



Write the Vision

2011



*Then the LORD answered me and said:
"Write the vision And make it plain on
tablets, That he may run who reads it. For
the vision is yet for an appointed time; But
at the end it will speak, and it will not lie.
Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will
surely come, It will not tarry.*

(Hab 2:2-3 NKJV)

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Introduction

Write the Vision

Habakkuk 2:2 tells us, "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it." In this document it is our intention to lay down some vision and plans that God has set before us. We cannot say "it's our vision", we have learned by now that God doesn't follow our vision. We follow His.

There is always a huge tendency to do everything we can to build God's Church and establish His Kingdom on earth, but we cannot. Instead, we simply choose to serve God and seek first His kingdom rather than our own, then God makes everything grow. Fruitfulness doesn't come as a result of clever plans, vision documents or hard work, it comes as a result of abiding in the vine. So this document isn't an outline of our plans, it's an outline of what we believe God has placed before us as we have sought Him in prayer, with a desire to serve His purpose with our lives.

You won't find lots of detail etched out in this document. We have only written an outline of what we see. As we continue, we expect to grow in our understanding of each piece of the puzzle. God is impossible to predict in the details, and although we can comfortably say He gives us wisdom to carry out His plans, we also realise that we may not be the people to put the flesh on the bones. Maybe you're part of the solution, we have simply written it "that he may run who reads it".

On your marks, get set...

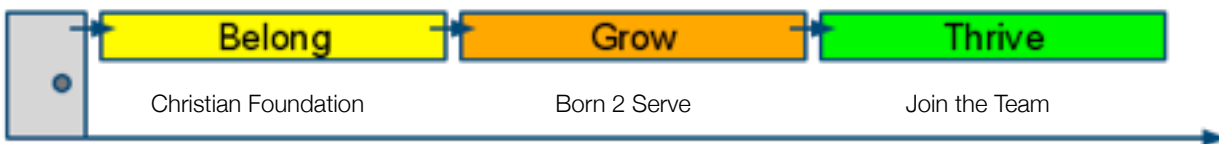
Stage One

Local Church

God has mandated our church to function as “a family of disciples taking the gospel to all creation” and we are collectively committed to fulfilling that mandate, serving one another, growing in God and serving the wider world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Journey to Destiny

Every person is valuable to God, He made us all and He has a destiny for each one of us. We were never designed to be purposeless, every person has value, purpose and destiny. We want to help you find yours and that is why we have developed our church training programme “Journey to Destiny”.



As people come to faith in Jesus Christ, we consider it our responsibility to support them in their personal Christian growth. That is why the first stage of our programme is to establish the basics of Christianity and ensure every person has the knowledge they need to thrive in God. The second stage or the “Journey to Destiny” is our in-house training course “Born 2 Serve”. Written by Pastor Neil, it is full of rich teaching designed to help believers along their journey to serve God, glorify Him and be a blessing in the world. The third stage of the “Journey to Destiny” is becoming part of a team where individuals can belong, grow and thrive as they serve God through the ministry of the Church.

Children & Youth

King David, the psalmist, once wrote, “One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts.” and we believe it is the responsibility of each generation to love, teach and train the next generation. We are currently looking to develop our children and youth programmes to best serve the young people who have been entrusted into our care.

Community

As well as serving and supporting those in our church family we desire to serve and support the community in which we live by developing programmes, services and practical and specialist support for those living in our immediate vicinity, paying particular attention to the most disadvantaged.

Stage Two

Do not remove the Ancient Landmark

It was whilst I was sitting at my desk in my house in Liverpool, some eight years ago, that the Lord gave me Proverbs 22:28 “Do not remove the ancient landmark which your fathers have set”. Since that time there has been much discussion and speculation as to the nature of the “landmark” presented in this verse, however, a closer look reveals all the information we need to understand the heart of God for the site at South Chard. The word “Landmark” is defined by Strong’s Concordance & Dictionary as... a) border, b) territory (enclosed within boundary), c) region, territory. From this definition we can clearly establish that the “landmark” spoken of in Proverbs 22:28 is referring to the physical site of the South Chard buildings. As you will read later in this document, we eventually expect to relocate our main church meetings into Chard town, but the current site in South Chard will always be maintained and used as a “work of God” in South Chard. For fifty five years, since being established by Uncle Sid and Aunty Mill Purse in 1956, the buildings have been used to serve God’s people, the Church, and we are planning for that legacy of service to continue for years to come.

Financial and Functional Efficiency

Having made the decision to keep and use the South Chard buildings for the purposes of God, we have now received a clear mandate from the Lord to renovate the site, turning it into a space that glorifies God and serves His people with love and comfort. The buildings have received very little care and attention, the cost of running the site is very high and many areas of the site do not meet current building regulations. There is much to be done to make the buildings both financially and functionally efficient, but we are committed to fulfilling that mandate. A detailed renovation document is underway and will be available soon.

Counting the Cost

Renovating the site will be a costly task and we have dedicated ourselves to doing one job at a time, as the finance becomes available. We hope to raise money through charitable giving and reserving a portion of the churches income through tithes and offerings.

A Kingdom Function

Our intention is that the current South Chard site will continue to serve the body of Christ as it has done for the past 55 years, providing retreat space, ministry and training for those who need it. With an aim to serve the wider church, we currently run three conferences each year, and hope to extend those conferences over longer periods. We also plan to provide ongoing discipleship and ministry training courses. Ultimately, we see it as a space for God and His people to experience the infilling of the Holy Spirit and grow deeper in their personal relationship with Him.

Stage Three

Ministry Training School

One of our central values is a desire to raise and release others. Jesus taught... "the harvest truly is plentiful but the labourers are few" (Matt 9:37). Our desire is to see God's people raised, equipped and commissioned for servant ministry. The "Great Commission" is simple, "Go and make disciples of all nations" and we believe we have a responsibility to raise, train and release people, called of God, into servant ministry.

Character Development

Preparing for ministry is no small matter, ministry flows more from who we are rather than what we know. Becoming an effective minister requires more than understanding biblical doctrine and being confident enough to preach a message. God's aim for all His people is that we become like Him, embodying His very nature in the world, full of the Holy Spirit. As much as our Ministry School will be committed to teaching biblical truths, it will also have a strong emphasis on personal character, demonstrating the Kingdom of God and walking in the nature of Christ. In addition we will provide practical opportunities to serve God and develop valuable ministry experience.

Course Content

Our curriculum will be made up of three parts:

Doctrine & Biblical Truth: A large proportion of the Ministry School timetable will be spent establishing students in doctrine and biblical truth, covering content from the most basic fundamentals to more in-depth study.

Living in the Kingdom: It's not enough to know about biblical truth, we must learn to live and experience what we see in scripture. That is why an equal portion of time will be given to practise the presence of God and exercise the privileges of prayer, worship and personal Bible Study. Students will be encouraged to discover and embody the nature of Christ through developing their personal relationship with Him.

Serving in Practical Ministry: Opportunities will be created for students to exercise what they are learning through ministry opportunities.



- Doctrine & Biblical Truth
- Living in the Kingdom
- Serving in Practical Ministry

Stage Four

Serving the Wider Church

God has placed in our heart a desire to serve God's people beyond ourselves. In many respects this is already happening, with our work in Africa and the churches we serve and support throughout the UK through itinerant ministry, conferences and in the teaching ministry we produce. We are using multimedia and internet to make resources available to the wider church.

Churches, pastors and leaders are very much in our heart. The leadership journey can often be lonely and difficult and God would have us be available to serve, bless and encourage those who are experiencing difficulties and struggles in their ministry journey.

Conferences

Conferences are one of the ways we will continue to serve the wider body, providing space where people can come and be encouraged, loved and blessed and having the opportunity to take time out to be with God, receive ministry, good teaching and be renewed for the work God has set before them.

Ministry School

As mentioned in the previous section, we plan to establish a ministry school that will serve the whole church. Receiving students from near and far to be equipped, then sent back to their own towns and villages to complete the work God has for them there.

Being Available

There are many independent churches that God has established throughout the UK. It is our conviction that God wants to draw churches closer together in friendship and mutual support, able to enjoy the support that comes from being connected through relationship, mutual care and brotherly love. The Lord has mandated us to be available to churches and leaders who are feeling alone in the strain of ministry life, provide support and simply be a friend.

Stage Five

Church Planting

Our church planting work began back in 2003 when we planted our very first church in Butare, a small trading village in Uganda. Since then many churches have been birthed in the South West region of Uganda and we expect to continue to work there for years to come. Although we continue to be committed to serving overseas, there are still areas in the UK where more churches are needed to serve local communities and shine as a beacon of God's love.

In time we hope to raise Leaders and Pastors who will help to pioneer churches throughout the UK, which are built on the foundation of Jesus Christ, His Word and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

The churches established through our work and ministry will continue to be part of our wider family and community, receiving love, support and mutual friendship. We see ourselves as one church across many locations, all serving the wider purpose of the Kingdom of God, always seeking the good of others in sharing ideas, resources and expertise.

Bridgwater

Our very first UK church plant is well under way and we are very excited about what God is doing in and through the church. Progress has been slower than we expected, but we have learned a tremendous amount along the journey. It has been great to see some people saved and others growing through the work. We believe Bridgwater is the beginning of what will be many churches planted over the course of our lives.

Stage Six

Relocation

With all that God has placed in our hearts, we envisage the need for expansion. It was some years ago that God spoke to us through Isaiah 54:1-3, “Sing, O barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband,” says the LORD. “Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities.”

Chard Town

As we continue to grow, we believe a time will come when we will need to enlarge “the place of our tent” and when that time comes, we expect to be relocating our main church meetings into Chard Town. There is much to be done before we expect to make any such move, but we do see it happening some time in our future.

South Chard

As we have already stated, we have committed to preserving and using the current site as a “work of God” in South Chard, serving the local and wider church. We see the current site as remaining part of our work and the possible location of our ‘Ministry Training School’ and Special Conferences.

Stage Seven

Businesses

The vision we have before us is vast and will require a large amount of wisdom, innovation and resources to achieve. We also believe it is unrealistic and unfair to continually and solely rely on charitable giving in order to achieve the mandates God has set before us. God always provides for what he commissions, and we believe His has given us wisdom to establish income generating business and services that will help to carry the financial burden of the work.

Thrive Transport

Our first business is already under way with "Thrive Transport", which currently operates five days per week and employs one part-time driver, using our 15 seater bus which has access for up to three wheelchairs. The bus provides much needed transport for several frail or disabled people in our community. The work is also beginning to expand with the recent purchase of a second five-seater vehicle, which also has wheelchair access.

We hope to establish other fruitful businesses like Thrive Transport which service the local community as well as generating much needed resources for the wider work of the ministry.

Thrive CD Duplication Services

We are blessed with some high quality CD/DVD duplication equipment which serves our own in house CD ministry requirements. The Media Department have recently begun to make this service available to the wider community and we are beginning to see some progress. It is our hope that this service will continue to grow into a thriving business, providing valuable employment and further financial resources for the fulfillment of the vision.

Not Just Money

We are not compelled to follow every business opportunity that presents itself to us, although we are keen to maximize our potential, any businesses we launch must fit in with our work. We don't envisage launching businesses unless they serve our community or the wider work of the church in ways other than just being finance generating.



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