

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE – Caring Committed and Connected

A People of Vision

At Pathway Church we believe we have received a vision from God for the Hervey Bay area which involved founding a new church. It takes confidence to think outside the box. It takes vision to create a new tomorrow. It takes courage to change the world, and it takes enthusiasm and perseverance to overcome all and every obstacle that would stand in our way.

“Where there is no vision the people perish” (Prov 29:18)

Henry Ford wanted to do a lot of things that had never been done before, especially when it came to building motor vehicles. In 1932 the Ford Motor Company invented the first V8 engine, something Ford was told couldn't be done. In answer, he came up with this gem:

“I am looking for a lot of men with an infinite capacity for not knowing what can't be done”

On the need for new ideas regarding his vision for the motor car he left us this timeless quip:

“If I had asked people what they wanted, they would have said faster horses”

What is Vision

- ◆ Vision defines a direction so that we can all work together in unity (Amos 3:3; Psalm 133:1)
- ◆ Vision calls for a commitment to a defined set of purposes (Phil 3:14; 1 Cor 9:24)
- ◆ Vision helps us to raise our expectations to believe God for greater things (Eph 3:20; John 14:12)
- ◆ Vision helps us to accept necessary and progressive change (Heb 12 26-29; Dan 2:20-21)
- ◆ Vision in the kingdom of God is about the pursuit of excellence as defined by doing, to the best of our ability, all that God asks of us. Near enough is definitely not good enough in the business of the kingdom. God gives us His best, and we should give ours in return.
- ◆ Vision provides us with measurable objectives so that we can know when and if all of our efforts are being successful.

A corporate church vision acts as a motivator and a filter that helps us determine what to pursue as a priority when opportunities and ideas are many and resources limited.

The Truth Will Set You Free

“You shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (John 8:32)

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36)

He whom Jesus makes free is free indeed! Christians can be some of the most bound up and rigid people you will ever meet, yet we are called to live in the glorious freedom that Jesus won for us on the cross! The Bible says that the truth will set us free.

Through Christ we have been given total freedom – total freedom within the boundaries of love!

We are not free to give licence to sin but rather to love – to love God with all our heart, mind and strength and to love others as we love ourselves (Matt 22:37-40).

Jesus came to set us free and that we should not be bound by the keeping of religious laws and traditions but by the bond of the Holy Spirit which binds all believers together in love. (Luke 4:18)

***“By this all people will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another” (John 13:35)***

Setting The Captives Free

Jesus' very first public messages recorded in Luke 4:18-19 gave us an insight into His Mission Statement:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour"

Who were these people? They were the ordinary folk of Jesus time, oppressed on two fronts – by the religious leaders of the day and the occupying Roman forces.

Clearly Jesus did not come to free them from Roman oppression. That only leaves freedom from religious bondage and legalism, two of the most insidious of all spiritual diseases people still suffer under today, many of whom are Christians.

True freedom is something worth fighting for, both naturally and spiritually. True freedom is what Jesus lived and died for. Freedom from religious bondage, freedom from sin and judgement, freedom from sickness and disease, freedom from poverty and lack. Freedom to overcome the devil and all his schemes.

Growing In Community

We are called as believers to live abundantly.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10)

We are also called to be "living sacrifices" (Rom 12:1). Out of the abundance we are given by God we are also to be generous and selfless, giving back into the kingdom of God according to our means with our time, talents and finances. (2 Cor 9:8)

So we encourage everyone to participate in the activities and vision of the church, while not neglecting to pursue their own individual dream and purpose in God. The 21st century Church is a church of fresh vision, awesome possibilities and unlimited potential. Only those who risk going too far will ever find out how far they can go. As Francis Xavier said in the 16th Century to a church on the brink of bringing the world out of the dark ages via the Protestant Reformation:

"Give up your small ambitions. Come and change the world"

In community we are called to be a witness of God's love to the world. In that regards the Bible says the harvest is plentiful, but the labourers remain few:

"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2)

Our goal is be a church of power and dynamism that is a centre for inspirational worship and great teaching, as well as a fun place to be. To achieve this we must be relevant, user-friendly, and treat unchurched people and those who choose to worship differently from us with respect. Jesus did not come to judge the world, but that the world, through Him, might be saved.

Building a church in the 21st Century requires us to think outside the box. What worked in a different time, with a different generation, doesn't necessarily work the same today. We need to encourage fresh ideas, a fresh approach, and a fresh message of freedom, liberty and victory!