



Who We Are

What We Believe

How We Serve the Lord

In Brief:

WHY we do it: To make the world a better place.

HOW we serve this mission: By changing hearts for Christ.

WHAT we do to accomplish this: The founders, staff, and extended team of volunteers and supporters accomplish this by using our gifts and talents to collaborate in providing everyone we can reach with a better understanding of how to know God's love and apply Biblical principles and Catholic teachings to everyday life.

MISSION STATEMENT

Good News Ministries is making the world a better place by changing hearts for Christ.

We are a global Catholic evangelization ministry dedicated to adult faith formation. We help people to reach a better understanding of God's love and to apply Biblical principles and Catholic teachings to everyday life. With this, we empower people to evangelize by imitating Christ in the way they live and by becoming educated in the faith.

We use technology as tools of outreach, always striving to be on the cutting edge of this technology to reach people in the contemporary culture.

The founders, staff, and extended team of volunteers and supporters accomplish our mission by using our gifts and talents to collaborate in the mission of evangelization.

OUR VISION

A world evangelized by Christians being Christ.

OUR GOALS

1. Spread Christ's radical love as a catalyst for change throughout the world.
2. Increase our outreach.
3. Empower Catholics to fulfill their apostolic calling.
4. Teach the Gospel to enable people to live the Gospel.
5. Renew the heart and soul of the Body of Christ on earth.

From the BY-LAWS OF GOOD NEWS MINISTRIES OF TAMPA BAY, INC
Established in 1995

ARTICLE 1: PURPOSES

The purposes of this corporation shall be:

- I.1: To teach, preach, and study the Gospel of Christ.
- I.2: To promote the advancement and glory of Christ's kingdom by evangelization.
- I.3: To sponsor, promote, produce and participate in meetings, seminars, schools and similar activities designed to promote the evangelical purposes of the corporation.

The Mission of Good News Ministries

2 Corinthians 4: 1-15 NIV:

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.... For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.... But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.... It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak.... All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

Good News Ministries fulfills the mission set forth by Vatican Council II:

What is needed at the present time is a new enthusiasm, a new joy and serenity of mind in the unreserved acceptance by all of the entire Christian faith, without forfeiting that accuracy and precision in its presentation which characterized the proceedings of the Council of Trent and the First Vatican Council. What is needed, and what everyone imbued with a truly Christian, Catholic and apostolic spirit craves today, is that this doctrine shall be more widely known, more deeply understood, and more penetrating in its effects on men's moral lives. What is needed is that this certain and immutable doctrine, to which the faithful owe obedience, be studied afresh and reformulated in contemporary terms. For this deposit of faith, or truths which are contained in our time-honored teaching is one thing; the manner in which these truths are set forth (with their meaning preserved intact) is something else. ~ Pope John XXIII in his Address at the Opening of Vatican Council II, October 11, 1962

GOOD NEWS MINISTRIES IS A GLOBAL CATHOLIC EVANGELIZATION MINISTRY dedicated to adult faith formation, guided by the Holy Spirit, consecrated to the Blessed Mother of Jesus, founded by Ralph and Terry Modica in the Diocese of St. Petersburg, and presented by the Good News team.

WE FOLLOW CHRIST by imitating him to the best of our ever-growing abilities and by setting as the top priority an active prayer life of listening and watching for him to lead, desiring above all else, as the Blessed Mother said at Cana, to "Do whatever he tells you," even when it involves a step in faith that feels like walking on water.

WE EMPOWER people to use their gifts, talents, personality traits and wisdom gained from experience to serve the Kingdom of God in the mission of evangelization.

WE TEACH that we evangelize first by imitating Christ in the way we live and by becoming educated enough in our faith to be able to share the Good News, tapping into what we

ourselves have learned by living the Good News, continually evolving our teachings to reflect our own spiritual growth.

WE USE TECHNOLOGY as tools of outreach, always striving to be on the cutting edge of this technology to reach people in the contemporary culture for the sake of the mission.

WE PROMOTE EVANGELIZATION by using as our guideline the three goals outlined in the U.S. Bishops' evangelization plan, *Go and Make Disciples: We*

1. evangelize the evangelizers while enlightening everyone of their baptismal calling to continue the mission of Christ
2. embolden Catholics to go forth and serve the Church by inviting others to grow in true faith, speaking first with their lives and, when necessary (as St. Francis of Assisi said), use words;
3. empower Catholics to change the world around them by living and doing the Good News in the parish, in their homes, and everywhere they go.

Our core values include:

- We see ourselves as continuing the mission of Christ.
- We strive to make the world a better place through the use of our skills and talents in a spirit of evangelization.
- We treat all who contact us, all whom we serve, and all team members as if they are Christ himself.
- We respect the personal dignity of paid and volunteer team members, empowering them with an appropriate working environment and the resources to efficiently and productively do meaningful work for the Kingdom of God with their particular gifts and calling, in an atmosphere of collaboration and creativity, with opportunities for growth and learning.
- We foster teamwork, open communication, honesty and trust within our organization.
- We maintain a spirit of gratitude, praising God and acknowledging the value of each person's contributions to the work.
- We celebrate all those who offer their skills and talents to Good News Ministries, including those who serve through the internet because they do not live locally, discerning with them what the Holy Spirit is calling them to do within the parameters of the mission of Good News Ministries.
- We collaborate with those who serve the Kingdom of God in other ministries.
- We continually and prayerfully assess where Christ is calling Good News Ministries to expand what we do, and are willing to take intelligent, researched, faith-based risks to accomplish it.
- We view fundraising as partnering with God to bring about his plans in the work we do, in providing fair wages and a healthy work environment, while simultaneously teaching others the spirituality of generosity.

The team helps build the future by keeping in mind these questions:

1. Why does this ministry exist, in the biggest sense?
2. What are we in this for?
3. What's the big picture?
4. What do we hope to have accomplished when we look back?

Expectations for all those who serve in Good News Ministries

- **TEAM WORK:** All board members, staff and volunteers are team members and recognize that they are part of a team that shares the same over-arching mission, which is to build up Good News Ministries' success at bringing people closer to Christ.
- **MISSION:** Each individual makes it a priority to serve the mission to the best of his or her ability within the parameters of the assigned job responsibilities.
 - To succeed at this, the mission is both taught and caught; we "talk it" and we "walk it" by modeling the spirituality we profess.
- **PRAYER:** We all have a prayer life outside and inside the work we do, and this prayer is carried into each decision, meeting, and effort.
 - When a disagreement or misunderstanding occurs between team members, each individual takes time to pray for guidance and wisdom and divine intervention if necessary.
 - Remembering that there is an Enemy that hates what we do (Ephesians 6), we include spiritual warfare in our prayer life.
 - The prayer life also includes discernment about one's calling in Good News Ministries and one's role in developing the future of GNM.
- **COMMUNICATION:** We keep the lines of communication open,
 - providing to those who serve as supervisors and collaborators frequent updates about progress (when appropriate), work needs, reports of feedback from the public (both good and bad), etc.
 - When work is done away from the office, it is especially important to make extra effort to communicate with the supervisor(s) of any projects and needs.
- **SERVANTHOOD:** We embrace what Jesus taught about being here to serve one another. With a sense of caring, we bring an attitude of service into all we do: in the office, in planning how to fulfill the mission, and in our interactions with the public.
- **PERSONAL GROWTH:** We give our best to the Lord by striving daily to grow closer to God,
 - recognizing that our own needs for a healthy life spiritually, emotionally, and physically must be a high priority, because we cannot give to others what we ourselves do not have.
 - If there is an unmet need within the work we do for Good News Ministries, or if there is a way that the organization can help us in our personal growth, we communicate that need to those who can assist.
- **RESPECT:** Each person is treated as a beloved child of God.
 - Supervisors' decisions are trusted *and* supervisors are open to listening to questions and input about decisions. The core reason for this trust is reliance on the Holy Spirit during decision-making.
 - Tasks are worked on with respect for the individual's ability to perform it. Expertise is valued and given opportunity to be put to good use within the parameters of the mission of Good News Ministries.
 - Interpersonal problems are discussed as opportunities for growth and handled in a positive and respectful manner, undergirded by prayer.

Education & Support

- Education is very important for building up the success of our mission.
- Areas of education and training include all of the following:
 - the mission of Good News Ministries and recommitment to the mission
 - technical development for the work being done
 - interpersonal relationships with other team members
 - understanding and assisting those we serve
 - personal spiritual growth (going away on retreats at least once a year are a high priority; in-house team retreats are required)
- Educational opportunities include books, conferences, online tutorials, professional seminars, mentoring and apprenticeship.
- Each team member is responsible for seeking and obtaining (when possible) education that will enhance their responsibilities, communicating the need and opportunity to the Executive Director or other appropriate supervisor. Self-study outside of paid hours is encouraged, self-motivated from a desire to give God our best efforts.
- Supervisors are responsible for noticing areas that could benefit from further education and then helping the team member obtain learning opportunities.
- Good News Ministries will provide resources that will help team members do their work efficiently and will pay for educational opportunities when the costs are reasonable and affordable and within the current budget. Grants and donor support for more expensive education should be seriously pursued.
- Attendance at conferences and other educational events are approved by the Executive Director and paid for by Good News Ministries at the rate of up to 8 hours a day plus reasonable travel and meal expenses.
- Team members who can provide in-house training will make time to do so.
- New team members (including volunteers) are apprenticed and immersed in the culture of Good News Ministries during an orientation period. During this time, the new member and supervisor(s) discern whether or not God is truly calling this person to be on the team.
- Anyone who observes a team member being ineffective or problematic
 - will help them make a turn-around, compassionately, by providing or guiding them to appropriate support.
 - If this fails, a supervisor should be notified and seek to discover the root of the problem to provide guidance or educational resources for the turn-around. Documentation of the problem is recommended; grievances put in writing will be treated with the utmost respect for all parties.
 - If this too fails, the team member will be asked to seriously discern whether or not God is calling them to continue the work they are doing. Supervisor(s) will prayerfully discern how to handle this and may ask this person to resign, with support from the Board of Directors and/or chaplain if necessary.
 - If on-going problems occur at the supervisory level or board level or affects team morale, a professional counselor or consultant may be called in to provide a staff development program.
 - Problem-solving is handled in a professional and Christ-like manner at all levels.

The History of Good News Ministries

PHASE 1 - FOUNDING AND GROWTH

1994:

Ralph and Terry Modica are introduced to Charlie Osburn's Good News School of Catholic Evangelization. They attend with parishioners from their NJ church and participate in developing Good News Ministries in New Jersey.

End of 1994:

Ralph and Terry step into the unknown in faith, feeling led by God to move to Florida.

1995:

Charlie Osburn invites Ralph and Terry to found GNM of Tampa Bay. They take another faith-filled step into the unknown and say yes. Afterward, God quickly provides a core team and Fr. Fitzgerald, who is pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church, to sponsor the founding of GNM. We give a formation program to the core team in weekly meetings using the Sermon on the Mount. We offer seminars in St. Francis of Assisi Church and hold our first week-long school of evangelization there.

1996:

We begin to expand outward and start giving seminars and conferences in other churches.

PHASE 2 BEGINS

1997:

Problems with our chaplain Father Ed begin. It harms GNM's reputation. We have entered into a period of learning how to walk the talk and practice what we preach more directly.

1999:

The daily Good News Reflections begin. The main outlet for fulfilling our purposes becomes the internet via an ever-expanding website and email ministries, with occasional speaking trips.

PHASE 3 BEGINS

2009:

Michael Jones is hired as Ministry Assistant.

2010:

Joanne McGuire is contracted to assist with GNM's growth and development. When she moves away in 2011, she joins the Board of Directors to keep her expertise available.

2011:

Tammy Modica is hired to found Good News Studios. Kathy Taylor is hired as office assistant and bookkeeper.

2012:

Daniela Delvescovo, a high school student, is hired to assist with digital media.

2014:

Jeremy Lewis is contracted to completely redesign and update our websites. Graciela Mabel Ribot, who lives in Argentina, is contracted to serve as our bilingual Ministry Assistant, expanding our potential to fully ministry to Hispanics around the world.

