

Edwardstown Baptist Church



*living
God's story
together*

Our Vision 2016-2020 - working document

Our Purpose



Our purpose is to WORSHIP God, and to glorify Him through CARING, EQUIPPING, and MOBILISING people for mission.

Our Vision - 2016-2020

LIVING GOD'S STORY TOGETHER

- ***LIVING:*** We see ***GROWING COMMUNITIES*** inspired and empowered by the life of Jesus
- ***GOD'S STORY:*** We see ***RESTORATIVE COMMUNITIES*** gathered by the Biblical story and sharing this story with each other and throughout the world
- ***TOGETHER:*** We see ***A UNITED COMMUNITY***, celebrating our diversity and reflecting the heart of God through our love and commitment to each other

Our Strategy

A HEALTHY HOMESTEAD - We are committed to developing a healthy home-base, where our activity centres on the making of disciples who will PERSONIFY our vision.

VIBRANT OUT-CAMPS - We are committed to supporting and resourcing individuals and teams, released from our homestead, who will PIONEER our vision.

Our Plan



WORSHIP Objective: facilitating Spirit-led & Bible-centred personal and corporate worship

CARE Objective: fostering an environment where every person in our community takes responsibility for the care of others without discrimination

EQUIP Objective: growing healthy disciples of all ages who reveal Jesus in heart and action

MOBILISE Objective: establishing Christian community where Jesus is not yet known

SUPPORT Objective: developing and sustaining integral resourcing for the mission

A Parable

As they staggered up the dusty red path their pace began to quicken toward the cluster of buildings before them - grateful that the windmill they'd seen on the horizon gradually revealed itself to be the homestead they had hoped would appear.

Their car having broken down, the lost and weary young couple finally fell through the front gate - the familiar creak caught the attention of those seated around the kitchen table - and they rushed to care for the traveller's needs.

After some days of bed-rest, hearty meals and plenty of hydration, the travellers found themselves around the table with their hosts - young and old, rich and poor, people from all over the world - telling their stories of faith, culture, and homelands near and far.

The young man's interest bubbled over into enthusiasm - "How did all of this begin? What is the story of this homestead?"

The reminiscent laughter stopped, and, as if on cue, the busy room hushed, and an old man in the corner of the room began to speak: ***"To be truthful, my friends, what you see around you is not only built on the sacrifice of those who have gone before, but also on their mistakes. This homestead stands not only as a symbol of refuge for others - it also holds memories of the displacement of others. So, it is with celebration we tell our story, but also confession."***

The couple leaned forward when the old man's companion spoke up and began to take the room on a journey of reminiscence - she told stories of first peoples and pioneers, and how their lives inspired those who now belonged to this community. In spite of the arid conditions and frequent failures, she recounted how a diverse and determined collection of people were forged together with a deep love for one another and an astounding spirit of adventure.

The young couple's hearts welled with hope as they considered their own family scattered beyond the horizon, and they wondered out loud : "How can we bring our own people to experience this kind of love - that they might become a part of a story like this?"

All eyes shifted to the corner of the room where a travel party gathered around the supplies they had prepared for their upcoming adventure. The youngest adventurer took her cue and responded with excitement: "It's a great question," she replied as her eyes gazed upon the far horizon. An adventurous smile crept across her face as she continued, "and we're ready to find the answer. We're on our way - who's coming with us?"

My Plan

“... the travellers found themselves around the table with their hosts - young and old, rich and poor, people from all over the world - telling their stories of faith, culture, and homelands near and far.”

WORSHIP Objective: facilitating Spirit-led & Bible-centred personal and corporate worship

Personal GOAL	I can already see that I am ... The opportunity I see for the future is ...
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“... bed-rest, hearty meals and plenty of hydration ...”

CARE Objective: fostering an environment where every person in our community takes responsibility for the care of others without discrimination

Personal GOAL	I can already see that I am ... The opportunity I see for the future is ...
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“... a diverse and determined collection of people were forged together with a deep love for one another and an astounding spirit of adventure.”

EQUIP Objective: growing healthy disciples of all ages who reveal Jesus in heart and action

Personal GOAL	I can already see that I am ... The opportunity I see for the future is ...
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“... we're on our way - who's coming with us?”

MOBILISE Objective: establishing Christian community where Jesus is not yet known

Personal GOAL	I can already see that I am ... The opportunity I see for the future is ...
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“... the windmill they'd seen on the horizon gradually revealed itself to be the homestead they had hoped would appear.”

SUPPORT Objective: developing and sustaining integral resourcing for the mission

Personal GOAL	I can already see that I am ... The opportunity I see for the future is ...
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