

Pt 9 - MULTIPLYING: Church Planting

Matthew 16:18-19

Jesus boldly declared that He would build His **‘church’**. The Church was His idea and His **‘master project’** and all of His energies are focused on completing it.

... God’s Master Project.

“The Church is a community of Christ-followers empowered by the Holy Spirit to participate in God’s mission to the world.”

... The Church expands in the book of Acts.

There were many miraculous evidences of the power of the Holy Spirit working through the disciples during this period and thousands become believers too...

Acts 2:37-41 - Peter’s first sermon resulted in 3,000 people coming to Christ.

Acts 2:42-47 - The Church in Jerusalem was experiencing the daily occurrence of people coming to Christ because of its outreach activities.

Acts 4:1-4 - Peter’s second sermon resulted in 5,000 men coming to Christ.

... The persecution and the scattering of the Church.

Acts 7:54-60 - 8:1-3 - This is the account of Stephen’s stoning and Saul’s immediate pursuit of persecuting the Church in Jerusalem resulting in many of the believers scattering afar.

Amongst those who were scattered were...

- **Acts 8:4-5** - Philip went to Samaria where many people come to know Christ.
- **Acts 9:19-25** - We find there were believers in Damascus where Saul began to preach in the Synagogue.
- **Acts 9:31** - There are now churches throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria.
- **Acts 11:19-22** - We read that those who scattered and went to Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, where a great number of people became believers.

... Saul’s Conversion.

Acts 9:1-18 - The dramatic conversion of Saul brings relief from the persecution as Saul was the chief persecutor.

With the storm of persecution now passed, what was the state of the Church?

Acts 9:31 (nkjv) *Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.*

The Church was now, as a result of the scattering from Jerusalem, multiplied into many local churches.

Acts 13:1-4 - One of these new local churches, at Antioch, became another **“operational base”** replicating the first church in Jerusalem.

Paul and Barnabas were sent out by the church in Antioch to spread the message of hope - **Acts 13-14**

After their mission, they returned to report to the church at Antioch about their journey - **Acts 14:26-28**

Throughout the book of Acts we can identify a biblical principle for revival:

... Compound Multiplication

Local churches starting other local churches and in turn becoming operational bases for extension activities of outreach.

... WPCC Strategic Shift

If we are to fulfil our Mission Statement *“to connect people to Jesus Christ, developing them into Christ-like maturity and empowering them to a meaningful life of service in the church, community and world.”*

Then one way is to be purposeful in increasing our presentation of the Gospel to a greater percentage of the City of Greater Geelong, the Golden Plains Shire and beyond by engaging in strategic evangelistic endeavours.

The strategic shift that we will make is to take our church to the people by following the New Testament pattern found in the book of Acts by planting new Churches so they will reach-out to their localities with the good news of Christ!

A lot of churches are motivated more by the **‘keep’** – keeping those who already attend the church content by creating a *‘consumer’* mentality.

But God is motivated more by the **‘reach’** - reaching out to those who have yet to hear about the message of faith, hope and love that Jesus has for them.

... Introducing the Multi-site Church concept

What is a multi-site church?

Short for multiple-site church, multi-site church is ***‘one church meeting in multiple locations.’***

Gathering together in different locations in the same region, or in different cities, states, or possibly Nations.

A multi-site church shares a common vision, budget, resources and leadership.

Why become multi-site?

The core purpose of becoming a multi-site church is to make more disciples by bringing the church closer to where people who are far away from God are.

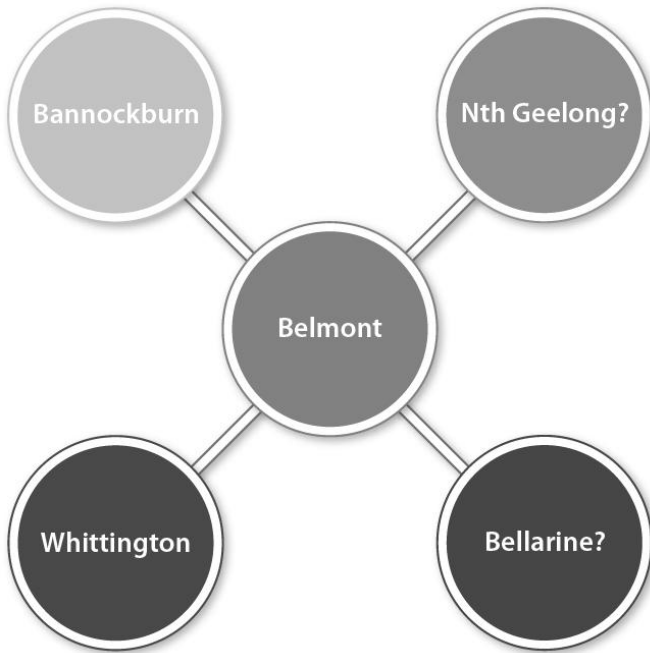
The motivation is to love different people, with an outcome of making significant advances in obeying Jesus’ Great Commandment **Matthew 22:37-40** and Great Commission **Matthew 28:19-20**.

The multi-site concept isn’t a vision by itself but a vehicle to achieve the vision that we have of increasing our presentation of the Gospel to a greater percentage of the City of Greater Geelong, the Golden Plains Shire and beyond by engaging in strategic evangelistic endeavours.

... Advantages of the Multi-site Church concept

- Shared DNA (*vision, mission and core values*)
- Grow larger and grow smaller at the same time
- Less cost through the sharing of resources with greater impact
- Wider outreach by taking the church to where the people are
- Accountability through shared leadership and structure
- Mobilizes volunteers through an added variety of ministry opportunities
- Greater prayer support
- No need to *‘reinvent the wheel’*
- Balanced consistent teaching diet through the *‘Big Idea’* model

... Our new outreach in Whittington



Pre-Launch Planning

March - May 2009

Outreach Leader Selected
Outreach Location
Outreach Launch Date
1st Small Group Commencement

June - July 2009

Outreach Facility Fit Out
Funding Campaign
Equipment Inventory
Marketing Strategy
Prayer Strategy
Core Team Recruitment
Family Fun Day Planning

August - September 2009

Marketing Info Production
Signage
Core Team Training
Family Fun Day Planning ongoing
Prayer Strategy Ongoing
Big Idea Launch Series Planning
Mail out for holiday programme
Children's Programme School Holidays
Family Fun Day School Holidays
Opening of Facility on Fun Day
1st Setup Practice
Personal Invitations to Opening
7 day Prayer and Fasting
2nd Setup Practice
Practise opening Service
Big Idea Series Completed

(28th - 2nd October)

Personal Invitations to Opening
Core Team Training Ongoing
Prayer Strategy Ongoing
Clean Facility
Final Setup

Launch Saturday (3rd October)

Launch Service
