

BENDIGO **BAPTIST** CHURCH

2020 *Vision*

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

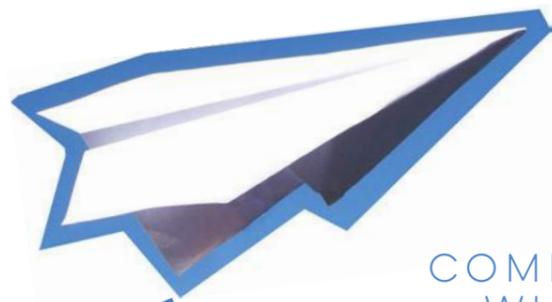
COMMIT TO THE LORD WHATEVER YOU DO,
AND HE WILL ESTABLISH YOUR PLANS.

PROVERBS 16:3 (NIV)



As we seek to be a community of **empowered** believers reaching our city, state, nation and globe for Christ, we imagine by **2020** that our church will:

- 1.** Be widely known as a **disciple-making** church where a growing number of people are putting Christ first in every aspect of life.
- 2.** Have close to 80 small groups where young and old are following Jesus, being **transformed** by Him and are committed to living out His mission in this world.
Note: This equates to approximately 80% of our church family being a part of a small group relational environment.
- 3.** Expand the **reach of our community** engagement through Bendigo Baptist Community Care Inc. (BCCI) and grow the Bendigo Christian College to a size of 100 students.
- 4.** Have a significant intern program that is designed to **nurture** the growth of God's people and serve our growing church.
- 5.** Have a senior staff **team** of eight (full or part-time equivalent) with additional pastoral and support staff across the life of our church.
- 6.** Be giving away **over \$250,000** each year towards mission, aid and church planting initiatives around our city, state, nation and globe.
- 7.** Be working closely with other Baptist Churches to advance the Kingdom of God in this city, with the understanding that we are always **better together**.
- 8.** Have over 2000 people in our church community, many of whom are new believers, **living out** the principle of being and making disciples / followers of Jesus Christ.
Note: All evangelistic growth is God's to manage not ours. Nevertheless, it is healthier to hope and plan for expansion rather than remaining the same. The Lord delights in seeing more people from the wider community discovering afresh his majesty, mercy and relevance.



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PROVERBS 16:3



INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION PASTOR DAVE LOVELL

The book of Proverbs provides us with some wise sayings about how life best works. Towards the end of this short book, Solomon writes, “Commit your actions to the LORD, and your plans will succeed.” (Proverbs 16:3, NLT) This has been an important guiding principle for the leadership of this church as we have pursued and endeavoured to discern God’s strategic priorities for our 2020 vision at Bendigo Baptist Church.

This process of discernment began in August 2014 when we invited the Church Health Consultancy Team from the Baptist Union of Victoria to assist us with a church-wide review. They completed this comprehensive process with us in December 2014 and presented us with five strategic priorities to consider and focus upon as we endeavoured to prayerfully plan our 2020 vision. In the middle of the year (2015), specialised working groups were commissioned around each of these five key priorities and the findings from each of these have been carefully woven into our strategic 2020 plan. Many people have been part of this discerning process and we believe that our God will help us achieve our 2020 vision as we journey with Him through the coming years together.

Those of us that have been a part of this church over the past 10–15 years have born witness to God’s amazing work in our midst. New ministries have started and many lives have been touched and transformed by the good news of Christ. And while the challenges of the future might be great, we firmly believe that numerous opportunities still abound for us to reach our city, state, nation and globe for Christ.

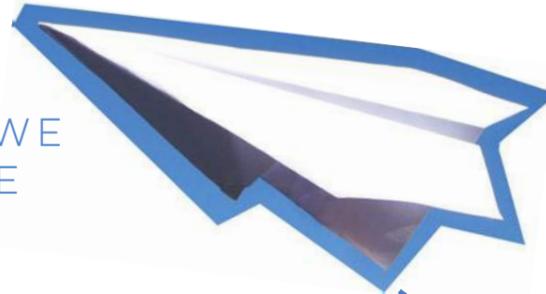
So what follows in the coming pages of this booklet are our God-shaped dreams for the future ministry of our church as we follow Jesus. We have talked a lot and now it is time for action. It is our prayer that God would continue to empower and use each of us at Bendigo Baptist Church to advance His kingdom purposes and see our 2020 vision become a reality.

Warmly in Christ
Pastor Dave Lovell

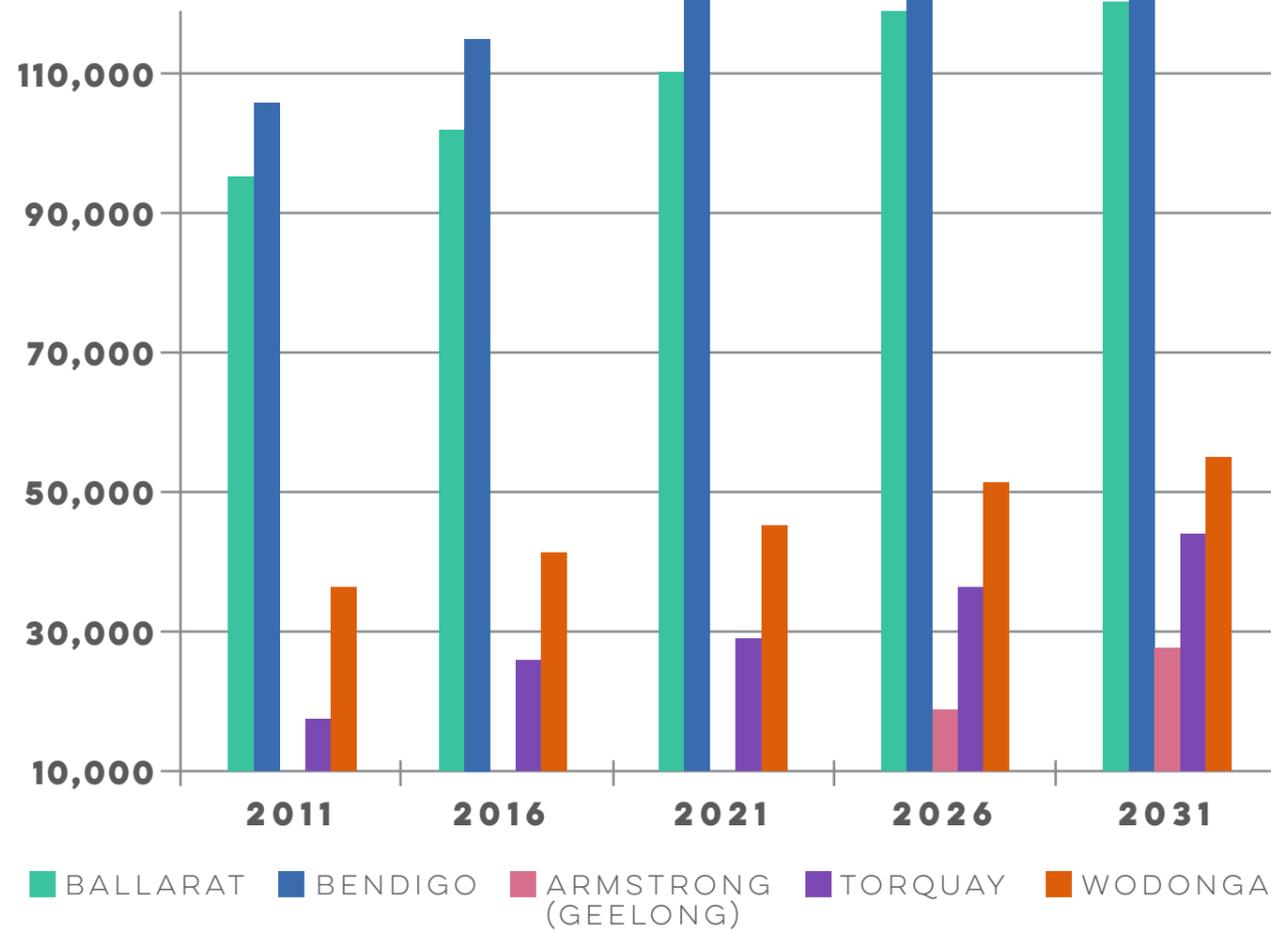


THE STATS

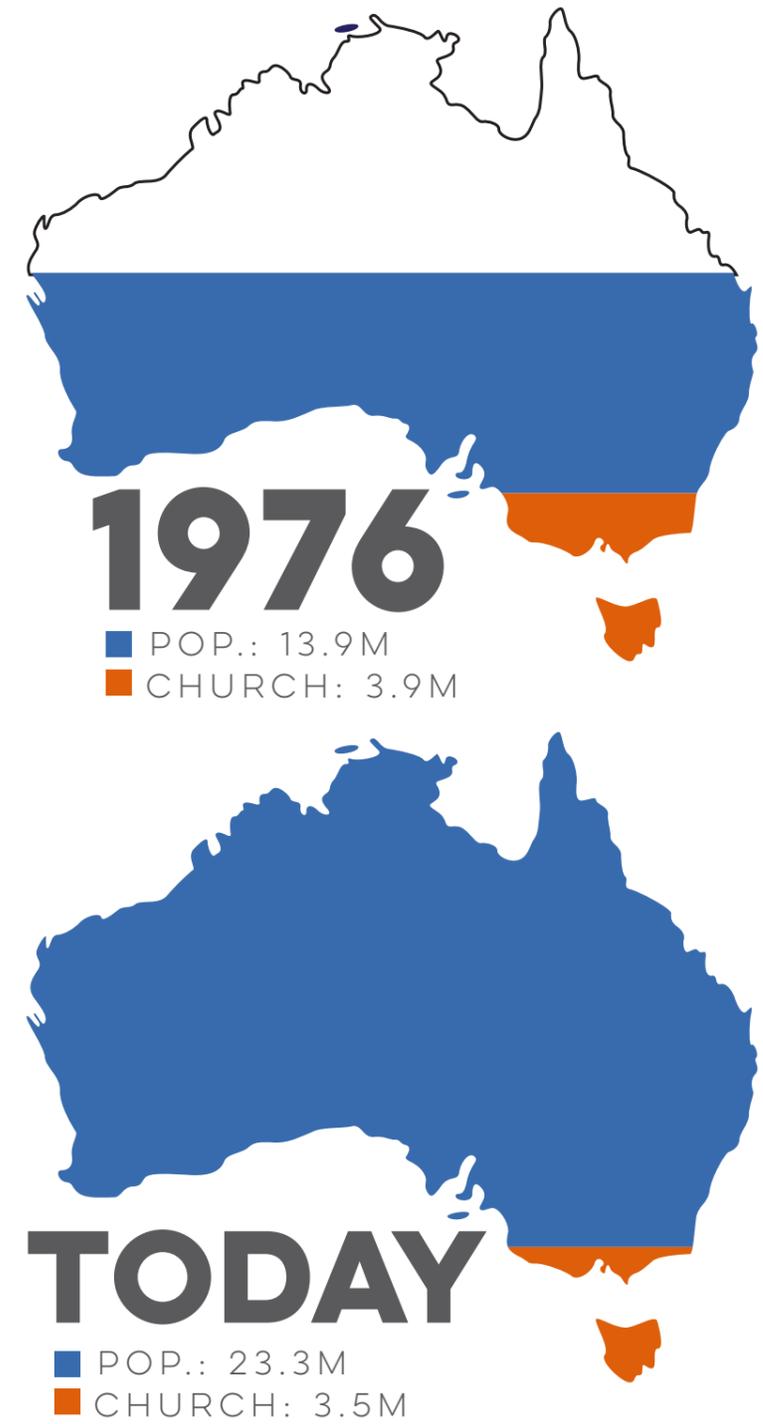
“TO REACH PEOPLE WE’VE NEVER REACHED BEFORE WE NEED TO DO THINGS WE’VE **NEVER DONE BEFORE**”



REGIONAL VICTORIA POPULATION GROWTH



POPULATION GROWTH, CHURCH ATTENDANCE SHRINKING



OUR VISION & MISSION

OUR VISION

To be a community of empowered believers reaching our city, state, nation and globe for Christ.

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matthew 4:19 NIV)

“Those who believed what Peter said were baptised and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all. All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord’s Supper), and to prayer.” (Acts 2:41–42 NLT)

OUR MISSION

To develop people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them 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. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:19–20 NIV)



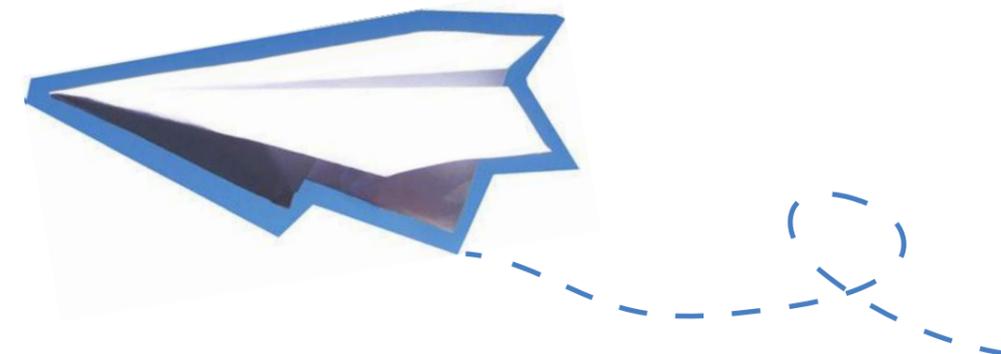
OUR CORE VALUES

These values are the intrinsic convictions of the people of Bendigo Baptist Church. They define our non-essential beliefs and they help determine the goals needed to accomplish God’s vision for this church.

- 1. Biblical Teaching:** We believe God’s word is the essential catalyst for bringing about change and growth in the life of an individual. We value the teaching of the Word of God that is empowered by the Holy Spirit. (2 Timothy 3:16–17)
- 2. Prayer Dependence:** We believe that God requires His people to pray and that He hears and answers prayer. We believe that reliance on God through prayer must be central to everything we do. (Colossians 4:2) (Ephesians 6:18–19)
- 3. Servant Leadership:** We believe in the importance of godly leadership in the life and ministry of our church, and that leaders empower others. We expect our leaders, within a team structure, to model integrity, courage, loyalty and a servant attitude. (Philippians 2:5–7) (Matthew 20:26–28)
- 4. Personal Development:** We are committed to the development of God’s people. We believe it is our responsibility

to equip, support, motivate and mentor individuals, enabling them to become all that God wants them to be. (Ephesians 4:11–16)

- 5. Outreach Orientated:** We believe that lost people matter to God and, therefore, should matter to the church. Our mission is to reach people for Jesus at the local, national and global level. (Matthew 28:18–20)
- 6. Healthy Relationships:** We are committed to providing an environment where people can experience God’s love in action. We promote the development of friendships, acceptance of others and a sense of belonging. (John 13:34–35)
- 7. Authentic Worship:** We believe we are created to worship and serve God. We are committed to worship being creative, relevant, reverent and pleasing to God. (Romans 12:1) (Psalm 95:1–2)
- 8. Cultural Relevance:** We believe that God’s Word never changes but our culture is constantly changing. We recognise the diversity of people and are committed to communicating the truth of God in the most relevant way. (1 Corinthians 9:19–23)



OUR MINISTRY STRATEGY

The entirety of Scripture points to relationship both with God and others. (Matthew 22:37-40) As followers of Jesus, we are committed to the process of being and making disciples of Jesus within the context of a relational ministry environment.

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matthew 4:19)

According to this passage, a disciple of Jesus is:

- One who is **following** Christ (HEAD Response) and has made Jesus Lord of their life. (Luke 9:23; John 8:31)
- One who is being **transformed** by Christ (HEART Response) and is becoming like Christ in attitude and action. (John 15:8; Romans 8:29; Galatians 5:22; John 13:35)
- One who is **committed** to the mission of Christ (HAND Response) in this world. (John 15:8; Matthew 4:19; 2 Corinthians 5:19-20)

What is a disciple? For the intent of our overall ministry strategy, we have defined a disciple or a fully devoted follower of Christ in the following way. They are a *“follower of Jesus who is being transformed by Him and is committed to His mission.”*

Consequently, we are committed to the task of making disciples using the strategy of relational environments.

OUR STRATEGIC MINISTRY PRIORITIES:

At a glance, our five strategic priorities include:

Priority 1 – DISCIPLESHIP

We are committed to building a culture of discipleship where a growing number of people are putting Christ first in every aspect of life.

Priority 2 – CONNECT

We are committed to building an open, welcoming, inclusive culture where anyone from the community, or new to the church, could come and feel welcomed no matter what age, race, or family background.

Priority 3 – CARE

We are committed to building a culture of care where everyone is cared for both informally and formally – that Bendigo Baptist Church is a place where everyone has someone who cares about them.

Priority 4 – EVANGELISM

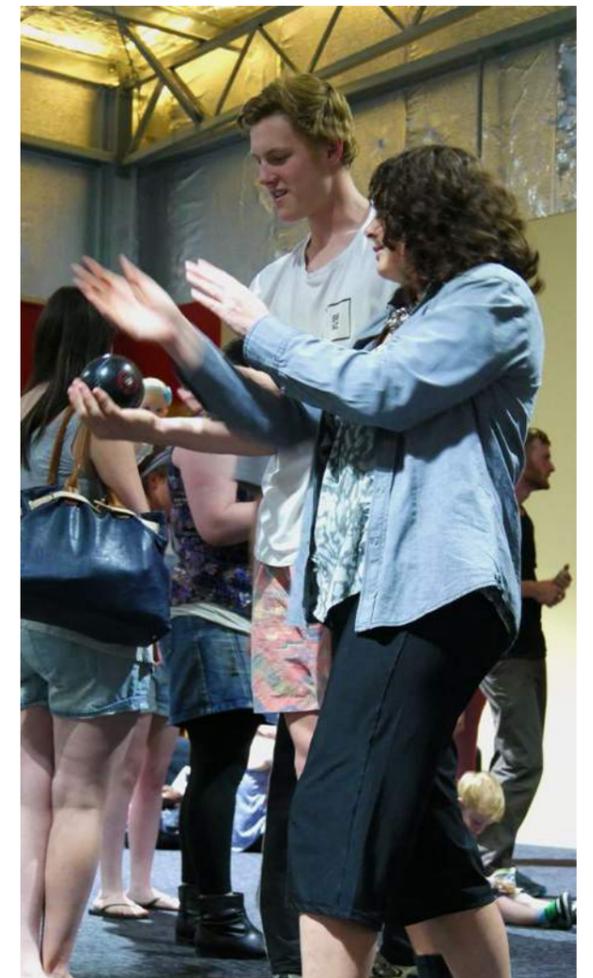
We are committed to building a culture of proclaiming the gospel with the intent of reaching out and making disciples of Jesus Christ within our local community, across our nation and also around our globe.

Priority 5 – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

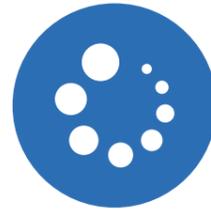
We are committed to building stronger community connections where the church and its people continue to build upon and improve our existing outreach into the lives of all people, especially those who are misplaced, homeless and the most vulnerable within our community.

Resourcing these priorities is a crucial element of this 2020 vision and we will need to ensure we have the property, finances and people to see this vision become a reality. These resources, by prayer and faith, will be added as the needs arise as we journey on this 2020 vision together.

The following pages flesh out each of these strategic priorities in greater detail demonstrating where our emphasis will lie in the next five years.



DISCIPLESHIP



CONNECT



CARE

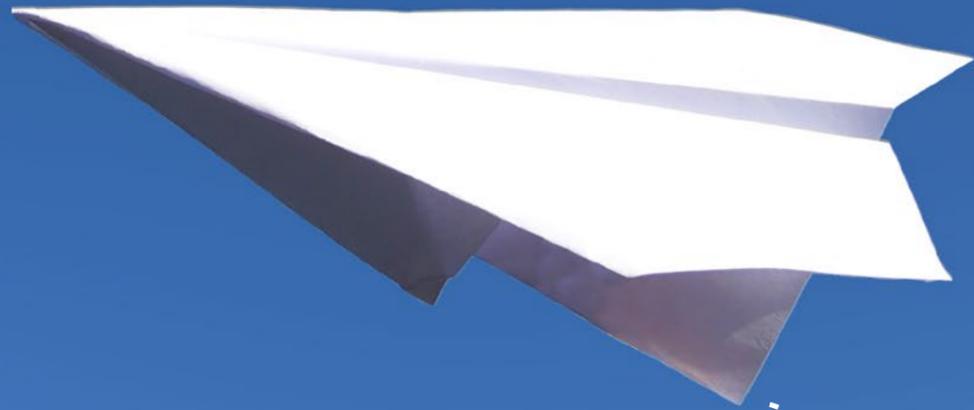


EVANGELISM

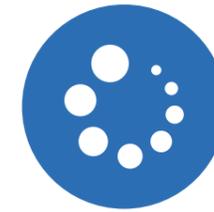


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT





DISCIPLESHIP



PRIORITY 1 - DISCIPLESHIP

We are committed to building a culture of discipleship where a growing number of people are putting Christ first in every aspect of life.

This strategic priority will be birthed in prayer and achieved through the following actions:

1. Church Alignment:

Our entire church family will understand and be able to articulate that God has called us to develop people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ within a relational environment rather than a program based environment.

We will accomplish this by:

- Communicating the mission of our church (i.e. to be and make disciples) through appropriate means of corporate branding and language across the life of the church through weekly services, small group gatherings and various ministry settings.
- Strengthening our membership process to help new people understand our ministry purpose (i.e. who we are and what we do) at Bendigo Baptist Church.
- Reinforcing our staff and volunteer agreements to ensure that each person understands and can communicate our ministry mission and vision at Bendigo Baptist Church.
- Connecting each person, (i.e. children, teenagers, young adults and adults) into a small group where they will be

encouraged to be and make disciples.

2. Small Groups:

A culture of small group discipleship will be deliberately fostered across each generation within the life of our church.

We will accomplish this by:

- Creating a small group relational environment where people are following Jesus (HEAD), being transformed by Him (HEART) and are committed to living out His mission (HANDS) in this world. (Matthew 4:19 NASB)
- Developing and implementing a reproducible discipleship process that will move each person within the small group relational environment towards Christlikeness.
- Identifying new ministry leaders who might be drawn into the disciple-making journey, nurtured and released into a variety of ministry settings to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

3. A Culture of Celebration:

Deliberately foster a culture that celebrates the process (i.e. the Kingdom win) of being and making disciples of Jesus within the context of a relational ministry environment.

We will accomplish this by:

- Communicating on a regular basis personal stories and testimonies of those who are following Jesus, being transformed by Him and are committed to His mission.



PRIORITY 2 - CONNECT

We are committed to building an open, welcoming, inclusive culture where anyone from the community or new to the church could come and feel welcomed no matter what age, race, or family background.

This strategic priority will be birthed in prayer and achieved through the following actions:

1. Embracing All People:

Continue to develop a community of cradle to the grave, where all ages, stages, cultures and abilities / disabilities are welcomed, provided for and valued for the rich diversity they bring to the church community.

We will accomplish this by:

- Establishing a greater synergy between BBC and Htoo Moo Plaw Church.
- Providing a safe and inclusive environment for all.
- Establishing multicultural events that celebrate the cultural diversity within our congregation and community.
- Encouraging intentional engagement of our children, youth and young adults in the life and ministry of our church community.
- Developing relevant access / entry points into the life of the church.

2. Worship Services:

Continue to foster a multigenerational and culturally diverse presence in worship that

is creative, relevant, reverent and pleasing to God.

We will accomplish this by:

- Encouraging people to utilise their gifts and skills in ministry across our different services each weekend.
- Sharing regularly a variety of stories of God's work in and through people lives.
- Utilising inclusive language in all presentations and communications.

3. Greeting Ministry:

Establishing teams that extend a warm point of contact at worship services and other events across our campuses.

We will accomplish this by:

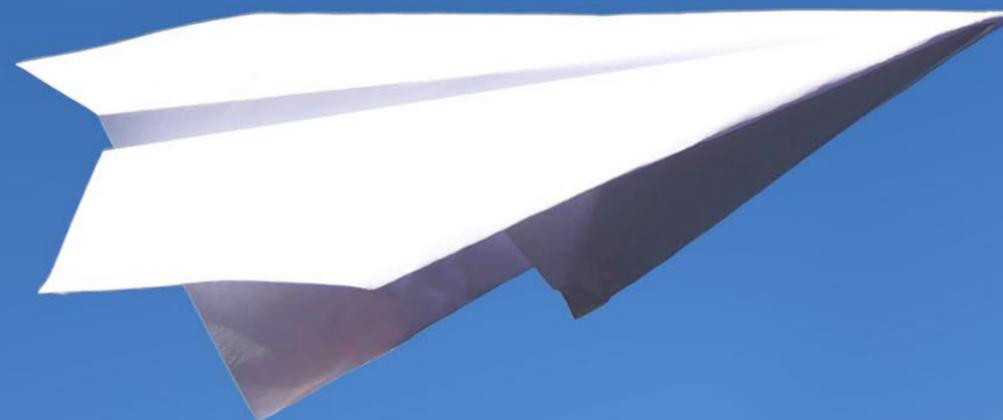
- Building an inclusive welcoming culture throughout the life of our church.

4. Small Groups:

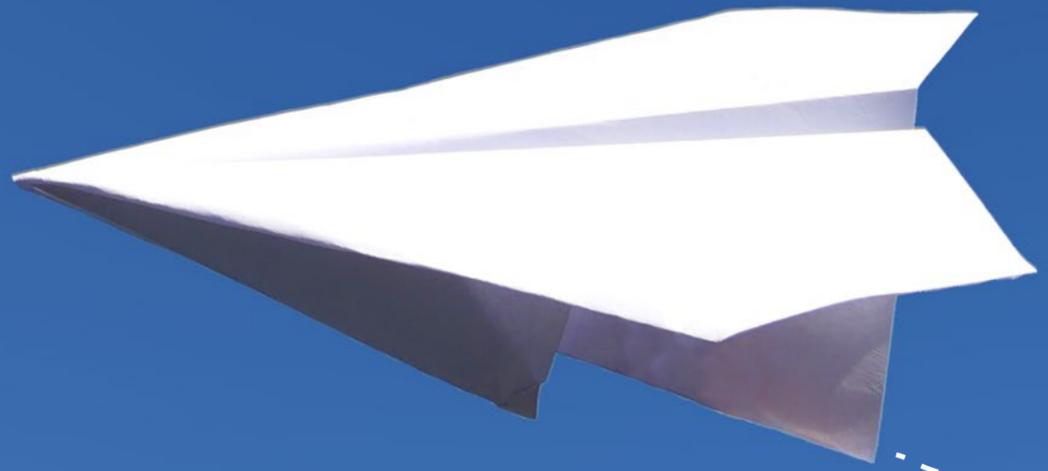
These are the primary vehicles for connecting people into the life of our BBC community.

We will accomplish this by:

- Promoting the goal of all people being an active member of a small group.
- Utilising all means of communication and social networking to relay important information about our small group ministry.



CONNECT



CARE



PRIORITY 3 - CARE

We are committed to building a culture of care where everyone is cared for both informally and formally – that Bendigo Baptist Church is a place where everyone has someone who cares about them.

This strategic priority will be birthed in prayer and achieved through the following actions:

1. Communication:

Provide effective communication internally and externally about our CARE ministries and how people might get involved.

We will accomplish this by:

- Improving the effectiveness of our system of care at BBC.

2. People Connection:

Promote a variety of opportunities for deeper relational engagement through meals and a variety of church related activities.

We will accomplish this by:

- Encouraging activities where people can connect with one another in a relaxed environment.

3. Education:

Continue to prioritise, educate and administer a community of care for all and by all.

We will accomplish this by:

- Educating one another that best care always happens from being in a small group with others.

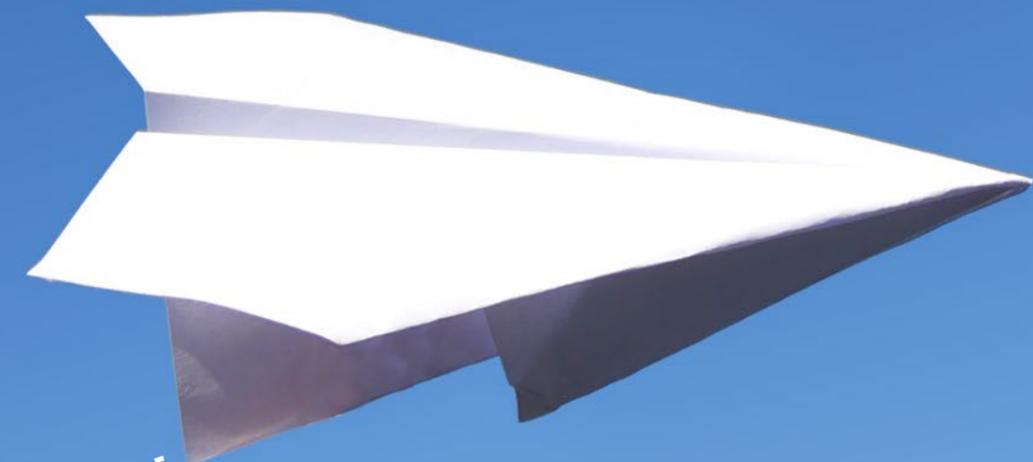
4. Newcomer:

Intentional follow-up of all newcomers will be a priority in the life of the church.

We will accomplish this by:

- Developing diverse processes of follow-up and connecting all newcomers into the life of the church.
- Building a culture of intentionality around connect and care of newcomers.





EVANGELISM



PRIORITY 4 - EVANGELISM

We are committed to building a culture of proclaiming the gospel with the intent of reaching out and making fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ within our local community, across our nation and also around our globe.

This strategic priority will be birthed in prayer and achieved through the following actions:

1. Education:

The priority of making fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ will be a primary focus in the life of Bendigo Baptist Church.

We will accomplish this by:

- Providing preaching / teaching which demonstrates that proclaiming the gospel (i.e. sharing the good news of Jesus) is central to everything that we do.
- Linking our teaching to specific ministry opportunities to maximise the overall effectiveness of the learning experience.
- Offering learning resources that both equip and inspire people to engage in local and global evangelistic opportunities.
- Focusing on the needs of our adopted people group (i.e. Sunda) within South East Asia.

2. Mobilisation:

People of all ages will be encouraged to participate in local, national and global

evangelistic activities.

We will accomplish this by:

- Providing necessary information that allows the church family to pray intentionally and strategically.
- Presenting strategic opportunities to deeply engage in evangelism within and without Australia. Note: Appropriate training, mentoring and debriefing of these ministry opportunities will be an important aspect of each experience.
- Empowering individuals and small groups to engage in evangelistic activity that is a direct response to God's call upon their lives.
- Sending and practically supporting those who have been called by God to live and make fully devoted followers of Jesus in cross-cultural settings outside of Bendigo.

3. Promotion:

The priority and importance of sharing our own faith will be championed across every generation in the life of the church.

We will accomplish this by:

- Sharing on a regular basis through large and small gatherings the everyday stories of God's people as they reach out and share the good news of Jesus Christ.
- Connecting regularly with, and promoting the stories of, our different ministry partners who are serving Christ

around our nation and in other parts of the globe.

4. Resources:

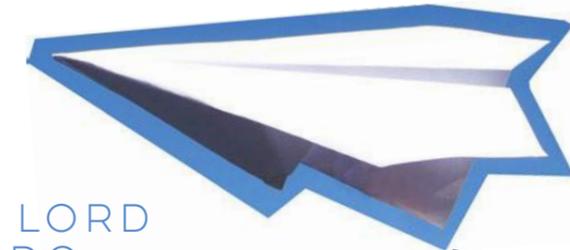
We will shape our budget in a strategic manner by allocating resources to areas that honour the intent of the Gospel to reach all people.

We will accomplish this by:

- Setting aside significant financial resources each year to advance the

cause of local, national and global outreach activities. Note: Due to the current strength of our local outreach it is felt that a strong emphasis on national and global outreach must be an absolute priority in the coming years.

- Appointing a key individual to our staff team who will directly assist us with our vision of reaching our city, state, nation and globe for Christ. Note: This individual's ministry would take a national and global focus.



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PROVERBS 16:3 (NIV)





COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT



PRIORITY 5 - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We are committed to building stronger community connections where the church and its people continue to build upon and improve our existing outreach into the lives of all people, especially those who are misplaced, homeless, and the most vulnerable within our community.

This strategic priority will be birthed in prayer and achieved through the following actions:

1. Community Initiatives:

These provide us with an opportunity to demonstrate God's love and care in practical and tangible ways. It is our intent to explore and establish innovative missional initiatives that provide different entry points to our church and thereby continuing to further God's reach into the local and greater community of Bendigo.

We will accomplish this by:

- Continuing to expand the community reach of our BBC ministry programs across our city.
- Determining the needs and capacity to develop new programs and initiatives of BBCCI.

- Establishing the Bendigo Christian College on the Junortoun Campus.
- Identifying, equipping and releasing a cohort of pioneering people who are willing to think outside of the box and imagine new ways of introducing people across our city to Jesus.
- Collaborating with other local churches to pursue missional initiatives that advance God's Kingdom in Bendigo, with the understanding that we are always better together.

2. Community Partnerships:

It is our desire to establish significant partnerships in some of the primary social pillars of society that allow us as a church to serve and build up the wider community as well as represent Christ.

We will accomplish this by:

- Offering Chaplaincy support to local sporting clubs across this city.
- Developing stronger connections with Eaglehawk and Strathfieldsaye Primary and Secondary Schools.



BENDIGO
BAPTIST
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