



FIND HOME.
FIND

FAMILY

 **FRIENDSCHURCH**
Yorba Linda | Orange

Beyond These Walls

FRIENDS CHURCH CREATES COMMUNITY, CHANGES THE WORLD

by Shannon Springmeyer

The warm greeting at the door. The kind smile from a friend you've not yet met. The casual, come-as-you-are atmosphere. The little things add up to a sense of community that is palpable from the first moment you walk into Friends Church in Yorba Linda or their new campus in Orange.

Just ask Matthew Cork, who in his 23 years at the church has transformed from a skinny 21-year-old kid playing trumpet at Disneyland to music director at Friends Church, and eventually Lead Pastor.

"There is that sense of realness and love and connection when you come visit our church," Matthew says. "The reason I am here is partly because of that community, that connection, that belonging."

The evangelical Christian church has a more than 100-year history of investing in the local community, going back to its roots as a church founded in the Quaker tradition with the goal of educating children. That commitment to community still thrives today. The Friends Christian School serves more than 1,100 students, and the church engages in local outreach efforts, such as combating human trafficking, aiding foster youth, building homes with Habitat for Humanity, feeding the hungry and much more.

Though the church has evolved over the years, and today people from all denominations (or none at all) are welcome within its doors, Matthew says the goal of powerfully impacting the world remains a defining characteristic.

"Friends has become a place where people come to get their needs met, as far as their relationship

with God is concerned," he says. "But it isn't just a place you come to, it's now a place that you go out from."

The mission of impacting others extends across the globe to India, where Friends Church has made a \$20 million commitment to build schools for Dalit children, who often live in extreme poverty. Matthew says the experience of personally visiting the Dalit communities in 2007 was transformational, and renewed both his and the church's focus on global outreach.

"I didn't ignore [missionary work], but I always thought it was somebody else's deal," Matthew says. "God spoke to me and said, 'No, this is your deal. And when I say in scripture, 'Speak up for those who have no voice,' I'm actually meaning you, Matthew.'"

Matthew says he's given himself over to what he anticipates is a lifelong calling to impact the Dalits, and his congregation has gladly joined the cause, raising funds and sending volunteers.

But for all the investment in others beyond the church's walls, Friends Church is no less committed to supporting its members in their own journeys. Matthew says the church takes very seriously the job of helping its members connect in real ways to others through small groups, making the "big church feel small."

"We want people to know that they can come and have community and connection, that they can belong. That they can connect with God and connect with each other," Matthew says. "Because we understand that this thing called 'living a life for Christ' — you can't do it alone."



During a weekend service at Friends Church, Lead Pastor Matthew Cork urges church members to actively follow Christ's example by positively impacting others. Follow Matthew on Twitter @MatthewCork.

PHOTO BY SALVADOR OCHOA

A COMMUNITY OF WORLD-CHANGERS

Friends Church meets each weekend in Yorba Linda and in the city of Orange. Both campuses have the same mission — **becoming a community of authentic Christ-followers compelled to change our world.** They do this through a 3-G strategy — Gatherings, Group Life and Global Freedom. Together, as one church, they are strategically reaching North Orange County for Jesus Christ. The following values drive the church's mission and shape the character of its community:

INTENTIONAL PURSUIT

Passionately reaching out to those who don't follow Jesus
Luke 19:10; Acts 4:12, 20

COMPASSIONATE JUSTICE

Fighting for freedom by empowering the marginalized and enslaved
Proverbs 31:8-9; Psalms 82:3-4

VALUING PEOPLE

Creating communities of connection and belonging
Romans 12:10; 1 Peter 4:8

RADICAL GENEROSITY

Giving out of gratitude by holding nothing back
1 Chronicles 21:24; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

SELFLESS SERVICE

Seeing needs and responding to them practically, emotionally and spiritually
1 Corinthians 15:58; 1 Peter 4:10

DELIBERATE APPRENTICESHIP

Purposefully training others in the knowledge, skills and opportunities that have been entrusted to us
1 Thessalonians 2:8; 1 Corinthians 11:1

CONTAGIOUS ENTHUSIASM

Expecting and experiencing laughter, joy and fun when we're together
Psalms 16:11; John 15:11

RISKOVATION

Risking everything to follow God with courageous innovation
Ephesians 3:20; Luke 1:37



The Smith family — clockwise from left: Brevin, Matt, Anita, Madison, Elijah and Sinclair — say that Friends Church Yorba Linda feels like home.

PHOTOS BY SALVADOR OCHOA

“Friends Church was a place we felt like we could be a part of, get connected and also help the church grow.”

**LESLIE HOFMEISTER,
MEMBER OF FRIENDS CHURCH**



Leslie and Dan Hofmeister, pictured with their son, Cruz, say they found a sense of community at Friends Church Orange.

WELCOME

Since Day One

New families find community at Friends Church

by Evan Tuchinsky

When the Smith family of Yorba Linda went looking for a new church to join, “home” was an important consideration. They wanted a place that not only was close to home, but that would be a home, spiritually and socially.

They found that home in Friends Church, where Matt, Anita and their four children regularly attend worship services and participate in Group Life.

“We wanted to be part of a church within the community we lived in,” Matt says, “and we wanted a church serving the community we lived in.”

Their first Sunday at Friends Church, they were surprised by familiar faces.

“We realized that our lives were at that church — we just didn’t know it,” Matt says. “The people we were doing community things with, they were already at Friends Church, so we decided this was going to be home for us.”

The Hofmeisters of Orange also found a home at Friends Church. Dan and Leslie moved from Pennsylvania while Leslie was pregnant with their first child, Cruz, who’s now 8 months old. They sought a church where they’d be proud to raise their son and also play an active role.

After trying several churches, they saw a flier promoting the new Friends Church campus in Orange. They went the first Sunday it opened.

“I didn’t feel they were pretentious,” Leslie says. “This church was just friendly and welcoming.”

The Hofmeisters, like the Smiths, appreciate the dynamic weekly services, which incorporate music and personal messages that challenge those who attend to live differently.

They also value Group Life, to the extent that each couple leads a group. Group Life is the church’s strategy to make a big church feel small. Group Life was founded on the belief that it is essential for people to be involved with a group of two or more, where they can experience safe and honest relationships that encourage growth, change and a commitment to live out God’s purpose for their lives.

Dan and Leslie’s group attracts families with young children, while Matt and Anita’s group has more families with older children. The younger Smiths — Madison, 17; Brevin, 15; Elijah, 11; and Sinclair, 6 — participate in peer groups. “Group Life is a very important part of being in a Christian community. Following Jesus is not just about going to church on Sunday, it influences every part of my life,” Leslie says. “There’s something very important about being around other people who believe, who can support you in your own journey.”

Leslie describes Friends Church as “real and genuine.” Matt says he’s confident that “what our church is doing is what God intends.” Both encourage those without a home church to visit Friends Church, in Yorba Linda or Orange.

“Life is not meant to be lived alone or sheltered from the community you live in,” Matt says. “For someone who’s interested in looking at Friends Church, I would say be open to connecting with people and be willing to take one step — because if they’re willing to take one step, the church will take 10 steps.”

This isn’t your great-grandmother’s church (no offense, Grammy). Here’s how Friends Church makes you feel at home from Day One:



- Bring your coffee right into the Worship Center. Drink it while it’s hot!
- Dress comfortably. Be yourself!
- Sing along to modern music. A contemporary, engaging style and talented musicians make praise fun and uplifting.
- If you’re a guest, instead of asking something from you, we have a gift for you!
- Participate as you’re comfortable participating. No pressure here.
- If you didn’t bring a Bible, no worries — you can find one to use under many seats.
- Feel free to be friendly. After all, this is Friends Church!



CONNECT

FRIENDS OFFERS OUTREACH AND SUPPORT GROUPS

Everyone goes through difficult struggles in life. During these times when you need help and support the most, Friends Church offers a variety of groups — each with a specific focus — to help you overcome whatever obstacle you are facing. Here are a few examples of Monday night outreach and support offerings at Friends Church:

- » **Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Class** will help you achieve financial freedom by teaching you how to eliminate debt and save money for the future.
- » **Women's Codependency** will help you take your first step to recovery from addiction and other habits that are difficult to overcome.
- » **Men of Integrity** is a group for men desiring sexual purity. Friends Church offers help and support in a confidential and non-judgmental environment.
- » **DivorceCare** is a support group for people who are struggling with the pain of a separation or divorce.
- » **DivorceCare for Kids and Teens** are two special, age appropriate groups to help children heal from the hurt caused by the separation or divorce of their parents.
- » **Single and Parenting** is a support group for single parents to discuss the unique challenges they face.
- » **Living Beyond Cancer Network** is a group for cancer survivors and current cancer patients, as well as family and friends, that focuses on addressing the medical, social/financial, emotional/psychological and spiritual dynamics of dealing with cancer.
- » **MOMS**, short for Moms of Military Prayer and Support Group, provides a space for all women (not just moms) who have a loved one serving in any branch of the armed forces to share concerns, experiences and support. Meets Thursday nights twice a month.
- » For more information, email support@friendschurchyl.com.

"We get a lot of people who need a church family to wrap their arms around them and offer support."

ANNETTE CRAIG
CEO AND FOUNDER OF WITH HOPE



PHOTO BY SALVADOR OCHOA

KNOWING THE SIGNS

MOTHER PARTNERS WITH CHURCH TO PROVIDE MENTAL ILLNESS EDUCATION

by Mike Blount

Annette Craig rushed home after receiving a phone call from her husband, Scott, on the morning of May 25, 2005. Their daughter, 14-year-old Amber, had taken her own life.

They were shocked and saddened. They were also caught completely off guard. The parents decided that they would do everything in their power to try to never let this happen to another family again.

"We were uneducated and we had no idea that we should be looking for signs or what to even look for," Annette says. "Amber was a normal 4.0 student and co-captain of her soccer team for five years. We had no idea she felt the way she felt."

Over the next few weeks, Annette and her husband began to understand what Amber had been going through by piecing together information she left behind. They talked to her friends at school and read notes she had written.

Annette learned that Amber had once previously tried to end her life and that she had mentioned it to her friends. In six notes Amber wrote, she revealed that she didn't think anyone felt the way she felt and that she believed things would never change.

"One in five high school students think about ending their life," Annette says. "Amber was no different, and with those two points she left behind in those letters, we started to think about how we could let people know about this — how can we start conversations about mental health?"

The same year, With Hope: The Amber Craig Memorial Foundation was born with the goal of preventing suicide through awareness. Both the congregation and staff of Friends

Church rallied around Annette and her husband as they began making the first small steps in putting the nonprofit together. Church members, family and friends comforted Annette's family and honored Amber's memory at a memorial service. But it didn't end there.

Members of the church began partnering with Annette's organization early on. Pastors at the church started coming with Annette into schools to talk about suicide prevention and discuss warning signs. They became spokespeople for the organization.

"Friends Church is committed to not letting suicide happen, and over the last nine years, they have helped us to take our message into the community," Annette says. "Our program educates students and parents on the warning signs of suicide. The stigma of death by suicide is so pervasive that it often prohibits people from getting help. We're giving them permission to not keep it a secret."

While the main goal of With Hope is to encourage people to have an open conversation about mental illness, Annette says having a church family to offer support is a great resource for families who are struggling or coping with the loss of a loved one.

"There aren't a lot of suicide survivor's support groups in our area," Annette says. "We get a lot of people who come through our doors [at Friends Church] who need a church family to wrap their arms around them and offer support. That is when the church can really be the hands of Christ and really help people." For more information or to get involved, visit www.withhopefoundation.org.

A Second Family

WHY CORRIE FELT SHE BELONGED AT FRIENDS CHURCH

by Mike Blount



As long as she could remember, Corrie Nakamura had gone to the same church with her family every Sunday. The 23-year-old recalls being actively involved with the youth group and regularly going to youth gatherings at her former church, but there was always something missing.

"On the surface, someone would have looked at me and said, 'Wow, she's really involved in that church,'" Corrie says. "But I was having a hard time finding my place. I really hadn't experienced what a community meant, and as much as I loved it there, I didn't feel like I was part of things."

When Corrie was 16, a friend brought her to Friends Church after a sleepover. As soon as she walked in the doors, she immediately felt like she belonged. People smiled and shook her hand. She could sense that church members and leaders wanted everyone to be a part of the service.

"They were really excited about Jesus and they were really welcoming," Corrie says. "I just couldn't get it out of my head

that I belonged at that church — that I wanted to come back."

From her outsider's perspective, Corrie says the youth group felt like a family coming together for Christmas. Even though there were between 200 and 300 high school students, everyone was excited to be there, and coming together was important for them. She wanted to be part of it.

Corrie began going to Friends Church soon after her first visit and she's been there ever since. This year, her seventh at the church, she became a small group leader and mentored youth while helping them with volunteer projects in the community. She's also involved with communication for the new Friends Church campus in Orange.

"All of the people I met that day when I first came to Friends, they are still my best friends to this day," Corrie says. "What I learned at Friends Church is that experiences are awesome, but becoming part of something is so much more powerful."

"I just couldn't get it out of my head that I belonged at that church."

CORRIE NAKAMURA
FRIENDS CHURCH MEMBER

Corrie Nakamura says she instantly felt at home when she visited Friends Church for the first time.

PHOTO BY SALVADOR OCHOA



Aaron Blanton, pictured here with his family, is the Worship Pastor at Friends Church. When he first visited the church, Aaron says he knew it would be a place he could build lasting connections.

PHOTO COURTESY OF FRIENDS CHURCH

"Just to be part of something so much bigger than us, it's humbling."

AARON BLANTON
WORSHIP PASTOR AT FRIENDS CHURCH

The Perfect Fit

WORSHIP PASTOR MAKES FRIENDS CHURCH HIS HOME

by Mike Blount

Aaron Blanton didn't know much about Friends Church in 2006. At the time, he was living in Nashville and looking for a career change. As a Christian and a musician, he was searching for a position that could marry his faith and love of music with his job. So when he found out about a position at Friends Church as a Worship Pastor, he and his wife decided to fly to California to check the church out.

"I had never worked in a church before, so I was unsure of what to expect," Aaron says. "But I remember feeling very at ease and that we could be who we are. That feeling hasn't changed in the seven years since I've been here."

One thing that Aaron says he noticed immediately was how the church was constantly looking for creative ways to spread the gospel.

"I liked how the church was

always pushing the envelope and looking for new and relevant ways to present the message we're trying to present," Aaron says. "I really felt like I was getting in on the ground level. Just to be part of something so much bigger than us, it's humbling."

After meeting the staff and Lead Pastor Matthew Cork, Aaron says he knew it was a place where he could build lasting connections and move forward. Those connections are especially important to Aaron and his family because they have no immediate family members living near them.

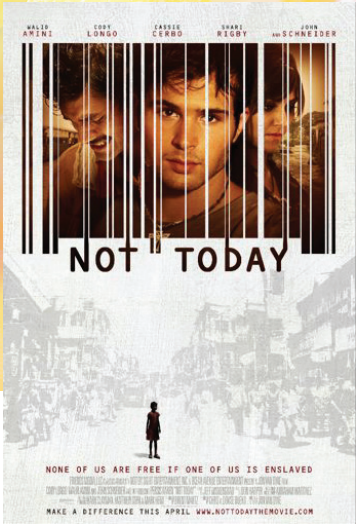
"You can imagine how daunting it is to move away from everyone you know," Aaron says. "But when I think about when I first came to Friends [Church], I think about how they reached out to embrace me and my family, and now I get to be a part of that family that reaches out to others."



BEYOND OUR BORDERS

*CHURCH LEADERS AND
MEMBERS REACH OUT
TO THE IMPOVERISHED
IN INDIA*

by Meredith J. Graham



Friends Church helped create the 2013 film “Not Today” about human trafficking in India and the Dalit people. Find more information about the movie and the Not Today Coalition, which raises funds for schools in Dalit communities, at nottodaycoalition.org.

When Friends Church first announced its intention to build 20 schools in impoverished communities in India, Jay Hoff and his fellow members were delighted. That was more than a decade ago, and the goal has since increased to 200 schools.

“I was kind of floored, but I thought it was great,” says Jay, Global Impact Pastor at Friends Church.

Friends got involved with building schools in India after the leader of the Dalit group there publicly asked for help educating their children. The Dalits, also referred to as “the untouchables,” make up nearly a quarter of India’s population. Despite laws enacted to protect them, the Dalits still face discrimination because they were born outside the caste system.

“Their whole life is pretty hopeless. They don’t really see any way out,” Jay says. “Because of that, they become the most exploited when it comes to human trafficking, both in bonded labor and in sex trafficking.”

The church began raising funds and built the first school in 2003. It’s since raised funding for 40 schools, which consist of four to five classrooms, a room for the teachers and the basics like desks and chalkboards to get the classes started.

Each school starts out with children in pre-kindergarten through second grade, and slowly builds by adding a grade level each year.

“That gives us time to raise the money to get things built and hire the teachers,” Jay says. “We partner with people in India — they run the schools, they do all the construction. We supply the funding but at the end of the day, it’s their ministry, their schools.”

Another major component of Friends’ efforts in India is improving the quality of life for all Dalits. To that end, groups of church members fly to various sites each year to offer lessons in hygiene, medical and dental clinics, Bible study and other activities.

“One of our main goals is to reduce the infant mortality rate in every village,” says Global Freedom Pastor Skip Lanfried. One of the main causes of infant mortality is dehydration, he says. Educating parents about when to give fluids to infants is a big component of the outreach. In addition, hygiene classes aim to stop the spread of illnesses and shorten their duration.

“We want to help the families to be more healthy and the students to remain in school,” Skip says. “Many times,

they are dealing with a simple illness that could have been avoided. If a parent contracts it, they could be out of work for days or weeks. They are already extremely impoverished, so lost income for a week could be devastating.”

As regular visitors to India, Skip and Jay both say they can see their efforts paying off. Jay points to the hundreds of graduates from schools that did not exist a decade ago.

“Some of the graduates are now in university, and some of them want to be teachers,” Jay says. “It’s pretty amazing to see everything that’s happened so far.”

Skip recalls a celebration at the end of one of his trips to a village that gets a lot of tourists. He’d been there holding hygiene classes. During the celebration, a Dalit woman thanked his group for the work they’d done.

“She stood up and said, ‘We live in an area where a lot of people come visit our town. But this is the first time a group actually came and did something to help us,’” he says. “She said that what they had learned they’d already taught to their neighbors. That’s our objective — to teach in such a way as to empower them, so that they learn and become teachers themselves. And it just spreads from there.”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRIENDS CHURCH

GIVING BACK, AT HOME AND ABROAD

COMMUNITY IMPACT

In **2013**, Friends Church donated a total of **\$932,063** toward Community Impact organizations and projects and served more than **3,000 people locally**.

**DONATED
\$135K**

Volunteer hours: 1,500

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Builds homes for families in need. In 2013, Friends Church helped build three houses on Yorba Linda Boulevard.

**DONATED
\$525K**

**People served: 9,300
over three years**

BOXES OF LOVE

An annual fundraiser to collect and wrap gifts for children in foster care.

**DONATED
\$97K**

**People served: 2,000
each year**

BIRTH CHOICE MOBILE MEDICAL UNIT

Provides STD testing, 4-D ultrasounds and abstinence counseling in areas with high abortion rates.

Friends Church offers **transitional housing for families in Orange**, while also supporting these local efforts:

Birth Choice Offers services to pregnant, at-risk women

Fristers Support Group for new mothers

LOT318 Offers tutoring and other programs for at-risk youth

Safe Families Provides safety net for struggling families

Solidarity Community development organization

With Hope Offers suicide-prevention programs in local schools

GLOBAL IMPACT

In addition to its local communities, Friends Church also supports the people of the world. In 2013 alone, the church donated more than **\$2 million** to organizations, missionaries and other projects around the globe.

INDIA

The projects in India include building schools in Dalit communities, sponsoring students who attend those schools (\$30 a month per student) and sending teams to India.

**DONATED FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION:
\$4 MILLION TO DATE**

Donated for student sponsorship:
\$1.4 million to date

Number of students sponsored:
1,580

Donated for teams:
\$348,000 in 2013

Volunteers to India:
107 in 2013

MISSIONARY SUPPORT

Friends Church supports its members who join missionary groups in the U.S. and abroad.

Donated: \$172,200 in 2013
Number of missionaries supported: 25

TEAMS TO MEXICO

Donated:
\$18,900 in 2013

Volunteers to Mexico:
40

Join Us!



Looking for a place to call home? Are you ready to find a community that supports you in living a life of purpose? A place where real people come to find hope and help for life in the real world? Whether you're new to the area, haven't been to church in a while, or are just looking to see what it's all about, you're welcome at **Friends Church**.

Stop by and visit this weekend! Bring the whole family — **KidVenture Ministries** are available at each service on all campuses!

Follow Us!

Go online to find more information, videos, podcasts, upcoming special services, events, small groups and more.



WEB:

www.friendschurchyl.com



EMAIL:

info@friendschurchyl.com



FACEBOOK:

facebook.com/friendschurchyl



TWITTER:

[@friendschurchyl](https://twitter.com/friendschurchyl)



INSTAGRAM:

[friends_church](https://www.instagram.com/friends_church)



Pastor
Matthew Cork
and family

FRIENDS CHURCH YORBA LINDA

Sat: 6 p.m.
Sun: 9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Birth — 6th Grade:
All Services

Students:
Sunday @10:45 a.m.

College:
Tuesday @7 p.m.

5141 Lakeview Ave.
Yorba Linda, CA 92886
714-777-2875



Pastor Jay Hewitt
and wife Natalie

FRIENDS CHURCH ORANGE

Sun: 6 p.m.

Programs for Kids
Birth — 6th Grade
240 W. Chapman Ave.
Orange, CA 92866
714-777-2875



Pastor Jorge
Noreña y su
familia

AMIGOS: TU IGLESIA EN ESPAÑOL

Más de 200 personas son parte de la familia Amigos y, como en todas las familias, tenemos un poquito de todo. Entre nosotros hay más de 15 nacionalidades, personas de todas las edades y trasfondos, pero sobre todo, personas con mucho amor.

Tenemos actividades durante toda la semana: servicios los domingos, estudios bíblicos los miércoles, grupos de oración y mucho más.

**Danos la oportunidad de
conocerle**

los domingos a las 10:30 a.m.

5211 Lakeview Ave.
Yorba Linda, CA 92886
714-455-4201
www.amigostuiglesia.org