

Bethany Trinity Presbyterian Church

To proclaim and win 100 souls for Christ in 2 years

18 Then Jesus came to them and said,
“All authority in heaven and on earth has
been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make
disciples of all nations, baptizing them in
the name of the Father and of the Son and
of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them
to obey everything I have commanded you.
And surely I am with you always, to the
very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

Handbook 2009



BTPC Vision statement for next 2 years

To proclaim and win 100 souls for Christ in 2 years

- Of the 3 points on our mission statement, I humbly feel that we are faithful in 1) Growing in God's word and 2) Growing together in serving God and one another. However, I feel that we(including myself) have failed in 3) our mandate given from God to go out and proclaim and win lives for Christ.
- As such, we can only go before God and confess that we have been disobedient and rebellious as his people and failed to obey his commandments. We have failed to listen to Matthew 28:18 where Jesus clearly said "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you". We need to repent of our wrong behaviour. Proclaiming and winning souls for Christ is not an optional extra of the Christian walk but a central part of it.
- Firstly, let us be clear what it means when God's instructs us to win lives for Christ. It is clearly to win unsaved souls – it is to be a "soul winner" as Charles Spurgeon put it.¹ We must not mistake this for church growth! It is not about filling churches with more people just for the sake of it! It is not about becoming a mega church! The reason I say this is because research has shown that up to 80% of church growth is not actually winning unsaved souls but church transfers or church migration². Indeed research in USA and Australia has shown that in many instances, the growth of mega churches merely means the cannibalization of smaller congregations with no increase in the number of saved souls in a community!³ This is not saving souls but the recycling of existing Christians from many small churches to a few bigger churches. Therefore, let us be clear - our divine mandate is to save souls. It is not just to attract customers from their current shop(church) to come to our better shop(church) down the road!⁴
- Therefore, winning souls for Christ as understood by Jesus is literally that –
 - 1) saving someone through Christ (Jesus as Saviour)
 - 2) making them a disciple of Christ (Jesus as Lord)
 - 3) baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
 - 4) teaching them the whole word of God as commanded by Jesus (Sanctification)

2009 and 2010 plans

In order for us to be faithful to God, I wish to set some concrete plans for the next 2 years:-

1) Set a target of saving 100 people over the next 2 years.

This is not a large number. In fact, I am worried that God may rebuke us for a lack of faith. This works out to just one soul saved per person in our congregation in 2 years. In God's will, I think that is achievable. I believe that if we seriously and sincerely pray for and share the gospel with just one person and invite them to church every 3 months we can achieve that. If not, then at least in 2 years time, 8 people who would have heard the gospel.

I hope that this 100 figure will act as a challenge for us to move from a model of comfort to a model of Biblical outreach and evangelism. When we consider the 100 figure, we

¹ Spurgeon CH. The Soul Winner, Eerdmans 1964

² London Jr HB and Wiseman NB. Pastors at greater risk. Regal 2003

³ Chadwick W. Stealing Sheep: The churches hidden problem of transfer growth, Intervarsity press 2001

⁴ Peterson, E. Working the Angles. Eerdmans 1987

recognise the real effort which evangelism calls upon us to make. We must think beyond our church into our community.

Most Christians are busy people. It is not a matter of challenging laziness, but of helping us to sort through priorities. We can easily go day to day as we do important and satisfying things, but never force ourselves to look beyond the immediate to the big picture of saving souls. The 100 figure is designed to give a sense of urgency to what we are doing.

My hope is that it will keep us motivated and help us prioritise. Do I think that God will bless our efforts? That is up to Him and I trust Him entirely for what he will do. What I think he will not do is bless our non-efforts.

The 100 do not have to be adults. It can be children, youth, young adults, middle aged, old aged. As Jesus said, “Come to me, **all** you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matt 11:26)

2) Aim to spend 20% of our budget on evangelism

According to the American researcher, George Barna, the average congregation spends only about 1-2% of their budget on evangelism while leading evangelistic churches spend an average of 10-20% on evangelistic activity. As such, our leaders wish to commit 20% to reaching out to people by using our resources to fund evangelistic activity and materials

Please tell us what you need. If it is a Christian book for a friend, by all means the church will pay for it. If it is a Bible, please let us know. Evangelistic bible study event etc, we are open to all suggestions.

3) Organise more events such as newcomers Bible studies and activities such as musicals, picnics and talks

In order to allow more opportunities to reach out to non Christians, we plan to have newcomer bible study groups to introduce them to Jesus in a non-confrontational way. We also plan to have a newcomers lunch at the end of every month.

We will also plan to have evangelistic activities once every 4 months so that friends can be invited to church.

However, it does not just have to be at a church level. We can also hold evangelistic events at Bible study and Cell groups.

If you have any ideas or thoughts, we will be more than happy to help you.

4) Training for evangelism

Every year all Bible study groups will spend some time learning and practicing evangelistic tools and ideas.

Conclusion

I am sure that many of us are familiar with evangelistic methods and models and tools. Over the years we have heard and seen of seeker services, friendship evangelism, cell group evangelism, power evangelism, alpha course, 5 basic laws or 2 ways to live.

While new models are often valuable, what really matters is a desire to obey Christ and love people. Only people who love Jesus can share the love of Jesus. This requires perseverance, focus and hard work.

Please ask yourself as I am sure God would like to ask you – how many people have you proclaimed to and won to Christ this year?...the year before?...the year before that? Will you make a commitment to save just one soul for Christ in the next 2 years?

Our Objective



The salvation of souls and the edification of Christians through the teaching of God's word and the preaching of the gospel

Our Commitment

To love God and glorify our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit by

- Building each other up in God's word;
- Serving one another in love;
- Being united in praying;
- Proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Our Mission

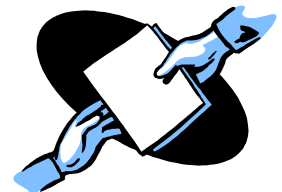
1. **Growing in God's word:**
To provide effective Christian education in the Word of God to equip members of every age for holy living.



2. **Growing together in serving God and one another:**
To provide opportunities and an environment for members to serve with their God-given gifts and to grow spiritually.

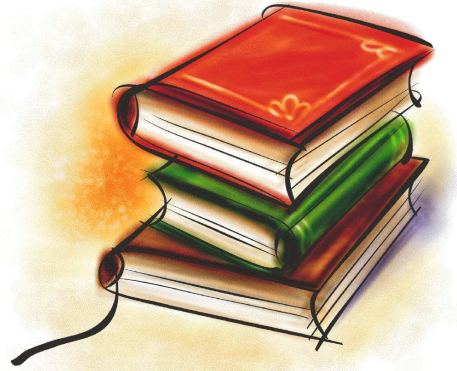


3. **Going out with the gospel of Jesus Christ:**
To enable members to share the love of God, proclaim the Gospel and win lives for Him through personal outreach and caring ministries.



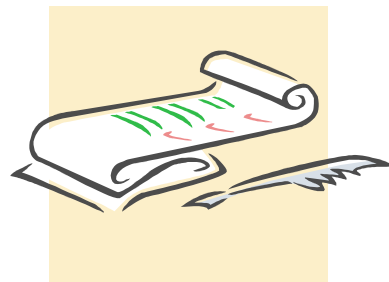
Our Doctrine

1. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, the Saviour of mankind and the only Mediator between God and men
2. We believe in the Scriptures of the old and new Testaments as the word verbally inspired of God and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life.
3. We believe in the Apostles' Creed which is the summary of common faith of the orthodox Church
4. We adopt the whole of the Westminster Confession of Faith














Our Obligations









1. We must pray earnestly and study the Bible, join in all the different meetings and services, especially keep the Lord's Day, and attend the Lord's Supper.
2. We must help in all the work of the Church and gladly perform good works.
3. We must do all we can to witness for the Lord, and also pay heed to leading our families and our children.
4. Inasmuch as the Church is the Lord's Body, in all matters in which members are involved we must exercise mutual love, not forming parties nor creating strife and thereby causing damage to the Church
5. We are responsible for supporting the Church's normal expenses and any special needs

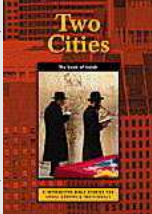








2009 Preaching and Bible Study Program for adults and youth

| | Date | Message from God's word | Teacher | Special events/holidays |
|---|---------|---|------------|---|
| Acts (Mission Unstoppable)  | 4/1/09 | New Year's service | Andrew Ong | Communion  |
| | 11/1/09 | Acts: The acts of the risen Christ | Andrew Ong | |
| | 18/1/09 | Acts: Apostles behaving badly | Andrew Ong | |
| | 25/1/09 | Acts: The voice of the martyr | Andrew Ong | Chinese New Year Monday 26 January  2009 Tuesday 27 January 2009 |
| | 1/2/09 | Acts: The unstoppable King | Andrew Ong | Communion  |
| | 8/2/09 | Acts: Favoritism free zone | Andrew Ong | |
| | 15/2/09 | Acts: The road trip | Andrew Ong | |
| | 22/2/09 | Acts: Postcards from Paul | Andrew Ong | |
| | 1/3/09 | Acts: On the road again | Andrew Ong | Communion  |
| | 8/3/09 | Acts: Big trouble in Jerusalem | Andrew Ong | |
| | 15/3/09 | Acts: Rome or Bust | Andrew Ong | |
| HOT topics  | 22/3/09 | Eschatology and the end of all things (Part 1) | Andrew Ong | Bible study groups – review and consolidate Acts |
| | 29/3/09 | Eschatology and the end of all things (Part 2) | Andrew Ong | Bible study groups – group prayer |
| Evangelism month  | 5/4/09 | Evangelistic talk 1 | Andrew Ong | Good Friday 10 April 2009  Communion  Just start talking |
| | 12/4/09 | Evangelistic talk 2 | Andrew Ong | Just start talking course 2 |
| | 19/4/09 | Evangelistic talk 3 | Andrew Ong | Just start talking course 3 |
| | 26/4/09 | Evangelistic talk 4 | Andrew Ong | Welcomer's training course |
| Ecclesiastes  | 3/5/09 | Ecclesiastes 1 – 2 Where can I find meaning in life? | Andrew Ong | Communion  |
| | 10/5/09 | Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 4:6 Time and Toil | Andrew Ong | |

BTPC 2009 Preaching Program

| | Date | Message from God's word | Teacher | Special events/holidays |
|---|---------|--|------------|---|
| Ecclesiastes  | 17/5/09 | Ecclesiastes 4:7-16 – Companionship | Andrew Ong | |
| | 24/5/09 | Ecclesiastes 5:8-6:12 – Money | Andrew Ong | |
| | 31/5/09 | Ecclesiastes 7-8 – Wisdom | Andrew Ong | |
| | 7/6/09 | Ecclesiastes 9-11:6 – How do you live in an uncertain world? | Andrew Ong | Communion  |
| | 14/6/09 | Ecclesiastes 11:7-12:14 – The conclusion of the Teacher | Andrew Ong | |
| HOT Topics  | 21/6/09 | Predestination and free will (part 1) | Andrew Ong | Bible study groups – review and consolidate Ecclesiastes |
| | 28/6/09 | Predestination and free will (Part 2) | Andrew Ong | Bible study groups – group prayer |
| 1 Corinthians 1-7 (Church Matters) <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin-top: 10px;"> Bible study leaders development = write and lead own Bible studies </div> | 5/7/09 | 1 Cor 1:1-17 God's church | Andrew Ong | Communion  |
| | 12/7/09 | 1 Cor 1:17-2:5 Power in God's church | Andrew Ong | |
| | 19/7/09 | 1 Cor 2:6-16 Wisdom in God's church | Andrew Ong | |
| | 26/7/09 | 1 Cor 3 Leadership in God's church | Andrew Ong | |
| | 2/8/09 | 1 Cor 4 Faithfulness in God's church | Andrew Ong | Communion  |
| | 9/8/09 | 1 Cor 5:1-6:8 Judgment in God's church | Andrew Ong | |
| | 16/8/09 | 1 Cor 6:9-20 Purity in God's church | Andrew Ong | |
| | 23/8/09 | 1 Cor 7 Godliness in God's church | James Kerr | |
| HOT topics  | 30/8/09 | Salvation or rewards | Andrew Ong | Bible study groups – review and consolidate 1 Cor |
| | 6/9/09 | Heaven and Hell | Andrew Ong |  National Day Sunday* 9 August Communion  Bible study groups – group prayer |

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| Isaiah  (Two Cities) | 13/9/09 | Isaiah 1:1 -2:4 Choosing a city | Andrew Ong | |
| | 20/9/09 | Isaiah 2:5-22 Hiding from reality | Andrew Ong | |
| | 27/9/09 | Isaiah 6 Facing the real King | Andrew Ong | |
| | 4/10/09 | Isaiah 11 God's dream | Andrew Ong | Communion  |
| | 11/10/09 | Isaiah 36-37 How to insult God | Andrew Ong | |
| | 18/10/09 | Isaiah 40 The God of all comfort | Andrew Ong | |
| | 25/10/09 | Isaiah 40-55 The servant of God | Andrew Ong | |
| | 1/11/09 | Isaiah 64:8 - 66:6 God's future world | Andrew Ong | Communion  |
| Money and Prosperity  | 8/11/09 | Money and blessings | Andrew Ong | Bible study groups – review and consolidate Isaiah |
| | 15/11/09 | Money and idolatry | Andrew Ong | Bible study groups – group prayer |
| | 22/11/09 | Money and contentment | Andrew Ong | |
| | 29/11/09 | Money and generosity | Andrew Ong | |
| Christmas services  | 6/12/09 | <i>The meaning of Christmas</i> | Andrew Ong | Communion  |
| | 13/12/09 | <i>The meaning of Christmas)</i> | Andrew Ong | |
| | 20/12/09 | <i>Christmas Evangelistic Service</i> | Andrew Ong |  Christmas Day Friday 25 Dec |
| | 27/12/09 | <i>Christmas Evangelistic Service</i> | Andrew Ong | |
| | 31/12/09 | <i>Watchnight service</i> | Andrew Ong | |

Missions 2009

2 missions trips planned for 2009. Missions are an integral part of BTPC and our mission focus has been in Asia. Please join us to serve God on these short-term mission trips:

- Mission trip to Vietnam to teach young tribal children the Bible in “Vacation Bible study”



- Mission trip to China to participate in rural and tribal missions in Yunnan province in China



Church camp 2009

Church camp for 2009 will once again be in Malaysia in Nov/Dec. Look forward to a wonderful time of fellowship and learning from God’s word.

