



2016 and Beyond



A man was walking along the beach early in the morning. He was quite alone on the clean, unspoiled sand except for a figure a long way ahead of him. The person was walking toward him and every now and again stooped to pick something up and throw it into the ocean. This intrigued him.

As the person got closer he was identified as another man who continued the odd practice of picking something up and throwing it into the sea. On the beach during the storm the night before many starfish had washed up on the sand and the mystery man was picking up some of the starfish and throwing them back into the water.

When the two men finally met, the first man said, "There are hundreds of starfish on the beach. What difference does it make throwing a few of them back?" The other man remained silent, bent over, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea. "It made a difference to that one," he said.

The point of the story is clear; one man saw the enormity of the problem and decided ...

1. The task is too big.
2. I am only one person - what can I do?
3. I will do nothing!

The other man also saw the enormity of the task and asked what can I do? But he chose to do something! He did what he could do in order to make a difference. That's the decision we made when Bayside Church began in March 1992, and we've done our best to be true to that vision ever since.



Wherever this symbol is shown throughout this document, we are inviting you to consider "merging" on the journey with us.

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The History of Bayside Church

Bayside Church was birthed in the Spirit in 1988 when Pastor Rob Buckingham was driving north along the Nepean Highway. On seeing the sign "Cheltenham" Rob heard the Holy Spirit say to him that one day he would pioneer a church in the area. He shared this vision with a few close friends at the time (including his senior pastor) and then committed the vision to the Lord for fulfilment at the appointed time. During 1991 he sensed God unsettling him where he was and he knew that the time to pioneer Bayside Church was drawing near.

It was the Sunday morning before Christmas 1991, at the end of a service at Lighthouse Church, that Pastor Ken Van Eeden had an amazing prophecy over Rob. This prophecy served as the catalyst that led to the pioneering of Bayside Church. The Holy Spirit said,

"The Lord is saying by His Spirit today that the hour of change is coming in your whole sphere of ministry. God is preparing your heart and bringing about a culmination of the desires of the things that He has spoken to you about in recent times. There is desire in your heart, there's a pulsating in your heart that God is confirming even here, even right now. It seems to have been so long; it seems to have been so forgotten, but God is saying right now that the time is coming and now is, my son, that He is releasing and putting in your hand a sceptre that people will know that when you come, you come in the Name of the Lord. You will shine for the Lord Jesus, and you will be His man and walk where He wants you to walk. You'll hear a voice behind you saying, "Rob, this is the way, walk ye in it." My son, this is the time for which I've been preparing you, and I'm bringing about that release within your ministry and life and what I have for you my child. It's to me not only for progress or promotion, but being released into the sphere and dimension that God has for you.

You'll hear things in the next month that God will speak very clearly direction-wise, very clearly to your spirit, the very next thing that He has for you; the very next sphere and dimension. You'll know very clearly God's ways, God's direction and God's leading. There'll be no shadow of doubt, it'll be very clear, very cut and dried, what God wants you to do."

Within one month of receiving this prophetic message the plans were in place to pioneer Bayside Church Cheltenham. It was during this time that three more prophecies were given all confirming the direction that was being taken.

Sunday 19 January, 1992 - Pastor Ian Lugden

"You are like a boat which has been moored in the bay, enjoying the safety of the bay. But now is the time to cut the moorings and go out into the winds and waves."

Monday 20 January 1992 - Jose Gasset (Member of Lighthouse Church)

"The Lord wants to release you; to give you liberty to do what you have had in your heart for many years."

Thursday 23 January 1992 - Pastor Charles Widdowson

Ps Rob says, "As Pastor Charles and Alice were praying for another pastor and me, he saw a vision of a cake. The cake represented Lighthouse Church, and there was a piece missing from the cake that represented the previous church plants (Waverley, Frankston and Rosebud). As Pastor Charles and Alice prayed he saw the knife cut off a slice from the cake. This was placed on a separate plate and as it was it became another sort of cake that remained fresh and healthy".

The fulfilment of these prophecies was the planting of Bayside Church on Sunday morning 22 March 1992. Bayside Church sprang into life in the most unlikely of places - W.D. Rose and Sons funeral chapel in Cheltenham. About 80 people packed the 40-seat chapel on the first morning. Some had come to stay, others had come to look, and over the next few weeks a core group of about 40 became committed to the vision of Bayside Church.

The church continued to meet in the funeral chapel for about one and a half years until no further growth was possible at that venue. Short-term accommodation was found just up the road at the Cheltenham Primary School, and then three months later the church relocated to Mentone Girls' Secondary College where it continued to meet every Sunday until August 2000. During the 1990s the church grew consistently, averaging about 40 new people each year. Some of these people transferred from other churches while some came back to the Lord after being out of fellowship. Others found faith in Christ for the first time through the ministry of Bayside Church. Jesus built together the right people into a loving, caring Christian family that, by the year 2000 consisted of just over 300 adults and children, with over 200 people attending weekend meetings.

Ps Rob and Christie met in 1992 and married in 1994. The church offices occupied the front rooms of their home in Aspendale Gardens. Eventually Colin and Lisa McInnes-Smith who owned a warehouse in Mills Street, Cheltenham, offered a reduced rent for four offices and the suggestion was gladly accepted.

In 1997 the Lord spoke to Ps Rob & Christie about getting Bayside Church into its own building. That started a two-year search that ended one morning when Rob was told about a printing factory that was for sale on Argus Street. The building ticked every box that the leadership was looking for and so an offer was put in and accepted. Bayside Church paid a 10% deposit with a businessman from another church also paying 10%. The church borrowed 80% and leasing the back section of the building to our next-door neighbours, Rian Industries, the interest was paid. Offices were renovated first so the church administration could relocate from temporary accommodation in Mills Street. The auditorium and kids rooms were next and the church had its grand opening at The Bayside Centre on Sunday 2 July, 2000. Over the next 18 months the church doubled in size and in the following four years it doubled again!

After moving into the Bayside Centre a Sunday evening meeting started. Saturday evenings began in early 2004 originally between 7 and 9pm. This was later changed to 6pm and has now become the largest gathering each weekend.

In October 2005 the Bayside Church Frankston campus opened. The campus moved into its own premises in August 2011 and has started to gain solid traction in the City of Frankston.

The Things That Never Change

Over the years Bayside Church has experienced significant change. In many ways we are not like the church that commenced in 1992. But there are Core Beliefs and Core Values that will never change. These are the solid foundation upon which Bayside Church has been built.

Core Beliefs

- We believe there is only One True God, Creator of heaven and earth, who eternally exists in three distinct persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Psalm 146:5-6; Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14).
- We believe all things exist for the glory of God (Romans 11:36) and our “chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.” Loving God *“with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength”* is the most important commandment (Mark 12:30).
- We believe that Jesus Christ is God in human form. He was born of a virgin and is both fully divine and fully human: *“For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body”* (Colossians 2:9).
- We believe Jesus Christ died on a cross and that He physically rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven where He lives forever to intercede with God on behalf of His people in order to save them completely. Salvation will one day be complete when Jesus returns physically to earth (Acts 1:11; Romans 13:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:14; Hebrews 7:25).
- We believe all humanity, except for Jesus, is sinful – falling short of God’s standard of perfection – and that the deserved sentence for sin is death (Romans 3:23; 6:23). We believe Jesus paid the penalty for sin for every person through His death and resurrection.
- We believe *“this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life”* (John 3:16). It’s only through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ, and repentance from sin, that we can be reconciled to God and experience true life, forgiveness and joy (Ephesians 1:7).
- We believe upon receiving Jesus by faith and repenting from sin we are given a new identity. We are now children of God (1 John 3:1), fellow heirs and friends with Christ (Romans 8:17, John 15:15) and are all called to be saints, ambassadors and ministers of His Gospel.
- We believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the most important message in the world – a message of victory that brings great joy. It is not just something you experience – it’s something you live! The Gospel of Jesus is not just about “me” – it’s about “us” and it’s about “others” – *“Love your neighbour*

as yourself" (Mark 12:31). We believe Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and people. There is no other name by which people can be saved (Acts 4:12). At the heart of all sound doctrine is the cross of Jesus Christ and the infinite privilege that redeemed people have in glorifying God because of what He has accomplished. Therefore, we want all that takes place in our hearts, churches and ministries to proceed from and be related to the Gospel.

- We believe God calls all followers of Jesus to be a functioning part of a local community of believers that expresses God's nature in gatherings both large and small (Acts 5:42; 1 Corinthians 12:27)
- We believe we are to share the good news about Jesus and express our faith in practical ways, beyond our church gatherings. The Gospel is good news to the poor, the captives, the broken-hearted, the blind and the oppressed, (Luke 4:18). We believe that social justice is inseparable from the Gospel message (Galatians 2:10).
- We believe in the importance of unity between all believers in Jesus as we focus on the core truths of the Gospel (John 13:35; 17:21; Ephesians 4:13).
- We believe there will be a future physical resurrection of the dead, and only those who turn from sin and to Jesus in faith and repentance will be raised to eternal life (Philemon 3:20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52).
- We believe the Bible is the true and reliable Word of God. That it is inspired in its original languages, and that it needs to be studied in its cultural and historical context in order to determine what was being communicated to the original readers (2 Tim 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19-21).
- We believe in the person and work of the Holy Spirit. He gives new birth to the believer in Jesus (John 1:13, 3:3; 1 Pet 1:23); He indwells Christians enabling them to live a holy life (Gal 5:16); He baptises believers empowering them with boldness (Acts 2:4; Luke 11:13); and He equips them with gifts and fruit in order to fully declare and live the Gospel (Rom 15:19; 1Cor 12:8-10; Heb. 2:3,4).
- We believe in the Sacraments of baptism by immersion for believers and in the Lord's Supper (Matt 28:19; Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

Core Values

- Living & Loving The Word Of God - The Bible is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. It brings meaning, direction and significance to all aspects of our life (Psalm 119:105).
- Contending For The Supernatural - We are a people that desire to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit in our daily life and we embrace the full manifestation of the Holy Spirit – His power and giftings – realising He will set people free (2 Corinthians 3:17).
- Intimacy with God - As believers we are called friends of God. We are committed to cultivating a rich relationship with Him through repentance and intimacy (James 4:8).
- Connection - God is a community (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and we are created in His image. We're not meant to do life in isolation; connection with fellow believers ensures we walk the path God intended (Hebrews 10:25).
- Servanthood - Jesus came to serve, not to be served and our attitude is to be the same. We are to use our talents, abilities, time and resources to serve in the capacity that God has given (Matthew 20:27-28). We recognise that He has given some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11) as gifts to the body of Christ.
- Search and Rescue - Jesus' mission was to seek and save the lost and this mission is entrusted to every believer. Our responsibility is to share good news, to relieve the poor and those experiencing social injustice (Luke 19:10).
- Generosity - It's more blessed to give than to receive. God so loved the world that He gave. Generosity is the antidote to lack and reveals where our heart is located (Luke 12:34).



Our plan is to develop a brief DNA Course that teaches into these Core Values. This course will be made available a couple of times each year especially to those who are new to Bayside Church.

Our vision is for all members of this community of faith – Bayside Church – to actively reflect as a unified body the core values and beliefs.

The Value of Vision

Vision is vital! In Proverbs 29:18 King Solomon concluded, *"Where there is no revelation (progressive vision), the people cast off restraint (go astray)."* In other words, when people do not have a strong direction to follow and a clear indication of where they're going, they tend to go off in all directions, at best accomplishing little, at worst causing damage! So important is vision in the mind of God that He commanded the prophet Habakkuk to *"Write down the vision and make it plain ... so that whoever reads it may run with it"* (2:2).

God has vision – creation and salvation are clear evidences of this – and He wants His people to be people of vision. Jesus has a vision - to build a church with Himself as the foundation (Matthew 16:13-20; 1 Corinthians 3:11; Hebrews 11:10), a group of people washed, cleansed and filled with His Spirit who He will present to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless (Ephesians 5:25-27).

At Bayside Church we have a vision too and the vision is summed up in the words that comprise the church's slogan – ***Church Has Changed, Check It Out!***

This statement came out of a two-day retreat with some of Bayside Church's key leaders a number of years ago. As we talked through who we're trying to reach with the Gospel, it became more and more evident that the church's name in Australia has been damaged. While over two-thirds of Australians believe in God, more than 40% of Australians believe Jesus rose from the dead, and 90% believe He is a real historical person, only 15% attend a church at least once a month (Centre for Public Christianity, Sydney). While it's evident that most Australians have some sort of spiritual belief, the vast majority do not see the church as a valuable part of their spirituality. Some of the fault for this must be laid at the feet of the church itself. And so the message, "Church has changed, check it out" is vitally important and is at the very heart of all we say and do individually and corporately.

Individual Responsibility

Have you ever overheard a conversation in which two or more people were discussing the problems of a church, state, nation or even the world? Maybe you've engaged in such a conversation personally! Usually it is agreed that the problem lies with some other individual or group. At the end of the discussion each participant sits back with some sort of smug satisfaction that they are part of an elite few who see the answer to the world's problems and, at least they are not part of the problem! The reality is, however, the world is not changed by such conversations.

We can only start to truly make a difference when we face up to the fact that we are part of the problem. The world is made up of over seven billion imperfect people. The problem starts with my imperfection and me. I am what is wrong with the world! And so are you! What is needed is not some sort of round table discussion

on the woes of the world, but rather each individual facing up to the fact that he or she is a sinner who needs to turn away from their sin and turn in faith to Jesus Christ for salvation by His grace. It is only when the human heart is changed that we can see true and lasting change in the world we live in.

We also have a responsibility to share our faith in Jesus with others as we have opportunity: *“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect”* (1 Peter 3:15).

Some Australians have been put off Christianity because they’ve encountered obnoxious Bible-bashers. We show them that “Church has changed” by waiting for them to initiate conversations and then giving gentle and respectful answers.

More than 80% of people who come to Jesus do so because of the personal witness of a friend or family member. Corporate evangelism also takes place via the media, church gatherings, special events and social justice ministries, but there is no substitute for individual, Spirit-led evangelism and a passion for making disciples.

God became flesh in the person of Jesus so that people could understand what He is really like. God became tangible and knowable. The apostle John put it this way, *“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life”* (1 John 1:1). After His resurrection Jesus ascended into heaven but He has left a body on earth – The Church, The Body of Christ. That means the church is meant to represent God’s nature to others – His love, His healing, His care, His justice, His grace and His forgiveness. Bayside Church is a community of believers who express God’s nature in the world around us. Wherever we are, we’re called to be Christ’s ambassadors representing heaven on earth (1 Corinthians 5:20; Matthew 6:10).

We have the ministry and message of reconciliation, that is, *“God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them”* (2 Corinthians 5:19). As we do the same we will demonstrate that Church has changed!

Corporate Responsibility

“They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42)

As a community of believers – just like the first century church – Baysiders are committed to gathering in large and small groups, devoting ourselves to the Word and worship of God, the breaking of bread and to prayer, having fellowship and meals together and doing life with one another: it’s what we do. As a result we enjoy *“the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved”* (Acts 2:42-47)

As a community of believers we are committed to obeying the Great Commandment and the Great Commission:

The Great Commandment is *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”* The apostle Paul summarised the entire Hebrew Scriptures in the Great Commandment of love: *“Whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments...are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law”* (Romans 13:8-10).

Love your God – Crucial

Love yourself – Confidence

Love one another – Community

Love your neighbour – Compassion

Love God → Love yourself → Love others

The Great Commission is *“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.”* Jesus promised His power and His presence to make it possible for His church to complete His commission (Matthew 28:18-20)

Make disciples → Baptise → Teach

From the Senior Ministers



Ps Rob Buckingham writes: *"In the first year of Bayside Church (1992), while we were still meeting at WD Rose and Sons Funeral Chapel in Cheltenham, the Lord gave me a vision of fires alight around the Bay. What was impressed upon me from this vision was that our influence as a church would not be limited to one suburb but that it would spread all around Port Phillip Bay through Connect groups and campuses. This has been the case in the past as we've pioneered campuses in Cheltenham and Frankston, with Connect groups spreading from the City down to the Mornington Peninsula. In the future I see this vision increasing in size and momentum."*

Ps Christie Buckingham writes: *"In 2001 I joined a women's prayer group. There were women from all denominations in this group of approximately 30, many of whom attend Bayside including Kathy Vass, Robyn Hutcheon, Rina Stefani, Lisa McInnes-Smith, Shelley McDonald, Veronica Dogliotti, Jeanette McClean, Jennifer Bush and Anne-Marie Merkus. During one of the sessions I had a vision of a necklace of pearls around the bay which links with Rob's fires around the bay. The emphasis that came out was the preciousness of the pearls and how they are polished through irritation. This is like the Refiner's fire and the irritations and joys that come from living in community."*

"We have always said and always will that Bayside Church – the community of faith that God has entrusted to us – must be a people of healing, a people of encouragement and a people that reach their hands out to others in the very way Christ Himself would. This could mean that as the demographics of our area change – some of the ministries will change also, but the overall picture that the Lord gave us is actually more of a question that drives us than a picture that we can paint. That question is the one that we believe we will be held accountable for at the believers' judgement: Would we be missed by the community if we failed to exist?"

"By this we mean are we a presence for good in the community rather than people remembering us sentimentally. Would there actually be a loss – a grief and things that would not be done if we were not doing them?"

"God has called us both individually and collectively to be a people with a local perspective and a global reach. He has called us in the words of His mother Mary, "Whatever He says to you, do it" (John 2:5). Mary is the perfect example of the first disciple and so we as a people will continue to be led by what He says through the teaching of His Word and the moving of His Spirit."

"Working together as the body of Christ we will do all that we can to live lives that reflect Christ. Recognising that just because we carry this treasure in earthen vessels, it is none the less a treasure and we will seek to honour this treasure in each and every person we meet both as part of our faith community and our community at large."

“We see the church as place of healing – not as a courtroom – and so we seek to walk with people as wounded healers, recognising once again that we have “feet of clay” and that we need God’s kindness to lead us from our selfish ways and into Christ-likeness.

“We see the church like a diamond reflecting the many aspects of God and His love for mankind. The amazing love story that runs through His Word from Genesis to Revelation is about His unfailing grace and love towards us. We continually want to see His light shine through us.

“We see the main aim of the church as giving freedom to the Holy Spirit, to enable us to be transformed and to be agents of transformation in our communities and beyond!”

The Role of the Senior Ministers

- Prayer and the ministry of the Word (Acts 6:4)
- Leading the church in vision
- Pastoring key leaders
- Domestic and overseas missions at a strategic level
- Social justice
- Media
- Stewardship of all church resources (alongside the Church Board & Finance Team)

Vision of Bayside Church

The vision for Bayside Church is that we will increasingly be a church that is healthy, focused on Jesus and His Word, Spirit-led and aware of our responsibilities to our local community and beyond.

This covers four main areas that will be outlined in the remaining part of this document:

1. **Release** – Equipping and releasing God’s people for the work of the ministry and service.
2. **Restoration & Relief** - Bayside Church is committed to scriptural, redemptive and restorative justice. We seek to assist each person to strive towards this form of justice. We are committed to assisting those who work to see an end to human slavery and poverty, those without homes, the trafficked, the voiceless and those who are marginalised.
3. **Relevance** - Redeeming the use of the media and the arts in order to be culturally relevant and reach people that are spiritually aware/seeking.
4. **Relationships** - Bayside Church to be a leader, a faithful presence and a positive influence through relationships in the Church and community – local and global.

Release

Equipping and releasing God's people for the work of the ministry and service.

This includes:

The Teaching Gift

Recognising and developing the teaching gift within faithful people at Bayside Church.

This vision is according to 2 Timothy 2:2, *"You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others"* (NLT). In this way we will build the Teaching Team as well as those who can teach in Connect groups, age and stage ministries and future campuses.

Self-Teaching

Developing and providing helpful Bible devotions to complement SOAP and other devotional reading plans.

If you wait for a weekend gathering or a Connect group in order to get fed you will become weak in your faith – imagine eating food twice a week! It is a sign of Christian hunger, thirst and maturity to feed daily on God's Word for, as Jesus said, *"People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God"* (Matthew 4:4).



In 2016 we will encourage every member of Bayside Church to read through *Harmony of the Gospels* starting in February, as it is important that we are all on the same page. The reading load can be reduced to **"Read the Red"** and think about what Jesus said!" We encourage you to look for key truths that you can apply to your life to help develop your relationship with Jesus and others. The reading plan will be on the website as well as in a card that can be slipped into your Bible.

Teaching in 2016 will be based on that week's reading from the *Harmony of the Gospels* particularly focusing on Jesus' stories. We will also feature stories from members of Bayside Church as well as strategic guests from the broader church community. Each week a meditative thought will be included on the online

message notes as well as some discussion questions that can be used in Connect groups.

All devotional resources will be based on the Bayside Church website but will also appear on Kindle Books. We will utilise other media as suitable.

Connect Groups

Training up leaders to lead pastorally age, stage and gender-specific Connect groups around Bayside Melbourne.

Connect groups at Bayside Church are Rated PG - People & God. They are about:

- People connecting with God
- People connecting with people
- People connecting with people because of God
- People connecting with God because of people

Bayside aims to train leaders and expand the number and diversity of Connect groups all around Bayside Melbourne. We see multiple entry points into the church community, study groups, as well as interest-based, life stage and gender-specific groups. We want to empower God's people to take their faith into their everyday lives.



Starting in 2016, to hold an annual EQUIP Ministry Retreat for all network leaders and Connect facilitators at Bayside Church from Youth to Adults which aims to empower, refresh and unify those involved in Connect group ministry.

Pastoral Carers

Developing a training course for a lay leadership team who have specific life experiences and who can encourage others in similar situations.



Developing and equipping more lay leaders in the work of pastoral care at Bayside Church so that our church community can meet the needs of the church community as those needs arise.

Have you considered being trained as a lay leader to do the work of Bayside Church? Our aim is to engage as many people as possible in this ministry so that the yoke is easy and the burden is light.

Senior Leadership Development

Continuing to develop and expand the growth of Church leadership.

It is our vision to develop leaders in every age and stage of life according to their God-given gifts, being strategic in recognising potential leaders and spending quality time with them in order to develop their gifts, giving them opportunities in appropriate ministries and providing constructive feedback to encourage greater growth.



Developing a “Vision Team” to assist the church leadership in filtering everything we do through the lens of the vision. We will be inviting people to join this team.

Discipleship Pathway

Providing a pathway of courses for discipleship and providing resources for informal and formal leaders.

Discipleship is our individual and corporate responsibility at Bayside Church. Each member of Bayside Church has a duty to live a consistent Christian life that is constantly open to sharing faith in Jesus with others, bringing people to a point of making a decision to receive Jesus as their Saviour (John 1:12), and then to encourage that person in discipleship.

The key to effective discipleship is found in 2 Timothy 2:2, *“the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.”*

The word “disciple” comes from a Greek word referring to the *“mental effort needed to think something through.”* It denotes someone who is a learner, a student or an apprentice. The opposite of a disciple is a teacher. Jesus taught His disciples and then instructed them to make disciples *“baptising them ... and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”* In that regard we are all to be disciples and all to be those who make disciples. *“Teaching them to obey”* refers to a

follower of Christ who learns the truths that Jesus taught and the lifestyle they require – someone given proper instruction from the Bible with its essential life-applications!

At Bayside Church we have always taken discipleship seriously by having a well-thought-through pathway. The vision is to develop that pathway further to take people on a discipleship journey.

Currently Bayside Church offers Alpha and Freedom in Christ courses, as well as marriage and marriage preparation courses.

The Alpha Course

Bayside Church was one of the first churches in Melbourne to adopt the Alpha Course back in the 1990s. Alpha hosts Jason Ballard and Ben Woodman travel the world unpacking the basics of the Christian faith through a series of talks and discussions. Alpha is aimed at those who are seeking spiritual things and are considering Christianity as an option. It is also step one in the process of discipleship, making sure the recent convert has a good foundational knowledge of the Christian faith. Alpha is “an opportunity to explore the meaning of life.”

Freedom in Christ

This course does not focus on how to behave but on how to believe. After all, Christ has already set us free (Galatians 5:11) and given us everything we need (2 Peter 1:3). It's just that sometimes it doesn't feel like it! Many sense that they have not reached their full potential for God. Perhaps they feel “stuck” in habitual sin, negative thoughts, fears, unforgiveness or condemnation. Yet they really want to grow and mature. This course will help attendees grasp the amazing truth of their new identity in Christ, teach how to uncover and resist deception, and help move forward. It's not a “quick fix”, but it is likely to revolutionise one's Christian life.



From mid to late 2016 three short four-week discipleship courses will be developed to follow on from Alpha. This will include:

Discipleship 101 – Internal - *This is focused on the internal being of a Christian.*

- **Knowing God** – we're invited to have a relationship with God. Who is God? What is He like?
- **Knowing Who We Are** – We are children of God. What does this mean? What authority does this carry? And what are the privileges?
- **Called to a Life of Worship** – How do we develop our relationship with God? What's worship got to do with it? What is worship? How do we develop our worship life?

-Immersion – Leaving behind who we are and immersing ourselves in a new life. What is sanctification? Is it past, present and future? What is baptism?

What's the difference between a water baptism and Holy Spirit baptism? Why do we need to do it?

Discipleship 102 – Outward - *This is focused on the outward manifestation of our faith.*

- **Jesus' Great Commandment & Great Commission:** What are the two great commandments Jesus gives for us to follow? And what is the great commission?
- **Submission:** It's often seen as a dirty word, but what is true biblical submission?
- **Stewardship:** God gives us great privileges, but with it comes great responsibility. We are called to be stewards. What does that entail? What is tithing? Why do we do it? What's the difference between a tithe and an offering?
- **Service & Spiritual Gifts:** God gives us spiritual gifts to equip the body of Christ. What are the spiritual gifts? What are my spiritual gifts?

Discipleship 103 – Community -*This is focused on our role in a community of faith.*

- **Church:** What is the Church? What is the purpose of corporate gatherings and smaller gatherings? How do I get cared for? Why do we break bread?
- **Authentic Christianity:** To grow and develop we need to always be authentic with where we are and where we need to grow. What importance do transparency and honesty have? How do we develop these attributes in our lives in community?
- **Protection & Covering:** How does God provide protection for me in community? How important is the role of leadership? Can I trust all leaders? What does being undercover mean?
- **Colours of Community:** All healthy communities have seven qualities in operation. Find out what your major energy driver is, as well as vulnerability and how in community you can overcome this.

One Course

- We will also develop an eight-week course to equip singles in our community to live out their God given purpose. This course aims to be developed and implemented in 2016.

During the discipleship process we see many individuals' lives changed and transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. However we understand that coming to faith in Jesus does not lead to instant perfection. This too is a process that commences at conversion and will be completed when Christ returns (see Philippians 1:6 and 1 John 3:2). The process of perfection can be helped or hindered though, and it is Bayside Church's vision to help each person in the process of perfection as much as possible. This is achieved by the following means:

1. **Community** - At Bayside Church we do our best to provide a healing environment of joy, friendship, love, relaxation, forgiveness, fun and acceptance. We aim to guide but not control, to love without strings attached and to accept one another's imperfections as they accept ours. Many people have found healing and change possible just by being in this environment.
2. **Care** – At Bayside we believe pastoral care is not the sole responsibility of ordained or credentialed pastors, but is the vocation of all believers (1 Thess. 5:11). Christians, committed to the belief that God loves us all unconditionally, seek to reflect that love in their care for others as God's Word commands (John 13:34). Pastoral care happens when Christians help others whether by listening, responding, praying or providing caring support.
3. **Counselling** - For those in need of a stronger helping hand to get through tough times and problems in life, we have a comprehensive referral list of counsellors, psychologists, general practitioners, drug and alcohol agencies, migrant and refugee resources, legal support, family/community support services, disability, aged, mental health & youth services, employment help, relationships and financial counselling. If you're in need of professional help simply speak with one of the Bayside Church Ministry Leaders and they'll be happy to guide you.

Ages and Life-Stage Ministries

Reaching and developing people of all ages in the Christian faith.

It is the vision of Bayside Church to be multi-generational church that continues to develop ministries to disciple and teach all people including parents, children, youth, adults, families, young adults and singles. We plan to continue to build a church that embraces all people irrespective of their ethnic, cultural or religious background. To this end we would like to develop strategies by meeting with representatives of these various groups to see what their interests and talents are in order to help to involve them more.

We also plan to hold various age, life-stage and intergenerational camps and retreats from time to time in the future.

It's a fact that the majority of people come to Christ in their younger years. Because of this it is our vision to continue to resource the children's, youth and young adults ministries of Bayside Church.



Bayside Kids

To show the children who God is and point them to His truth and light.



Partnering with families – We seek to help parents sense the value of their church and family partnering together. To see this come to pass we will offer more resources and guidance for families on parenting, marriage, counselling, and what is appropriate for children at various ages and stages. Bayside Kids would like to host some parent talk evenings/afternoons on various topics during the year. We will also partner with families by looking at running the “Kids with Courage” program for children who are struggling/doing it tough. This program is for students that are dealing with separation and divorce or just struggling with issues at school. We’re also looking at a mentor program through World Vision.

Holiday Program – We would like to partner with our community and meet the needs in our area by providing an outreach based holiday program for one week of every school holiday as from the start of 2016.

Adopt a grandparent - Bayside Church is an inter-generational church so we plan to initiate something for the kids and seniors to work together. For example, children could make a birthday card for our seniors, say hi to them at church and possibly even invite them for lunch. Many families do not have their extended

families in Melbourne and would be grateful to have the wisdom from our older generation sowing into the kids.

Family Easter Experience – We plan to develop a community event where families can walk through different stations leading up to Jesus' death on the cross. This provides an opportunity for parents to teach their children about the various truths surrounding Easter in a fun, interactive and intentional way.

Cheltenham - At Cheltenham we have a vision to see all kids' ministry move to the back of the building and have a kids' welcome area. In the welcome area, there would be couches for new families, a check in station and TVs displaying our policies and upcoming events. We would also like to develop praise and worship in kids ministry allowing them to develop a heart of worship.

Frankston - At Frankston we have a vision for a part time staff member (1-1.5 days per week) in children's ministry to guide parents, grow the team and be a constant in the lives of the kids. We are currently serving about 40 children per week and hope to grow that to 80 children. We also plan to work with other ministries by initiating Mainly Music and eventually a holiday program at the Frankston campus.



Bayside Youth

Seeing today's youth established in their faith and going out and touching lives with the love of Christ.



Increase of impact – Engage with local schools in order for more young people to experience and be impacted by Christ's love in the Bayside, Clarinda, Kingston and Frankston areas. This includes programs such as Matt's Place.

Opportunities – Develop intentional pathways within Bayside Youth and the wider church to see youth developed and engaged in our Church community through service and leadership, reaching out to marginalised areas of our community.

Releasing – Our dream is to be a ministry of Bayside Church that sees numerous leaders developed and released for wider service, equipped to lead and serve in our church community and their worlds.

Frankston – We would love to see a group of leaders developed and resourced in Frankston to begin to form a program that best fits the needs of the Frankston area - the same DNA but a unique flavour.



Bayside Young Adults

Seeing young adults as the engine room of our local church, our role being to help develop a culture of serving the church and its vision.



Young Adult Program - Providing a relevant and vibrant calendar for young adults including events, Connect groups and socials. These regular gatherings will focus on topical issues faced by young people of today and provide a healthy avenue for discussion. They will also develop the individuals' spirituality with an emphasis on community.

Evangelism - Creating opportunities for young adults to share their faith with others through meaningful relationships and a relevant program.

Outreach - Creating opportunities for young adults to be generous with their resources, serving people both in the church and our local community.

Missions - Continuing our work with C3 Bali and the D-House project until 2018. Regular missions trips will be arranged and the relationship between churches strengthened.

University Ministry - There is so much untapped potential on university campuses where we find the next generation of business, political and social leaders. It's not just about discipling Christians on campus but to also reaching out to those who are searching. There are excellent tools already developed for this vision such as Christianity Explained, KGP (Knowing God Personally) and 2ways2live.

Personal development - Giving a small group of young adults time with the Bayside Church Board (particularly those interested in business and the Church's long-term future). This will give them some experience in strategic planning and allow the younger members of the church to show their interest in sharing fresh, unique and creative ideas to help develop the vision of the Church. In addition to this some intentional input will be given to some young adult leaders, who have particular gifts. They will be paired with ministry leaders/pastors with similar gifts to be intentionally developed and mentored.



Bayside Adults

Encouraging and empowering adults to impart their wisdom and love of God to future generations.

Bayside Adults is all about celebrating different generations. It's a culmination of different life stages – singles, couples, families and seniors. We believe in the concept of older teaching younger, bringing people together of all ages and celebrating their oneness in Christ.

This group is a major contributor to our Church community, serving their families, workplaces and communities. They are raising up and equipping the next generation.



Retreats – We propose an annual Men's Retreat to facilitate the building of genuine friendships, unity and spiritual energy amongst the men of Bayside Church.

Developing Friendships – We aim to help men form meaningful friendships with each other and reach out to other men with the Gospel and look for purposes that the men of Bayside can believe in, be inspired by and rally behind.

Empowering Seniors - It is a fact that people are living longer and with that in mind, Bayside will have a vibrant senior population that is valued, honoured and mobilised into what God has for them in this season of life. We have a vision to develop our ministry to Bayside's seniors and reach out to senior citizens in the Bayside area. We would like to see this ministry grow in effectiveness and care in the future by building a solid team. We would like to include more Connect groups and courses, morning teas at Sunday gatherings, outings, "adopt a grandparent," hospital care, arts and crafts, practical help, engaging with Seniors Week, lunches, hearing the stories of our seniors and more.

Business People – We would like to start a bi-monthly breakfast for business people to meet with Ps Rob in order to be encouraged and empowered in living their faith at work.

Mentoring – We aim to encourage natural and intentional cross-generational mentoring from older members of the church to those who are younger. This is one of the great strengths of being part of a multi-generational church.

Contribution

Mobilising every member of Bayside Church to actively serve his or her church and community.

We believe Jesus has placed *“the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers”* in the church and that *“their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ”* (Eph. 4:11-12).

At Bayside Church we believe that EVERYONE is called to be a minister and we want to encourage everyone to ask the question, “How can I contribute to the vision of my church?” (for more on this refer to the teaching series, “Who’s your Minister” on the Bayside Church website:

<http://baysidechurch.com.au/category/whos-your-minister/>)

The Contribute Booklet is updated every year. Please refer to this for a list of all areas available to serve. Make it your vision to be an active member of the body of Christ and not simply a spectator. Encourage others to do the same by inviting them into a life of servanthood with you!



The Prophetic - It is our vision to recognise, embrace, develop and release people into the five-fold ministry gifts of the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher to a greater degree in the future, starting with Ps Christie training a group of prophetically gifted people in 2016.

If you are interested in this area please speak with your Connect group leader.

Campuses & Gatherings

Providing church campuses and Connect groups around the Bay as opportunities to gather.



Presence – We plan to incorporate our monthly Presence Service into a Presence Weekend. From 2016 onwards we will be moving the Presence meeting from Sunday nights to the regular weekend gatherings. These weekends (once every two months) will focus on corporate and personal prayer and worship; seeking the heart of God as a community of believers together through the Word of God and the move of the Holy Spirit. These will be times of refreshing to deeply encounter the Presence of God in our lives.

Pioneering Campuses – We desire to pioneer more Bayside Church campuses in the years to come all the way from the Bellarine Peninsula to the Mornington Peninsula, including centres like Geelong, Werribee South/Point Cook, Williamstown/Hobson's Bay, Port Melbourne, Elwood/St Kilda, Mornington, Rosebud and Sorrento. From the Frankston Campus to pioneer a campus in Mornington as well as to start a Saturday evening meeting at Frankston.

Styles of Churches – We plan to pioneer different styles of church such as reflective/mediative gatherings that focus on worship, prayer and the presence of God, plus a mid-week meeting that includes gentle worship and practical teaching.

We plan to start a gathering in the inner-city Bayside area in order to reach people who are spiritually open but would not be ready to come along to a church meeting. We aim to start this in a neutral venue such as a pub or café as a "safe space" to explore Jesus and the Christian faith where we set a wide open table and truly welcome the full diversity of perspectives there, seeing it all as valid and beautiful, where we can have meaningful discussions where no one's dignity is lost!

The Lord has already started building a small team of people who are excited about being involved with this. This gathering will be built around reaching people in the minus categories on the Engel Scale:

simplified
Engel Scale
-10 No God framework
-9 Experience of emptiness
-8 Vague awareness of Christianity
-7 Interest in Christianity
-6 Awareness of the Gospel
-5 Positive attitudes to the Gospel
-4 Experience of Christian love
-3 Aware of personal need
-2 Grasp of implications of the Gospel
-1 Challenge to respond personally
0 Repentance and faith
+1 Evaluation of the decision
+2 Learning the basics of the Christian life
+3 Functioning member of local Church
+4 Continuing growth in character, lifestyle and service
+5 Effective sharing of faith and life

For more on this refer to the message, “Steadfast in Direction” on the Bayside Church Website:

<http://baysidechurch.com.au/archivemessage/steadfast-in-part-2-steadfast-in-direction/>

Church Facilities

Developing facilities that are open and available for many day and evening activities.

When we purchased the Bayside Centre in Cheltenham in 1999 we didn’t have a vision for a building – we were building for a vision. While bricks and mortar are NOT the House of God, it is increasingly helpful in this day and age to have buildings to work from as well as bring people to.



SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM

Revamp Foyer - At the Cheltenham campus we plan to move all children’s ministry to the back of the building. Once that is completed we can revamp the foyer area and open up the current Little Buddies Room that also leads onto an outside deck. This will provide multiple spaces for people to mix and mingle at church gatherings.

Childcare - There is an increasing need in the Bayside area for good quality childcare. We would like room to operate professional, safe and friendly childcare services to our local community.

Café - Operated as a professional business during the week to provide good food and coffee as well as a friendly atmosphere for the surrounding community. On the weekends this space would be available as an extension of church gatherings so people can mingle over good food. This facility will include a fully functioning kitchen that will serve us well for the Christmas lunch, the kids' holiday program, Connect groups, Matt's Place and courses.

Hang Out Room - At the Frankston Campus we will move all the children's ministries upstairs so they are in one safe, general location and to help with allocation of leaders. The downstairs Buddies room will become available as a rumpus room/youth room/hang out room for church gatherings on Sunday mornings and at other times.

LONG TERM

Purchasing Buildings - We would like to progressively purchase the buildings around the Bayside Centre in Cheltenham. We would also like to buy the Frankston Building that is currently leased, as well as the buildings next to it.

Professional Suites – We would like to offer low-cost professional services to under privileged and struggling people in the Bayside area. Professional services could include a dietitian, accountant, doctor/nurse, physio/osteopath, lawyer, counsellors and psychologists.

Car Parking - This is a major need for the Cheltenham campus. We need to buy some buildings in order to increase the amount of available parking.

Welcoming New People

It is our desire to ensure our first time guests to feel that they are coming home and are part of our Bayside family.



We encourage everyone to care for those around them at church gatherings – to reach out and be friendly.

We will develop lay pastors/network leaders so that a pastor isn't needed to respond to every demand.

We will engage the intercessors and healing team members so they are available to connect with guests and help as necessary (although every team member should learn to pray a simple prayer)

We will make sure the burden on the team is light – showing care and then referring to the appropriate person for further follow up.

We will develop ways to increase the avenues for people to be involved around church gatherings to help people connect (for example, special interest groups based on a hobby, music, discussion, adult colouring, table tennis, games etc.)

We will commence a care and connect lounge (Cheltenham Campus) in late 2016 or early 2017.

Restoration & Relief

Bayside Church is committed to scriptural, redemptive and restorative justice. We seek to assist each person to strive towards this form of justice. We are committed to assisting those who work to see an end to human slavery and poverty, those without homes, the trafficked, the voiceless and those who are marginalised.

In particular we set ourselves to be a voice for the sanctity of human life. We stand to oppose the death penalty and to support those who fight the death penalty. We want to be a community of faith that not only speaks of mercy but who uses resources (both human and material) to bring mercy to pass. In the words of Myuran Sukumaran “people can change”. We need to be available as a community of faith to offer support, nurture and care for those who desperately seek change in their life. We recognise there is only one way to change the world and that is to change ourselves.

We will achieve this through two avenues: locally and globally.

The global focus will be carried out through Bayside Church, while for the local focus we have secured the services of Bayside Community Care to carry out our obligation and desire to alleviate suffering.

Local Projects



Matt's Place

Starting more Matt's Place community meals programs in the Bayside area giving people who face economic and social hardship an opportunity to find friendship and a meal.

Currently Matt's Place operates one day a week in two locations – Cheltenham and Chelsea, providing a home-style hot meal for members of the community who are struggling with finance and/or loneliness.



Emergency Food

Providing relief for families and individuals who face economic hardship through emergency food hampers.

This is available throughout the year to individuals and families facing financial difficulties.



Community Christmas Lunch

Providing social inclusion on Christmas Day to people in the community who may be socially or economically disadvantaged by hosting a three-course traditional Christmas Lunch.

The Christmas Lunch is not only a time to fill empty stomachs, it is also an excellent opportunity to help fill lonely hearts with love and joy. We also provide Christmas hampers to those who are struggling.



Precious Baby Quilts

Providing relief and comfort to those who are grieving the loss of a child either through miscarriage or stillbirth by supplying hospitals and people in the community with handmade pouches.

Currently six hospitals in Victoria receive garments.



The Careline Team

Providing a listening ear and prayer support through a national telephone prayer service for the community.

The Careline is supported and advertised by the Australian Christian Channel, 89.9 Light FM and Vision Christian Media.



Hit the Streets/Love the House

Providing care to the local Bayside and Frankston communities through an annual practical outreach such as a working bee, as well as providing morning teas for local Emergency Services.



Frankston Coordinator - We would like to identify a point person at the Frankston Campus who could work with the Bayside Church Community Care Coordinator in developing care projects in the City of Frankston. In time this could include a Christmas Lunch, Matt's Place and other projects that are specific to the needs of the community.

Matt's Place – We plan to start more Matt's Places in the Bayside community in strategically chosen locations around Bayside Church campuses. A new Matt's Place in Clarinda will open in 2016. Volunteers and donations are needed to enable this to happen.

Emergency Food – We ask you to consider buying a non-perishable food item every week in your weekly shop for our emergency food supplies. We also need volunteer assistance to assess requests for emergency hampers.

Hit The Streets - We also plan to embrace the local community around our campuses by holding a street barbeque from time to time.

Single Parents - We also want to help single-parent families in our church community in practical ways.

We require volunteers and donations in all these areas of outreach.

Other Future Local Projects

Other projects that have not commenced but Community Care would like to develop include:

CAPS (Christians Against Poverty)

Seeing Baysiders and those in our community free of the problem of poverty and social exclusion caused by over-indebtedness.

This program would be offered to people who receive food hampers. As a minimum we assist them to develop a basic budget.



Planning – We aim to commence initial planning for setting up a CAPS program.

Training – We need to train teams in Frankston and Cheltenham to give people an opportunity to change their financial position and help them become debt free.

Investment – Future plan to invest \$10,000 to set up a Debt Relief Centre.

English classes for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants

Helping to assimilate the number of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in our community by teaching them English.



Teachers - We plan to seek out appropriate teachers and run a Connect group under the management of the Church or Community Care teaching English classes. This could grow into life skill classes.

Teaming Up – We aim to consider developing a ‘Buddy System’ at Bayside Church where individuals could be partnered with a Church family with the aim of connecting migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.

Investigate funding via grants.

Community Hub (Long-Term)

Setting up a hub in the City of Kingston where we can have several community services operating in the one place.

The goal would be for the hub to be self-funding and possibly support other programs in Bayside Community Care.



Develop Concept – It could include but not be limited to an op-shop, food distribution centre, community café, referral centre, laundry and shower facilities for the homeless, clothing, help for women with an unwanted and unplanned pregnancy and support for those with drug and alcohol dependency.

We will seek to work with the Kingston Council with this and seek local, state and possibly federal funding.

All of this will be motivated by Jesus words in Matthew 25:35-36, *“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”*

Funding - We need volunteers to apply for grants in the above areas.

Prison Ministry

Investigating prison ministry opportunities to provide relief and support for those in prison and for those who are directly and indirectly affected by their incarceration which includes areas involving ex-offenders, addicts and families

This area is currently in its infancy and is being explored and will be developed further.

Global Projects

Bayside Church is strongly committed to reaching out to people beyond Australia with the good news that God loves them. We do this by praying, giving and going. Although we are committed to reaching the world in general, we have a God-given mandate for Africa and in particular the nations of South Africa and Zambia.



Bayside Forever Home

Restoring abandoned children's lives in South Africa by providing a loving home environment and giving them the start to life that every child deserves.

Working in partnership with Acres of Love the Bayside Forever Home in Johannesburg currently cares for eight boys. Many of these children have been abandoned due to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.



Northrise University

Providing opportunities for students to receive an education in order to shape and advance an economically challenged country such as Zambia.

Bayside has partnered with Northrise University in Zambia, the country's third university. Education is a key way we can shape a nation for God's glory.

Currently we are sponsoring two students: Abel Kunda and Gerald Nkandu who are both doing very well with their studies. These two young men plan to pioneer a church in Zambia when they've completed their studies and Bayside Church would like to partner with them in that venture.



Missions

Providing cross-cultural opportunities to empower people into mission.

We are committed to our "Jerusalem, Judea and the outer most parts of the world". For us this means the Bayside area, Australia and its indigenous people, Indonesia and of course Africa where we have been serving the people for over 20 years. We will continue to expand Bayside's vision and influence in Bali as well as ministry in Kerobokan Prison.



Death Penalty

Protecting the sanctity of human life and seeing the death penalty abolished in underdeveloped and developed countries.

Bayside Church will work strategically with government agencies, charities and ministries, and the families of those who are on death row.



Bayside Forever Home - You can consider sponsoring one of the boys in the Bayside Forever Home.

Northrise University - We have introduced a sponsorship program for Northrise University. You can partner with this ministry by assisting a student financially and prayerfully in completing their education.

Mission Trips – We plan to run regular mission trips in Bali allowing for families, singles, couples and young adults to have a holiday with purpose.

Indigenous Outreach – We plan to look for opportunities to release and engage in missionary enterprise in Australia with the view to establishing and/or strengthening Indigenous local churches, and to grow in our understanding of Australia's indigenous people in order to honour and connect with them in meaningful ways.

Starting Conversations - We desire to develop discussion groups around justice.

Raising Awareness & Understanding - We desire to develop an awareness of the death penalty amongst intercessors and beyond.

Relevance

Redeeming the use of the media and the arts in order to be culturally relevant and reach people who are spiritually aware/seeking.

We see a media team that is full of men and women, of different ages and stages of life working together. We have the greatest story to tell and we should do it with creativity and professionalism. What will get us to that next level is reliable equipment and training. The best is yet to come for Bayside Media and we want to see this ministry be a leader in its field, not a follower.



Online presence – Presenting a cutting edge website as well as producing culturally relevant online content that is short, engaging and creative in order to get people thinking about God, faith and social issues. Develop the Bayside Church's YouTube Channel for multiple creative content including brief segments from The Exchange.

Social Media presence – Creating awareness and being a positive influence on sites such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and Instagram and other platforms as they develop.

Video Content – Seeing the weekly message viewed hundreds, if not thousands of times in the weeks after it has been uploaded on Youtube. We have a relevant, encouraging and life changing teaching team at Bayside Church that can speak to our church locally, and also to the church globally. We also plan to develop other videos in the future (interviewing leaders, Bible stories for children and meditative albums on key themes in Scripture, video blog).

Livestream - Seeing Livestream go to a new level in viewership and accessibility by increasing awareness of its availability and reliability.

Use of creative arts/expression - Developing dance, drama, music, singing, art, poetry, song writing, choir, testimonies, Q&A, panel discussions, tag-team preaching and multimedia for use in church gatherings and online.

Creative Teams - Establishing healthy and vibrant Creative Teams that are homegrown from each campus as they are pioneered. Teams that are birthed out of local culture and heart.

Songwriting - Developing a culture of songwriting and unique creative expression within the teams and campuses that is intrinsically linked to the heart of this House.

Creativity - Creating opportunities and programs to allow the ministry of creativity and worship to extend past the church's 'four walls' and into our local communities.

Relationships

Bayside Church to be a leader, faithful presence and a positive influence through relationships in the Church, local and global communities.



Leading the community – Encouraging schools, businesses and community organisations to work together for a common purpose (Matt's Place, Community Christmas Lunch, Operation Christmas Child, Emergency Food Hampers, English classes, community hub and overseas projects)

Emergency relief leaders - To be a focus point and partner with community organisations and the community in general to provide emergency relief during times of disaster.

Positive influence - Developing relationships with government representatives, the media, and other churches, organisations and businesses to be a positive influence.

Prayer and Worship – Planning and starting quarterly prayer and worship gatherings in various churches around Melbourne. This will be an offshoot of Church Unite.

To look for opportunities to give practical help for Melbourne pastors when they are facing difficult times.

Conclusion

This Vision Book is presented **as a working paper** that can now be discussed and fine tuned by the members of Bayside Church in the months and years ahead. It is not intended to be complete in and of itself.

We serve a great and glorious God who has demonstrated His power and ability in creation and His faithfulness towards us the last two decades. The vision of Bayside Church looks small indeed when placed next to God's vision for the creation of the universe! What a humbling experience it is to be a partner with Him.

So, let us take this vision and say, *"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen!"*