

# GUEST SPEAKING AT DEL REY CHURCH

*We are soooooo excited you going to be speaking in our church. This brief 2-page paper is intended to provide you with basic information for your time with us.*

## **Our church background:**

Del Rey Church began in West Los Angeles over 50 years ago as a church plant from a congregation in downtown Los Angeles that is over 100 years old. We are a member of the Evangelical Free Church of America ([www.efca.org](http://www.efca.org)), which began as a group of ethnic minorities (specifically Scandinavians) who came here to America to flee religious persecution from state churches in their homelands. They wanted to be free of state rule, hence we are free-church and they were evangelicals so the name Evangelical Free Church was fitting. Our local church is multi-ethnic and also inter-generational. We are steadfast in our commitment to live out what the Westminster Confession says is our chief aim, that is, "to glorify God and enjoy Him forever." We are thus grateful about the grace of the Father in sending His Son and passionate about the sharing the gospel verbally to make disciples by the power of the Spirit.

## **Our Sunday service:**

We meet on Sundays at 10am. The culture or style of the Sunday gathering is generally casual to business casual, so our pastors wear casual shoes, collar shirts and jeans or khakis (e.g. dockers) when preaching. That said, some parishioners dress up and even some pastors do on occasion. Bottom line, as our guest preacher/speaker please feel free to dress up more if that is comfortable or preferential for you; otherwise, we encourage our leaders to dress business casual and clean so as to not draw attention away from their duty in ministering the word of God. The typical order of worship service is typically as follows: fellowship, almsgiving, call to worship, public reading of scripture, prayer, corporate singing, announcements, sermon (the gospel proclaimed), communion (the gospel pictured), corporate singing and closing benedictory prayer. As guest speaker, you will be handling the sermon. Someone will announce you, so you don't have to worry about when you need to enter the pulpit in the service. Once you take do, we ask that you open your message in prayer and close your message with prayer. Our video editors typically start recording after your opening prayer (that's their queue) and the worship team comes on stage while you close in prayer to begin the closing songs as you pray. We serve communion every Sunday after the sermon, so if you can please tie your conclusion into a call for communion. If you've done your job in exposition and gospel preaching it should be easy to flow into communion at the end. If not, the worship team leader will do it and set up the call to the table after you close in prayer. (As a side bar, we are memorialists on communion who view communion as a picture of the gospel to be commemorated and celebrated in an open-table when the church gathers to welcome seekers and all believers, save for those under the discipline of a local church for unrepentant sin).

## **Our commitment to you:**

In appreciation to you for speaking in our church we will give you an honorarium. If you have specific speaking prices please communicate with us beforehand, otherwise we will give you an honorarium in accordance with our budget for guest speakers and in consideration of our offering (i.e., if we have extra money, we like to be generous). If you have special needs (e.g. transportation, housing, etc.) please let us know and we'll do our best to show you the utmost hospitality as we deeply appreciate your ministry. In addition to an honorarium, if time permits we love to take our guest speakers out to lunch at a local restaurant to feed their body as they have fed our soul and for a time of fellowship that we may learn more of their ministry and deepen partnership in the gospel.

## **Your duty (as guest speaker):**

We need you to show up on time, at least 25 minutes before the first service (so please arrive at 9:30-35 am), which gives us time to get your microphone ready (it is a wireless lapel microphone) and time to go over any last minute details and pray. If you have power point or technology needs please tell us in advance so we can arrange for it. We typically use PowerPoint on Sundays so that is well-oiled for us, but we are PC based so if you have a Mac or special fonts in your presentation, we just want to be ready in advance. As a speaker at our church, we want you to be aware the sermon will be broadcast live around the world (we have people watching in various nations) and it will be archived on the web for viewing as we share all sermons for free with the global community. With that said, please do not share anything you have copy-written that would present problems for sharing. All media we give away for free and it is a passion of ours to give it away. If you sell sermons or media, please know, because whatever you do here we will give away for free. Also, if you can provide us with a sermon outline on Thursday (or Friday at the latest) of your assigned Sunday we really appreciate that, because it helps the learning experience. If not, no biggie, we can make a generic outline for folks, but please let us know at the least a sermon title and scriptural passage for your message for our publications.

In your speaking, your duty is to give a solid Christian message. You have 50-55 minutes to do this, unless something special has

been arranged beforehand. Our church's "pew Bible" (though we don't have pews) is the NASB, so we ask that you please speak from the NASB for sake of clarity with visitors using the pew Bible and for members who come with it in hand. More important to us than Bible translation, is Bible exposition. It is unfortunate that we have to say this, but we don't want to take anything for granted (and truth is we have been burned before by guest speakers in the past). As a speaker in our church, we ask something rather simple, that your message is biblical And Christian. Concerning the latter, please don't assume people know who God is; make sure to tell them who the Christian God is, namely, the eternal Father, Son, and Spirit (one God in three persons). Regarding the biblical part, whether you are preaching topically (e.g. about God's love, the doctrine of election, the future of Israel, etc.), on a cultural issue (e.g. gay marriage, witnessing to Muslims, etc.) or preaching textually (the third chapter of John, the theology of the Spirit in Luke-Acts, etc.) we ask that what you say is what the Bible says, i.e., the original intention of the authors who wrote the texts you use should be clear. Your message should drive the church into the Bible, so we feast on what God has said and see that your points are biblical and ultimately that they draw us to see the treasure we have in Christ by the gospel. The text of the Bible is not a springboard for what the preacher wants to talk about: rather, it is what the preacher is to be talking about. In our preaching we seek not to promote ourselves, the personality of the preacher or some new program for spirituality. We don't need programs or new disciplines, we need the gospel of Christ. The goal of speaking in our church is simple – say what the Bible says and tie everything into the gospel. We tie things to the gospel not to be seeker sensitive: rather, it is because the gospel is central to the storyline of the Bible and both believers and nonbelievers need to be reminded of what Christ has done – it is the "Lord's Day" after all. In summary, whatever you speak on, please show it to us in the Bible and talk about Jesus! Read the Bible, explain the passage(s) and apply it to the church. G. Campbell Morgan, pastor of London's Westminster Chapel and known as "the prince of preachers" taught that a sermon is limited by the text it is covering. Every word from the pulpit should amplify, elaborate on, or illustrate the text at hand, with a view towards clarity. He wrote, "The sermon is the text repeated more fully." A sermon's primary function is to present the text. Please be true to Scripture as you stand before the church.

## **Our theology:**

Doctrine is not a bad word in our church. We're Christian (card carrying Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creedalists, who will die on a hill for the doctrine of the Trinity or the hypostatic union of Jesus) and we are die-hard conservative evangelicals (we love the Chicago Statement of Inerrancy), who do not shy away from the bloody death, vicarious substitutionary atonement and victorious physical resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ (we love the Cambridge Declaration). The gospel is not something we assume, it central to all that we are and do as a people, thus we ask that it would be clear in your speaking. In addition to this, we are committed Reformed Baptists (holding a modified form of the Spurgeon London Baptist Confession) and passionate dispensationalists (of the Chaferian and revised variety [e.g. Ryrie], maintaining a distinction between Israel and the church, a future restoration of Israel and the pretrib-premill eschaton). We are steadfast complementarians (card carrying members of the Danvers Statement on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood who only ordain men and see male headship as a serious issue) and devoted to the Theological Vision of Ministry (Together for the Gospel), which captures our epistemology for truth and passion for engaging culture. We are anti-liberals and not interested in church trends of Johnny come-lately tactics (e.g. Seeker Sensitive stuff, Emergent church ideas, etc.) that would assume original sin is not true, truth is not knowable and the gospel is not powerful.

We know that not all guest speakers will share with our doctrinal ethos in every jot and tittle. That's fine. Certain theological matters would be deal-breakers for us (e.g. doctrine of the Trinity, the gospel, inspiration of Scripture, vicarious atonement, etc.), and other matters of our theology—we know—are tertiary matters that good Christians banter over (e.g. the timing of the rapture), but we typically know that about a man before we ask him to speak at our church. In case something has slipped our radar, please let us know if any of the above theological matters disturb you or you cannot be sensitive to them in our midst. We ask that guest speakers be respectful to our theological commitments and avoid contradicting them or making a big deal of them or even minimizing them in back-handed ways (e.g. "I know you guys don't believe this, but..."). It's best to emphasize what we agree on, so as to not confuse people in attendance or create unnecessary work afterword for the church once you are gone. Simply put, we want unity in our teaching ministry at the church, so please make sure your topic for speaking while with us uplifts our unity in Christ and the gospel and captures a text we can all agree applies to the church in similar fashion.

## **Your logistics:**

As far as logistics go, there are usually two questions. First, we are often asked about ways speakers can promote their ministry. We are cool with having a ministry table, if you have books or media you would like to sell or sign-up sheets for emailing or whatever that is cool with us. We can give you a table to use in the entry way for that sort of thing if you like. Just let us know. Second, we are asked about getting to our church. We are located at 8505 Saran Drive in Playa del Rey, California (90293). There is not a freeway that dumps you too close to us, but as far as geographical markers are concerned, we are North West of the Los Angeles airport (LAX). If you are coming east of us, the 105 west will get you not too far from us. If you are coming from the North or South, the 405 works fine. The church is located right off the main street of Manchester Blvd, not far from Lincoln Blvd.