

As a church, we have been praying, thinking, and discussing the vision God has for His church. Recently, we have completed a church-wide Bible study that looked at the seven different areas of that vision: Centrality of Christ, Evangelizing the World, Movement to Maturity, Fellowship, Integration, Corporate Worship, and Denomination. These seven areas all relate to the mission of our church: ***Bring Them In, Build Them Up, and Send Them Out.***

Now that the church has completed the *Vision Walk*, we feel the need to respond to what God has called us to be as a church. The Ministry Vision Team would like the church to consider the following recommendations as a guide for the future direction of the church as we strive to keep Christ in the center of everything we do individually and corporately, keeping things as simple as possible so we remain focused on our mission, and answering the following questions with a resounding “Yes” as we step out in faith to fulfill His mission:

- Has Christ called us to this?
- How will this bring honor to Him?
- Does this line up with Scripture?
- Does this line up with the guidance He has given us along the way?
- Does this line up with the Body’s giftedness and circumstances He has brought together?
- Does this appear to be the way He can get the most glory?

Recommendations for the Direction of Our Church

Implement Now

1. Begin Sunday and Wednesday evening flexibility which would include a restructuring of the Sunday AM schedule and Wednesday activities to allow a church-wide “care and share” time. This would also be a time for “connecting” the Body to Ministry Team and Small Group opportunities.

Why flexibility? Allow for more time of true ministry outside the church building. Sharing time for reporting the activity of God through SS and small groups/ministry teams could be incorporated into the Sunday AM schedule.

2. Extend the Sunday School by providing alternative times and locations for Small Groups as a more effective “point of entry.” Implement the principles learned in “*Sunday School Done Right*” including the enlistment of Outreach Leaders and Care Group Leaders in each Sunday School class and Small Group.

Why Small Groups? They are biblical, simple, intentional, reproducible and cross-cultural. Jesus’ method for impacting the world was a small group of men.

3. Continue and support the efforts concerning ESL (English as a Second Language) classes.

Why ESL? A significant portion of Batesville’s general population is not English speaking.

Implement within the Next 6 to 9 Months

4. Provide classes on practical evangelism and schedule time for visitation and outreach.

Why evangelize? This speaks to the heart of our mission. We need to remember what it truly means to be lost and rekindle a passion for the lost.

5. Establish a membership orientation process. Current members are encouraged to complete the process. Prospective members are expected to complete the process. A new guideline for uniting with our church will be established, clarifying the steps to join.

Why is this important? Basic biblical principles would be reinforced and spiritual growth encouraged as we review our beliefs and expectations and application of these principles into our lives. Prospective members would be encouraged to contribute through connection with a ministry opportunity where their spiritual gifts can be exercised in carrying out the mission of our church.

6. Establish leadership training classes.

Why? We must be intentional about reproducing leaders in the church.

7. Define minimum number of committees for church administration purposes. Change all other committees to a Ministry Team format.

Why simplify? Reducing administrative overhead will result in a simplified church structure and get more people engaged in ministry. If Steven Hale's 17,000 member church in FBC Woodstock, GA, can function with two (2) committees (Finance and Personnel), then we can certainly function with something less than twenty-three (23).

8. Provide a more "Spirit driven" and "guest attentive" worship experience through the use of on-site greeters.

Why? Imagine a team of greeters stationed in our parking areas ready to serve and direct folks to our facility, especially if they are attending for the very first time. Make it easy for those God is drawing to join in FBC activities.

Implement when Staff is Complete

9. Address diversity of music styles.

Why is this needed? More people may be drawn to our worship services by providing music that is more culturally relevant. Remember that many of our great hymns of the faith were set to the “music of that day.” Our music should reflect the broad spectrum of tastes within our congregation.

10. Offer an alternative night for worship.

Why is Sunday not enough? In our day and age there are many folks who have employment schedules that do not allow them to participate in a Sunday worship service.

11. Take initial steps for move to property at Eagle Mountain by engaging an architect and staffing a site-planning team.

Why move? Our current facilities limit our potential for numerical growth.

12. Offer our facilities for area gatherings as a service to our community and association.

Why is this significant? We must ask ourselves this question, “Would the community miss us if we close our doors?”

13. Extend our global mission footprint through the mobilization of teams from within our own Body to reach the unreached.

Why? We are commissioned to reach the remotest part of the earth as well as Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria.