



2015@Lakeshore – 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Even before I came to Lakeshore I have been daydreaming about what God might do on the Sunshine Coast through His church we call Lakeshore. Dreaming about how God would build on what he has been doing for many years before. The church is central to God's plan. His people.

When Jesus left the earth what was his plan to continue his work on earth? At the end of the Gospels and the beginning of Acts Jesus take us into a stadium for the launch of this plan for the universe. The ground is in darkness. The big lights come on and what is before us? His 11 disciples. Men who were denying Jesus what would seem like only moments before. But this God plan for the world. So now we as the church of Jesus are the plan of God to make Jesus known.

I was called by you as your pastor to cast the vision and advance the mission. You know my role is primarily to do that through the teaching of the Bible.

For me the time here has been surprising. I have had and our family has had 3 years of sickness. I have thought - God that wasn't part of my dreaming.

I think the sickness has deepened, strengthened and broadened my hopes. It is forced to rest and depend on God more than I ever have.

Proverbs 29:18 says *Where there is no vision, the people perish.*

God has given us a **vision**. A picture of the future is Revelation. A picture of Jesus disciples in heaven around him worshipping Him.

His given us a **plan** in Matthew 28.

We've summed up these in our mission statement.

LIVING FOR JESUS

BY MAKING, MATURING AND MOBILISING DISCIPLES OF JESUS

*A couple of weeks ago the **ELDERS** met to consider a VISION for Lakeshore for 2015. We shared ideas and prayed.*

Here is what we have come up with so far.

1. LIVING FOR JESUS

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Paul became convinced of the death of Jesus through the risen Jesus. He was then compelled by Christ's love expressed in Christ's death. He was compelled to live for Jesus and for him alone. So we are to be convinced, compelled and so live for Jesus.

GOD CENTRED BY BEING CHRIST FOCUSED

This means to delighting, be satisfied, have joy in Jesus not because of personal purpose or pleasures you GET from God BUT because you have GOD in JESUS. Our ONLY Saviour, brother, friend and King, hiding place, all in all.

BIBLICAL

I hope and long for the Bible to be cherished as the words of eternal life. So all of us know the Bible and meet Jesus in its pages. We experience the Bible as if it is Jesus Facebook page.

So our **Sunday meetings** are shaped/informed/driven by God's Word. Where the **preaching** is such that when it is preach it is 'as a dying man to dying men.' So **Growth Groups** are places where disciples grow with other disciples through the discovery of Biblical truth about themselves and God.

PRAYERFUL

I dream that we will pray like the Psalmist prays, Paul – Jesus.

2. MAKING

There are 312000 people on the Sunshine Coast and the majority of them are facing a Christless eternity. All of us have friends and family who we long to see come to know Jesus.

We long for to see each of us as sent disciples of Christ making disciples of Christ.

We hope for every disciple to be fulfilling the call of Jesus to 'Go' into all the world and make disciples. We long for every disciple to have God's heart for those who are not disciples to be made disciples.

We hope for this purpose of God to shape all we do at Lakeshore.

We hope for disciples at Lakeshore to be establishing relationships and building relationships.

We hope for ministry to be happening through people not programmes. We hope for an uncluttered church calendar that is not full of programmes and events. We aim to have a limited number of commitments to allow believers to time and energy to establish and build relationships with non-believers.

We want lives not full of church programmes and events.

So we won't have things for every group – for left handed single men, for those 29.5 to 33.3 years old, or to blokes who drive mazda MPV's,

We envision making disciples of Jesus on the Sunshine Coast through **planting a group of 4-5 churches** both 'on site' and 'off site *drawing many more un-churched people into a relationship with God*'. This will mean starting **new churches** to reach these people and create different churches to give access to the unchurched. Multiple churches to reach people who are different to us.

How many people will we allow ourselves to dream of being baptised?

100, 200, 300 would it too much if we even said 1000 out of a possibility of a quarter of a million people.

Is this too bold. Why not? Is it too much to WANT what God WANTS.

I expect the Elders to spend a lot of time in the water over the next few years doing baptisms.

What are you dreaming?

We picture Lakeshore growing primarily through people becoming disciples of Christ.

3. MATURING

We have a dream that people of all ages will be hungry to grow in their relationship with Jesus by growing in their knowledge of him. Through growing in the understanding of God's word – the bible.

We hope that every disciple of Jesus at Lakeshore will be growing in maturity.

We aim to be a church that is more a network of relationships of people who love Jesus and are seen and known to love each other rather than a gathering of disconnected people on a Sunday morning. We envision this maturity be evident in the love we have for one another.

We envision our primary investment and expenditure is not all for the times when we come together but also in relationships. We long that although our main gathering will be an edifying time it will not be at the total cost of time and resources to restrict us from living godly lives in relationships during the week.

We aim to be a church that is committed to meeting on Sunday and meeting through the week in smaller growth groups.

We hope to be a church where every person is in a **growth group**, because every person has a ministry, and that is to every other person in the group.

We long that no one grieves alone, hurts alone, suffers alone but they experience the tangible love of Jesus through another person. So we long that everyone knows a handful of people deeply who they can be there for them as they walk through any dark valley.

We dream of Growth Groups not only in North Buderim but in Bli Bli, Woombye, Nambour, spread across the coast. And they out of these groups there will be a need to create extra groups out of groups.

4. State: MOBILISING

We dream that each and every disciple of Jesus at Lakeshore will be serving the people God has placed in their lives with the gifts, talents, passions and resources God has given them.

We have dream that people of all ages will be mobilised and sharing and serving others. Serving out of a heart deeply compelled by the love of Jesus not out of guilt or obligation. Mobilised to serve in word as they share the life giving message of the Gospel of Jesus.

Mobilised not only to serve in WORD but also in DEED. Meeting the needs of those in need of financial, personal, mental, emotional, physical help. For those who are hurting and in pain. So the sick, sad and suffering will know us a ppl of comfort and hope.

I have a dream of an army of self funded retirees who give themselves for ministry at Lakeshore and some who go to other parts of the world to serve and share Jesus.

We envision a church where all disciples are living as missionaries. Not called to be missionaries but knowing they are SENT.

We hope to raise up disciples who are reliable men who will be qualified to teach others. We hope for the gospel of Jesus to be guarded and spread as it is passed from one faithful hand to the next; as each generation, who in turn teach and train others and so on.

We envision Lakeshore to be training or equipping believers to share and show the Gospel of Jesus. We envision training people in the ministry of the Word in order to teach it to others particularly Growth Group leaders. We envision that this will be a natural part of the life of the church particularly the pastors/eldership with each pastor/elder meeting with a man/men with this intention.

We envision an established formal ministry apprenticeship to see men and women moved towards this end called the Ministry Training Apprenticeship. We hope that from this we will have home grown pastors who we can use to lead churches and plant churches. And who we can send to other parts of the world.

In all our dreaming and planning we must be clear about theology ie our understanding of God. That is what is to drive all of the Life of Lakeshore.

The number one thing is JESUS.

We also might remember what we are told in James 4:15. Captured in the Latin phrase - **Deo volente D.V – God willing**

Let's pray Ephesians 3:20-21.

Please come and speak to the Elders at anytime about the 2015 Vision for Lakeshore development.

Take a copy of the 2015 Vision for Lakeshore Questionnaire, prayerfully complete it and return to us as soon as possible.