

## *History of Isla Vista Church*

In 2001 a college youth group in Santa Barbara began to pray and seek God about reaching out to the nearby college town, Isla Vista. Every weekend while these Christians gathered to worship and pray, thousands of their classmates and friends were partying, drinking, and trying to find fulfillment on the main party street of Isla Vista, Del Playa. Eventually, the prayer, worship nights, community barbecues and street evangelism that came from this college group evolved into the planting of a new church designated to reach this city.

## *Mission & Core Values of Isla Vista Church*

Isla Vista Church began in 2002 with the mission to bring the gospel of Jesus to the city of Isla Vista and to see it transformed from an infamous party city into a city filled with the light and love of Jesus. Over the years we have seen countless lives touched, changed, and sent from Isla Vista to bring the kingdom of God to other cities, churches, and into the nations. Below are several of our Core Family Values:

- ***The Presence of God:*** God's presence in our lives is one of the highest values we have on the earth. We believe having a relationship with God based on intimacy and true experience with Him is of utmost importance as we journey with Him through life.
- ***The Word of God/Voice of God:*** We believe hearing God is vital to living a life of faith. How can we have true relationship without two-sided communication? We value hearing God both through His written Word (the Bible) and His spoken word (His voice), as well as through the various other ways He speaks to us – in creation, through one another, in dreams and visions, prophetic words from others, and other creative ways.
- ***Identity:*** Besides the knowledge of God, the knowledge of who you are in Christ is foundational to living a life like Christ. We have been adopted as sons and daughters and are now new creations on behalf of what Jesus has accomplished for us on the cross. The old man with a sin nature was crucified with Christ on the cross and a new creation that God has declared righteous has been raised to life in its place.
- ***Family:*** God created us for family and community. Part of becoming a son or daughter of God is coming into His family and being connected to our brothers and sisters in Christ, not just one day a week, but throughout our daily lives.

- *Living by Faith* : All progress in the Christian life is by faith. Living by faith requires trusting God and in so doing entering into His rest. In deciding to crown Jesus King we render our lives no longer our own. We are no longer living for ourselves, but for Him and His kingdom. We value and encourage listening to what God desires for our lives and obeying Him in that. Believing His promises and taking risks in light of these is all part of this life of faith. This also includes a life of the supernatural and miracles, living in a way that requires a dependence on the Holy Spirit in order to accomplish the things God has called us to.