–20; Mark 16:15–18; Luke 24:44–49; John 20:19–23; Acts 1:8)

4. FAITH STATEMENT (WHAT WE BELIEVE)

• GOD (God the Father)

We believe in one God; the Supreme Being, Creator of all things, Ruler of all, Self-existent, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God who spoke creation into existence.

(Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:14-15; Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5-6; Psalms 90:2; John 1:1-3; 1 Corinthians 8:6)

• JESUS (God the Son)

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus, Israel's promised Messiah, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, was buried, and on the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will return to earth to judge the living and the dead.

The Work of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

(Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:22-23; John 1:1-5, 1:4, 14:6, 14:10-30; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 1:3-4; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Timothy 6:14-16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3)

• THE HOLY SPIRIT (God the Spirit)

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He is present in the world to make mankind aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

We believe in the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the infilling of the Holy Spirit, and the covering (baptism) of the Holy Spirit. Like the children of Israel in the book of Exodus

and the upper room disciples in the book of Acts, we desire and submit to the leading of the Holy Spirit in our everyday lives.

(John 14:16-17, 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:14-17; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16, 6:19; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 1:13, 5:18; Titus 3:4-7)

• **SALVATION**

We believe that salvation is the deliverance from sin and its consequences. It is God's free gift that we must accept, and accept by believing that Jesus through His death and resurrection became the payment for our sin. Salvation cannot be earned by our own efforts, but is only received by faith in the finished works of Jesus on the cross. We believe that salvation is received and held only by grace through faith, but we can choose to relinquish it by our own volition.

(John 1:12-18, 3:3-2; Acts 4:12; Romans 5:8-9, 6:23, 10:9-13; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7)

• **THE BIBLE**

We believe that the Bible is God's Word (both Old and New Testaments) to us. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. Because it is inspired by God, it is truth without any mixture of error. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

(Psalms 12:6, 119:105; Proverbs 30:5-6; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

• **THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT**

We believe that the gifts of the Spirit are relevant, available, and necessary for the church today. These gifts of administration, discerning of spirits, encouraging, faith, giving, healing, leadership, miracles, mercy, prophecy, serving, teaching, tongues, interpretation of tongues, words of knowledge, and words of wisdom.

We also believe in the gifts of God given to the church in the fivefold offices of apostle, prophet, pastor, evangelist, and teacher.

All of these gifts are for the exhortation, equipping, and encouraging of the church. But in all these gifts, the greatest gift that should be desired and demonstrated is love.

(Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 12:27-13:13; Ephesians 4:7-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

• HUMANS

We believe that humans (male and female) are made in the image of God and designed as male or female according to His will and purpose, and are the supreme object of His creation. We believe that God assigns gender at conception. We believe that man was created to have fellowship with God and given dominion over the earth. This relationship was separated through the sinful disobedience of Adam and Eve when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

(Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7, 2:21-22, 3:1-24; Psalms 139:13-16; Isaiah 53:6, 59:1-2; Romans 3:23, 5:12-19; Ephesians 2:1-5)

• THE CHURCH

We believe that the Church is the family of God — a community of believers, both local and global, united through faith in Jesus Christ. Every believer is baptized by the Holy Spirit into one Body, of which Christ is the Head. Though we gather in different places and expressions, we are one Church under one Lord. The Church exists to glorify God, build up believers, and fulfill the Great Commission through the power of the Holy Spirit.

(Matthew 16:18, 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-47; Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 12:27; Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:19-22, 4:4-6; Colossians 1:18)

• CHURCH ORDINANCE

We believe that the practices of Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper are outward expressions of one's faith observed in remembrance of Him. These practices are not required to receive salvation but are done as an expression of our faith for what Jesus has done for mankind.

Baptism *(Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 1:9; Acts 2:41, 8:36-38, 18:8; Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12)*

Communion (Matthew 26:26-28; Luke 22:17-21; John 6:53-58; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

• **ESCHATOLOGY**

We believe in the personal and bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only by God, demands constant expectancy. And as our blessed hope motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service, and energetic mission. We eagerly await His return like the parable of the wise virgins in Matthew 25 (v1-13).

(Matthew 24:29-31, 24:42-44, 25:1-13; Mark 13:32; John 14:3; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Titus 2:11-14; Revelation 1:7, 22:12-13)

• **ETERNITY**

We believe that man was created to exist forever. He will exist either eternally separated from God by sin or in union with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is Heaven. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence and our acceptance or rejection of salvation in Christ will determine our eternal choice.

(Daniel 12:2; Matthew 13:37-43; John 3:16, 3:36, 14:1-3; Romans 6:23; 1 John 2:25; 5:11-13; Revelation 20:15, 21:1-4)

5. CHURCH LEADERSHIP & STRUCTURE

NEW TESTAMENT LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

Church leadership exists for one purpose: to serve. As the Lord sees fit to position individuals as leaders within His church, He is positioning them to serve His body — just as Jesus instructed in Matthew 20:20–28.

The instruction to serve, along with the birthing of the church throughout the Book of Acts, gives us a model of leadership titles, roles, and responsibilities. New Testament leadership is made up of Christ as the Head of the Church, followed by elders,

bishops, and overseers, deacons, the fivefold offices gifted to the church (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers), and finally, fellow believers — all serving together as one body under Christ.

CHRIST (*Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22–23, 2:20, 5:23; Colossians 1:18, 2:9–10; 1 Peter 2:4–6, 5:4; Revelation 19:7–9*)

EILDERS, BISHOPS, OVERSEERS (*Acts 15:1–2, 20:17–28; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1–7; Titus 1:5–9; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1–4; James 5:14*)

DEACONS (*Acts 6:1–6; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:8–13*)

THE FIVEFOLD OFFICES (APOSTLES, PROPHETS, EVANGELISTS, PASTORS, TEACHERS)

(*Romans 12:4–8; 1 Corinthians 12:27–31; Ephesians 2:19–22; Ephesians 4:11–16*)

FELLOW BELIEVERS (*Acts 2:41–47, 13:1–3, 14:21–28; Romans 12:4–5; 1 Corinthians 12:12–27; Galatians 3:28; Titus 1:5*)

REDEMPTION'S CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Redemption has structured its leadership after the New Testament example—positioning those whom the Lord has chosen to serve, equip, and build up the saints. Our roles, responsibilities, and structure are as follows:

CHRIST

Jesus Christ is “head over the church” and the supreme authority. The Church is “His body, of which He is the Savior” and His bride. He is the Chief Cornerstone and the Chief Shepherd—the true Pastor and Shepherd of His flock.

Christ alone is the Head of Redemption. Every leader serves under His authority and follows His example of humility and service.

***Colossians 1:18** And He is the head of the body, the church*

LEADERSHIP TEAM (ELDERS)

The Leadership Team is submitted to the Lord and accountable to the Redemption community. They oversee the overall direction, health, and doctrine of Redemption. Their primary responsibility is to care for God's people, shepherd the church, and serve the spiritual needs of the body. They encourage, equip, disciple, and prepare believers to follow Jesus and to do the work of ministry.

1 Peter 5:2 *Shepherd the flock of God which is among you*

MINISTRY LEADERS (DEACONS)

Ministry Leaders oversee specific ministries within Redemption and serve the practical needs of the church. Their role is to lead by example, equip their teams, and ensure that no need within Redemption is neglected. They embody servant leadership by caring for people, supporting the elders, and facilitating the day-to-day ministry of the church.

1 Timothy 3:13 *Those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith.*

MINISTRY TEAM (SERVANTS)

The Ministry Team includes everyone who serves within Redemption. These individuals help produce ministry, create opportunities for service, and encourage others to grow in their gifts. Together, they serve the Redemption Community with joy and unity, reflecting the heart of Christ who came not to be served, but to serve.

1 Peter 4:10 *As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another,*

THE REDEMPTION COMMUNITY (BELIEVERS)

The Redemption Community is made up of all those who call Redemption their home church and support its mission, vision, and purpose. They represent the body of Christ—believers walking together in faith, worship, fellowship, and service. As we gather and as we go, a community that is united through Christ, strengthened in communion, connected through communication, and built up in care.

Acts 2:42-47 *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.*

⁴⁶ *So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

6. OUR VALUES

Church values shape the culture that defines who we are. That culture becomes the visible expression of our faith and the identifying mark of our church community. It's important that we recognize the values the Lord has established within us and intentionally cultivate a culture that leads people to Jesus.

Values create culture, and culture creates the environment through which we fulfill our mission, vision, and purpose. As we gather (as the church) and as we go (as the church), these are the values of Redemption:

As we gather and as we go...

- **We are all about Jesus.**
- **We are Spirit led.**
- **We are a house of prayer.**
- **We praise extravagantly and worship intimately.**
- **We value God's Word — both spoken and written.**
- **We are all about family.**
- **We love God, love people, and make disciples.**

7. WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN WE GATHER

Redemption is a house church that meets in a building on Sundays and goes from house to house throughout the week. Whether we gather in a sanctuary or a living room, our desire is the same — to create a personal and intimate space for you to encounter the Lord and connect with others, all under the leading of the Holy Spirit.

We are a casual, family-style church, always prepared for what God wants to do. We are prepared at every gathering for worship, biblical teaching, prayer, communion, anointing with oil, and the opportunity for baptism.

When we gather, come with expectation — and be ready for the unexpected — because we always come together with hearts that say, “Lord, do what You want to do.”

Acts 2:42-47 *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done*

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8. THE REDEMPTION COMMUNITY

At Redemption, community means a shared life in Christ—loving God together, loving one another, and living on mission. Our commitment to one another is relational and Spirit-led. We serve one another and serve alongside one another so that the culture we cultivate reflects Jesus and advances our mission.

What is the Redemption Community?

The Redemption Community is made up of all those who call Redemption their home church and support its mission, vision, and purpose. They represent the body of Christ—believers walking together in faith, worship, fellowship, and service. As we gather and as we go, a community that is united through Christ, strengthened in communion, connected through communication, and built up in care.

“Why Is It Important to Commit to a Church Community?”

Commitment to a church community matters because we are not designed to follow Jesus alone. The Christian life is a shared life—walking together in faith, praying for one another, carrying one another’s burdens, serving alongside one another, and growing side by side into the fullness of Christ. When we commit to a local body, we root ourselves in relationships where we can be encouraged and strengthened. It’s in community that discipleship becomes real, worship becomes unified, service becomes joyful, and the mission of Jesus becomes something we pursue together.

How to Be Part of the Redemption Community

Redemption does not operate with formal membership. Instead, we invite people to belong through relationship, discipleship, and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

If you would like to be part of this community, pray and ask the Lord if He is leading you to call Redemption your home church. If He is, be committed to gathering with us, serving alongside us, and allowing us to serve you as we grow together in Christ.

**We thank you so much for taking the time to learn more about Redemption.
If you have any questions feel free to contact us.**

**Redemption
16039 Walnut ST
Hesperia, Ca 92345**

**contact@redemption760.com
www.redemption760.com
760-998-2082**