

## 8. Our Vision

### Training objective:-

To understand the overall vision and purposes of Brynmawr Family Church

### Study:-

#### 1. Our mission statement:

Brynmawr Family Church exists to **Build Followers of Christ** (Matt 28:18-20).

#### 2. Our strategy (Acts 14:21-23)

Establishing a strong local Church in our community which in turn grows and plants Churches in the surrounding areas, Wales and the nations

#### 3. Our 8 Areas of focus to achieve this:

- Worship- giving Jesus our all in worship and surrender
- Evangelism- telling people about Jesus
- Discipleship- teaching people how to follow Christ
- Ministry- learning to use our gifts to serve the Lord and others
- Fellowship- earnestly loving one another as Christ loved us
- Prayer- fervently asking in faith for God's purposes to come to pass on the earth
- Presence- being a people filled and empowered by God's Holy Spirit
- Mercy- showing practical love for the needy and hurting

We will now look at each of these in turn.

### 1. Our Mission Statement- to Build Followers of Christ

**Our aim as a Church is to be obedient to the command of Jesus in Matt 28:18-20:**

*'And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.'*

- **'All authority'** – we are to see the authority of Jesus being established on earth as in Heaven. We are commissioned and sent out by the One with all authority to do the job. We are to see all coming under the kingship, the rule of Jesus. Acts 1:8 says that we have received power through the Holy Spirit to be witnesses to the ends of the earth.
- **'Make disciples'** -this is what we are commissioned to do- our job description. A disciple =a disciplined follower of the master Jesus.
- **'The nations'**- the gospel initially went to Jews only, but here Jesus includes the Gentiles (in Hebrew the Gentiles are referred to as 'the nations') although the Church didn't realise this until Paul was called to the Gentiles in Acts 9 and Peter was called to the Gentiles in Acts 10. See also Matt 24:14, Acts 1:8, Eph 2:6. The ends of the earth must be reached. Even though we are to firstly reach our locality with the gospel, we must be a sending and releasing Church launching people into all the world. 'The nations' means progressive geographical outreach (Acts 1:8-

'Jerusalem, all Judea & Samaria, and to the ends of the earth'). 'The nations' also means all cultures- not just those we are comfortable with. Church will look differently according to those it reaches.

- **'Baptising'**- there is a growth process- repentance and faith, baptism in water and the Holy Spirit, discipleship. We must become excellent midwives and health visitors and G.P's until we see people come into their full stature within Christ's body (Eph 4:13).
- **'Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you'**- our job is not over with evangelism. We must teach people how to love one another, how to worship, how to follow Jesus, how to use their gifts to build up the body.
- **'To the end of the age'**- this commission will not be replaced by some other vision- it is the call to the Church- all of God's people. We are to be motivated by the fulfilling of the great commission. This means that all of our activities must be governed by this rather than doing things without purpose.

## **2. Our Strategy- building strong Churches (Acts 14:21-23, 16:5, 18:22-23)**

- **Local Church.** The strategy in Scripture to see the Great Commission fulfilled consisted of preaching the gospel with power in every place, and establishing strong local churches in each area. Establishing a vibrant local Church in our community is a primary aim.
- **An Apostolic Centre-** we believe we are to be a Church which has the genetics to plant other Churches in the surrounding areas, Wales and the nations. A Church which grows individuals with the DNA to go and plant other Churches and return for equipping. A biblical example is the Church in Antioch (Acts 13:1-3, 15:35-36, 18:22-23).
- **Large and small groups.** Jesus ministered to the crowds but also dedicated Himself to a small group. Both are important for community transformation; the large groups important for unity and direction, and the small groups important for building relationship, accountability and equipping. The early Church also met in both large and small groups, but meetings in the home became hugely important to the growth of the Church.
- **Special focus groups.** Not all purposes can be met in 2 meetings. As we grow, ministries will develop in special areas of focus, but the overall vision remains the same- to make disciples of all nations.

## **3. Our 8 areas of focus**

Rick Warren in his excellent book, the Purpose Driven Church highlights 5 areas of focus to see healthy Churches established. I agree with these 5 areas but have included 3 more which I believe are foundational to seeing healthy Churches raised up.

### **1. Worship (John 4:23-24)**

To see a community hungry for intimacy with God, expressing their love for Him in open, expressive, creative, lavish, sacrificial ways. To see worship expressed by the sacrifice of lives laid down and a lifestyle of worship rather than purely 'songs on a Sunday'. To see spiritual gifts used and body ministry as a regular part of worship. To see new songs being written and new forms of expression, through the arts, of our love to God.

### **2. Evangelism (Acts 1:8)**

To effectively communicate the gospel of Jesus to every person in Brynmawr, the surrounding valley towns, Wales and the nations. To see the gospel demonstrated

through signs and wonders done in the power of the Holy Spirit so that the gospel is not merely words, but demonstrations of the Spirit's power. To see all in the church released and empowered in evangelism. To communicate clearly God's love by all means possible. To see transformation of lives and community through the salvation of the lost.

### **3. Discipleship** (Matthew 28:19-20)

To be disciples of Jesus, continually growing into His likeness. To see new believers being baptised in water and the Holy Spirit, becoming part of the Church and learning how to follow Jesus effectively. To become effective in bringing each person onto the next level of maturity. To have the Bible as the Word of God clearly expounded and there to be a strong desire for the Word as well as the Spirit of God. To see every person living in integrity of character and lifestyle. To see holiness and the fear of the Lord amongst us.

### **4. Ministry** (Ephesians 4:11-13)

To see every Christian in Brynmawr Family Church recognise, use, and grow in their natural and spiritual gifts for the glory of God and the building up of His body. To cultivate an attitude of humility and service for the benefit of others. To see the needs of individuals met through diverse ministries within the Church. To see the roles of apostle, prophet, pastor teacher, and evangelist received and developed.

### **5. Fellowship** (Acts 2:42)

To build a family where people of all social backgrounds and ages feel loved, accepted and valued. To build strong, trusting, genuine relationships amongst the Church. To be united internally and externally with others in the body of Christ. To speak words of edification to one another and challenge any attitudes which in any way undermine the unity of the Church. To secure a safe environment for all. For all to show warmth and hospitality to outsiders.

### **6. Prayer** (2 Chronicles 7:13-14)

To become a people who intercede and stand in the gap for the lost. To see the presence of God manifest through continuous revival in the Church as people continue in focused prayer. To see the power of God unleashed through the Church setting people free from demonic strongholds and destroying all the works of the evil one.

### **7. Presence** (Ephesians 2:19-22)

To live by the ethos that the presence of God is everything to us. To build a house where the Spirit of God is pleased to dwell. For each believer to be regularly filled with God's Holy Spirit and cultivate a lifestyle of hunger for God's presence. To experience the manifestation of God's presence when we meet, and to see God's Church revived. To see outbreaks of God's glory outside of meetings and in our community. To raise up a body of believers who are Spirit-led and Spirit-saturated so that the glory of God is made manifest to all and indifference vanishes.

### **8. Mercy** (Micah 6:8)

To minister God's love, help and healing to the lost, poor, sick, forgotten, unloved, bound, abused, and lonely, both inside and outside the Church. To be God's prophetic voice in our community, to see God's justice established. To feed the hungry and comfort the grieving. To have a faith demonstrated by action. To be known as a generous, giving people. To have Jesus' compassion for those who are captives and to set them free to serve the Lord.