

Vision Sunday

1. Looking Up

- Welcome to Vision Sunday
 - Today is a day where we look back on 2015 and give thanks for what God has done in and through C@P this year
 - But more importantly to look forward so we as church have a clear direction and focus for the year ahead

- Acknowledge visitors ...

- But before we get into that, let's take a look at God's word to give us a foundation and context to Vision Sunday

- Passage I want to look at is Matthew 28:16-20

- What we see in this passage is Jesus then commissions his disciples to take that good news message out to the world
- But it's not just to go and proclaim a message and then go home
- Jesus tells his disciples to go and proclaim the gospel in order to 'make disciples'
 - That is ... go and tell people about me and my death on the cross and how they can have eternal life through me ... so that they will also become one of my disciples

- How do you make disciples?
 - Going
 - Baptising > into name of F, S & HS
 - Teaching > everything I commanded

- **Going**
- Disciples of Jesus are to 'Go'
 - Go to people around us
 - Christians are not like a magnet and non-Christian are like iron filings who are attracted to church
 - Disciples are to go
 - Go to the schools > work place > sports ground > cafe > neighbour
 - The places and people God has put us amongst

- **Baptising**

- Baptism in the Bible is a symbolic washing with water
- The washing with water is an outward sign of the inward reality that occurs when a person repents & believes in Jesus
- That is, it demonstrates a person's sins has been washed away
- Baptism shows a person's alignment with Jesus
- That they've entered into his kingdom > come under his Lordship > on his team
- They've died to their old self ... now living for and under Christ

- **Teaching**
- Finally, teaching people everything Jesus commanded
- What did Jesus teach?
 - *Repent and believe the good news*
 - *I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me*
 - *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." AND 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'*¹
 - *If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.*

- Jesus is telling this to his disciples
 - Bog ordinary men – fishermen, tax collector,
 - Not lawyers, preachers, theologically trained religious gurus
 - Ordinary men whose hearts had been transformed and captivated by the truth of the gospel

- You see what Jesus is saying ...
 - You are my disciples ... therefore go and teach others about me so they too will become disciples

- In other words, Christian brother and sister ...
 - Jesus wants us to continue telling people about Jesus ...
 - so they will become disciples ...
 - and they will go and teach others ... and they will become disciples
 - and they will go and teach others ... and they will become disciples
 - and so on

¹ Matthew 22:37-39

- This means ... we're all on a maturity journey
 - If you're here today and you're not yet a Christian ... well the first thing for you to do is find out more about Jesus – who he is, why he came, what it means to follow him as one of his disciples
 - If you are a Christian ... then part of you maturing as a Christian is becoming a disciple making disciple

- **Application**
- If you're a Christian here this morning ... think about your own experience of becoming a disciple of Jesus
 - If you grew up in a Christian home > Mum and Dad where the ones teaching you about Jesus
 - Maybe you became a Christian later in life?
 - School friend invited you to youth group
 - Uni friend invited you to a Bible study
 - Work colleague invited you to a talk
 - Neighbour invited you to church
- I'm sure many of you can look back and see how God bought a disciple of Jesus into our life so that you might become a disciple also

- Challenge for us is ... what's it going to take for us to become a church of disciple making disciples?
 - How are you and I going to be that disciple making disciple in someone else's life?

2. Looking Back

- Before we look forward and how we do that ... I thought it would be helpful to look back briefly at our journey this year
- Clearly 2015 has been a challenging year
- Getting to the point where had to ask serious questions about the future of C@P was a confronting but necessary process to go through
- However I am sure you can see that since that time in the middle of the year ... we have seen a dramatic shift in the ministry life of C@P

- Attendance
 - Last year we averaged 74 ppl per week
 - Since May = 80
 - In Oct we had our biggest regular Sunday attendance of 97
- Giving
 - Last year giving was averaging around \$6k per month

- Since May > \$10k per month
- That is amazing! Praise God for those who are being generous with the good things God is blessing you with
- Serving
 - Approx 85% of regulars serving in some capacity with your gifts
- New people
 - In 2015 we have had 55 people visit church > 21 have stayed / sticking
 - Over 240 attended our four parenting seminars this year
- Clearly there has been a huge momentum shift that we can be thankful to God for

- What else can we celebrate this year?
 - New Welcoming team and processes led by Ali
 - The aim of this team is not just to welcome people well on Sunday but see them connected into our church family
 - Pre-service hospitality > coffee, bacon & egg rolls, snacks > Pete, Em & Noah
- Started thinking about and doing mission in growth groups
 - Monthly visits to local retirement village with Yr 6 students from PSPS
 - Pink Ribbon M/tea
 - Uplift Fundraiser
 - Men's cycling group
 - Christianity Exp & Life of Jesus
 - Welcome to the Suburb gift packs

- Most importantly, we saw at least one person become a Christian this year

- There are many good and wonderful things to give thanks to God for in 2015

- However there are still many challenges before us
- We have a real need for
 - Raising up new kids and youth leaders
 - Raising up new GG leaders
 - Raising up new SRE teachers

- We also have the significant challenge of making mission part of the DNA of C@P where we are encouraged, equipped and motivated to mission to people around us and so become a church of disciple making disciples

3. Looking Forward

- With that in mind ... next year I want us to focus on two things as a church that flow out of what we have just looked at here in Matt 28
 - Heart transformation
 - Mission

- **Heart transformation**
- Obviously there is a heart transformation that happens to a person as they are convicted of their sin and their need for a saviour when they become a Christian
- But one thing I am becoming increasingly convinced of is the ongoing need to for heart transformation in maturing as a disciple of Jesus
- What tends to happen is we hear the gospel for the first time and are captivated by God's grace and we have wonderful joy in being a disciple of Jesus
- But then we set out on this journey ... seeking to growing in godliness and maturity ... and the grace of the gospel fades to the background and we begin to lose sight of why we are seeking to live as Jesus disciples
- So ... godliness, sharing the gospel, doing mission ... become a chore and divorced from the reason why we do it ...
 - We end up despairing and feeling guilty when we don't do it ... or don't do it as much or as well as we want

- The other reason we struggle to mature as Christians and find joy in living as Jesus disciples is because we still have idols that we worship
 - And because we struggle to let go of our idols ... they hold us back in maturing as a disciple of Jesus
 - So we need to keep hear the gospel afresh so that our idols can be dismantled and we can be freed to serve and follow Jesus with joy

- Next year ... our aim is to preach and teach by the power of the HS, for heart transformation
 - Where ever people are on their journey as a disciple ... we will all experience a transformation of the heart that will lead to joyous worship and faithful discipleship

- **Mission**
- The second area of focus for next year will be mission
 - This is the work of being disciple making disciples

- We have a great message, we have a great church, we have a great saviour ... we ought to share that
- Two areas of focus
 - Heart transformation
 - Mission
- If you think about our five E's that's
 - Establishing Christians
 - Engaging the Community
 - Evangelising our Contacts

- **Heart Transformation (Establishing Christians)**
- **Church & hearing God's word**
- Central to all we do as God's people is to gather around his word
 - We do that in church, kids church, growth groups and youth group

- Next year our sermon series is aimed at heart transformation and mission
 - Term 1
 - Delighting in the Lord > reminding ourselves who God is and what he has done for us in Jesus
 - Mission Minded > a short series leading into Easter to help prepare and encourage us to mission to those around us
 - Term 2
 - Galatians
 - One of Paul's NT letters that gets to the heart of the gospel and clearly distinguishes between salvation by works and salvation by grace
 - A great series to work on our heart transformation
 - Term 3
 - John 6-11
 - Return to John's gospel and continue exploring the person and life of Jesus and what means to be one of his disciples
 - Faith & Work
 - Faith and work aims at helping us integrate our faith with our daily life – whether city workers, teachers, stay at home mums ... Faith and Work will encourage us as disciples in the world today
 - A great series to invite people along to
 - Term 4
 - Exodus
 - OT > series that gives us a bigger view of God but also challenges our idolatry

- **Children & Youth**

- C & Y remain key to our ministry at C@P
- Come to a point in life of our church where the Steering Group and I believe we are ready to start our own youth group
 - Wanting to do this for a number of years
 - Lots of connections to kids via SRE not really leveraging
 - Hard to connect scripture kids to Stoked at BHAC
- Starting in Feb 2016, C@P will start a junior youth group for kids in Yr 6-8
 - Well placed to do this
 - Great connections with kids here at PSPS via scripture, especially in Yr 5 & 6
 - We have a good number of youth kids here at C@P in that age bracket who will give the group critical mass
 - Good inviters
 - 2016 is a great time to start
 - Starting a junior youth group here at PSPS means
 - Location is much easier for parents to bring kids here than trek to BHAC
 - Able to invite kids from PSPS that we have connections to via SRE
 - Same age bracket as Base Camp > invite kids from SRE to youth group and from youth group to Base Camp on Sundays
- Plan will be to
 - grow the age of youth group year by year > in 5 years > youth right through to Yr12
 - And the good news is PSPS have confirmed we can have access to hall and canteen on Friday nights
- **Question – How resource it?**
- Pleased to announce that Daniel Bishop will be joining us next year as a Student Minister with his wife Shannon and baby boy Ezekiel
 - Daniel will be studying full time at MTC starting next year
 - Daniel's role will be to help start the new youth group on Friday afternoons and co-lead Base Camp on Sunday mornings
 - Daniel has some great experience working with youth and is sure to be a really blessing to our youth over the next two years
 - Going to be meeting Daniel and Shannon a little later
- I'm also in the process of recruiting a female leader to co-lead with Daniel at Youth and Base Camp

- I hope to have that position filled soon
- God willing, we will have male and female youth leaders leading both those key youth ministries
 - Continuity of leadership will be brilliant in connecting with kids and discipling them through that key phase of life
- This is really exciting
 - A real milestone in the life of C@P
 - Pray God will use it to grow and mature our youth into disciple making disciples of Jesus
- ***Kids Church***
- Of course Kids Church remains a key part of kids becoming disciple making disciples here at C@P
 - Next year we will continue to have our four Kids Church groups
 - However there are some exciting developments here as well
- Starting next year Mark Mifsud will join the Kid Church team teaching Explorers
 - Mark (along with Jamie) has been helping Brad and Liana with Explorers these past two years
 - Having just finished his HSC, Mark is keen to take on more responsibility teaching kids about Jesus
- Again, it's very exciting to see one of our kids come through our Kids Church and Youth group ... now willing and able to become a leader in our Kids Church programme
- With Mark taking on Explorers, Liana is freed up to take on a Kids Church co-ordinators role
 - Allowing her to oversee the big picture of Kids Church, mentor and train our Kids Church leaders like Mark
 - Emily Hazlewood will be helping Liana by looking after all our Safe Ministry and WWCC compliance
- Very grateful to God for Team Bryant
 - Janelle > Pebbles,
 - Tiff > Mini-Peaks
 - Jamie > assisting in Explorers
- Speaking of Snr youth ... I recently put forward a strategy for Children's & Youth Ministry to our steering group

- In it I proposed how we help our youth mature as disciple making disciples
- One part of that we will seek to ensure our older youth are being 1:1 disciplined as well as attending Stoked, KYCK and LiT

- ***Growth Groups***
- Continue to be a vital part of church life next year where we can both mature as disciples and encourage one another in making disciples
 - GG will be places where we will continue to study the word of God together
 - Not just for knowledge but for transformation
 - Seeing how God's word applies to our lives
 - In addition, we will continue to make GG's a place where we can pray for and encourage in mission
 - Personal mission and group mission
 - GG are a key vehicle for making disciple making disciples

- **Mission (Engaging our Community & Evangelising our Contacts)**
- The other key focus for 2106 is Mission
 - When we talk about mission we're talking about anything that helps a person move one step closer to becoming a disciple of Jesus
 - Having a BBQ with neighbours > inviting a friend to Christianity Explored

- ***Parenting seminars***
- This year four great parenting seminars on
 - Resilience
 - Raising tweens in a sexualised world
 - Managing emotions
 - Internet addiction
- Continue hosting regular parenting seminars next year

- Life Skills Course
 - In addition in term 2, we are going to host a Parenting or Marriage course
 - Here in hall > lots of people > supper > aimed at Xn and Non-Xns

- Continue
 - World teacher day morning tea
 - Toys n Tucker
 - Growth group mission activities

- Visits to IRT
- Cycling
- Pink Ribbon morning tea
- Others
- Aim of all those mission activities is to be engaging people in order to move them one step closer to hearing the gospel
- Recognise for many people ... hearing about Jesus is a series of little steps rather than one giant leap

- **Community Chaplain**
- Another new initiative I am excited to announce is the role of Community Chaplain to be fulfilled by Samantha Weeratunga
 - Samantha is passionate and gifted pastoral care worker
 - This is what she does working for Anglican Retirement Villages
 - This is what she does quietly among the congregation here at C@P
- Opportunity has come up through a scholarship programme offered by Anglican Deaconess Ministries
 - ADM are looking to fund women to work two days a week to connect in whatever way possible with the local community by serving and caring
 - The scholarship will also allow Samantha to study at Mary Andrews College doing a Diploma of Christian Studies that will help equip her for this ministry
- Great thing about this scholarships is it allows us to tailor the role to suit our ministry context
 - Samantha will spend her time connecting with
 - new parents on Friday nights at Youth group
 - kids & families via school scripture
 - kids & families at PSPS through projects like Operation Christmas Child
 - non-church families via hospitality ministry
 - other opportunities as they unfold

- **Personal Mission**
- So we will have opportunities to engage with the community ... but if we're going to be disciple making disciples ... we don't stop at the point of engagement
 - We want people to somehow hear and respond to the gospel
 - Whether that's
 - Church
 - GG

- Christmas or Easter
 - 1:1 catch up with you
 - Youth group
 - SRE
 - Christianity Explored or Life of Jesus course
- Last year we made a deliberate movement away from event based evangelism to personal and group mission
 - Steering group further reflected on this recently and agreed that we would have 2 possibly 3 'Big Days' where we seek to invite people to church
 - Two most natural days to invite people to church?
 - Easter and Christmas
 - Of course we can and ought to be inviting people to church any Sunday ... however these are days we will go all out to attract visitors to church
 - Creative services
 - Promote well
 - Invite boldly
 - Pray earnestly
 - Clearly spell out the gospel
 - Other than that, we want to focus on personal mission
 - That is you and I connecting with people
 - in the community,
 - at work at school,
 - at Uni,
 - on their turf > in their context
 - getting to know them
 - what makes them tick and
 - seeking ways to bring the gospel to bear on the relationship you have with them
 - This is one aspect of our maturity we need to grow in
 - We have a good church
 - We have a good message to share
 - We have a welcoming community to offer
 - We want ppl to hear that good news message
 - Therefore personal mission ... must be central to our growing maturity as a church and as individuals

- Not doing men's breakfasts, women's high teas or gingerbread house nights ... events that crowd our calendar, suck our energy and take focus away from personal mission
 - Much more effective in prayerfully seeking to mission to those ppl God has put you near
 - BBQ, coffee, glass of wine, lunch
 - Sharing our lives, sharing our faith
 - Inviting them to parenting seminar, CE or church
 - To help equip us to be better disciple making disciples ... T1 next year
 - Short series on Mission Minded with GG studies
 - Train and equip us to be mission minded and how to go about it
 - In addition, in church and in our GG's, we will continue to focus on sharing, praying and supporting one another in personal mission
 - ***Exploring Christianity***
 - In addition to our personal mission to people we know ... we will also run quarterly courses allowing people to explore truth about Christianity
 - Courses like Life of Jesus & Christianity Explored
 - This will give you the opportunity for you to invite those ppl you are reaching out to and sharing the gospel with to come along
 - I'm looking for people to come along and learn the course with me and lead them
 - Especially think about who you can be praying for who you'd like to invite along next year when we do our first Life of Jesus course
 - Mission
 - Engaging our community
 - Parenting seminars
 - GG mission
 - Community chaplain
 - Evangelising our contacts
 - Big days – Easter & Christmas
 - Personal mission
 - Christianity courses
 - **Equipping Each Other & Exporting our Resources**
 - ***Sri Lanka Mission Trip***
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- One more initiative I am excited to announce is the next year we will be pulling together a mission team to travel to Sri Lanka in Feb 2017 to help train pastors in their understanding of the Bible
 - This will be done in conjunction with Indian Gospel League
 - IGL are a group of gospel hearted people who in 1995 committed to planting a church a year
 - Since then 25,000 churches have been planted!! Amazing!!
 - However they don't have enough theologically trained pastors to run them

- IGLAust sends teams from churches here in Australia to India & SL to teach Moore College PTC courses to pastors
 - Our mission to SL will involved teaching Ephesians in Negombo and OT1 in Batticaloa

- **Why do this?**
 - We are rich > financially and theologically > we have much to be thankful for > we ought to Export our resources to help equip disciple making disciples who are resource poor
 - Part of the mission trip means includes us helping to pay for these men and women to travel to the training conference to be trained
 - In order to prepare the mission team all need to complete the PTC courses we will be teaching
 - That means we will have a team of people who are better equipped for ministry back here at C@P
 - Encourage all of us in our mission here in Peakhurst > as we get involved in global mission, my prayer is it will encourage us and spur us on in local and personal mission

- We need to take a team of about 8 > approx 5 men and 3 women
 - Having information night for SL mission on Monday 14th March
 - Happy to talk more in the meantime.

- **Money**
- Speaking of exporting resources, to continue our ministry here at C@P
 - Start the new youth group
 - Bring new student ministers on board etc will require \$130k
- Current giving hugely increased this year > fantastic
 - Most months > \$10k > August \$12k!
 - I want to encourage to keep giving generously > giving regularly
 - If not, encourage you to start giving

- As you can see there are many exciting things happening next year
- We want to make them happen and be able to fund them and look for further opportunities as they arise

- **Logistics**

- Calendar
 - Draft > still a few dates to lock in
 - Have it by end of the year

4. Conclusion

- Friends, today I hope you are excited for 2016 here at C@P
- God has brought us through a testing time
 - He has graciously provided us with the
 - Energy
 - People
 - Money
 - Direction to continue
- I believe we're about to start a new phase of ministry life here at C@P > an exciting phase
 - Now have the capacity to branch out > start new ministries like our junior youth group
 - Build on the foundations of Kids Church and Welcoming ministry and mission focused growth groups
- As we head into 2016 I want to ask you join with the Steering Group and myself in this vision
 - A vision to see us become a church of disciple making disciples
 - Whose hearts are transformed by the gospel
 - Who are prayerfully seeking to reach those who don't yet know Jesus