



5 YEAR VISION

Our Five-Year VISION for 2029:

“By 2029, BVUC will be a vibrant, faithful, multi-generational church with a passionate hunger for God. We will be a unified body of believers who are being transformed into whole-of-life disciples, are unashamed in our beliefs and equipped to fulfil our calling, using our unique gifts to serve. We will be known across Burleigh and have a Kingdom presence and impact in targeted corners of our community, where people will be overwhelmed by the love of Jesus, drawn to an irresistible hope and transformed by the Gospel. We see our place on the hill in the center of Burleigh fit to serve our local needs and a gathering place where people are brought from far and wide, and we see a church that is multiplying across the region with a local and wider impact for His glory.”

For this to become a reality by the end of 2026 we will have:

- A faithful discipleship process that equips the church for ministry and mission.
- Established connections with targeted mission ‘corners’ of the community with a clear discipleship pathway process.
- A spiritually healthy, active and intentional youth and young adult community.
- An Op-shop that serves community needs, facilitates connection to the community and provides an opportunity for ministry and mission.

Which therefore requires by the end of 2024:

75% of our church are taking steps to actively grow as disciples, equipped to share their faith and faithfully represent Jesus wherever they do life. 50% of those will be actively serving in an established mission corner. Established mission corners will have clear pathways for people to come to know Jesus.

EXPLAINING THE VISION

Our leadership team has spent many hours crafting and moulding the language of the vision statement to ensure it conveys who we are, who God is calling us to be, and furthers the desire of our Church's heart to love God and love people.

Some of the phrases used however need some initial explaining, to ensure everyone is able to have the same understanding of the words and phrases being used. What follows is an explanation of those words and phrases, offered to you, to empower you to be part of our vision, pray for it and understand its implications.

The vision can be understood in two halves The first is about the internal health of the church:

"By 2029,

We felt a five year vision would be more empowering than a ten year vision, given so much can take place in a decade.

BVUC will be a vibrant, faithful, multi-generational church

One of our strengths, that so many have conveyed their appreciation of, is our representation of everyone from birth to nearly 100 years old. Everyone has a place in this church and a valuable contribution to make.

with a passionate hunger for God.

We know that the health of our church will be determined by the spiritual health of every member, just as the passion and hunger our church will experience and pursue will be the direct result of how seriously each member takes the filling of their own spiritual needs. Our primary objective is to do all we can to help you love, know and encounter God.

We will be a unified body of believers

The 100th Anniversary was absolutely key in achieving a singular heart and identity, and what an incredible celebration it was. We were once two entities, but are now unified in Christ, as one singular body of believers, upholding the Lordship of Christ.

who are being transformed into whole-of-life disciples,

A whole-of-life disciple, is someone who lives to honour, serve and love God and others, in every part of their lives, with every part of their being. Discipleship is not an optional extra, but a manner of speaking about students of Jesus, who increasingly seek to trust and obey Jesus more.

are unashamed in our beliefs

The use of this phrase is imperative as we stand on our faith in an ever changing world, share our faith with those in our lives who don't yet know the love of God, and converse with a post Christian culture on vital issues which will clearly distinguish the desires and convictions of God from the desires of Satan.

and equipped to fulfil our calling, using our unique gifts to serve.

Every person needs to be aware of their gifts, growing in those gifts and exercising them in increasingly powerful ways. First to edify the church and then to transform the world. Every person has a God given assignment, they have been spiritually equipped to fulfil, also known as a calling. Each person needs to be aware of their gifts, to effectively contribute to what is known as the five-fold ministry within a church.

The five fold ministry, is God's blueprint for the church, outlined in Ephesians 4:11-12 (So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up) Every believer's gifts compliment one of these five overarching gift categories, that enable a church to achieve the things God requires.

The vision's second half is about the external impact of the church:

We will be known across Burleigh and have a Kingdom presence and impact

It is necessary that our presence embodies the kingdom. We are not saved and called to just turn up places and be part of what is happening, we are ambassadors, responsible for carrying the presence and reign of God into the situations He has placed us. Our calling is not to be a community service, but to see the community transformed by the power of God.

in targeted corners of our community,

It is an impossible and unbiblical approach to expect every person in the community to be touched by the presence of our church and come to Christ as a result. While we would love to see that we need to focus or 'target' our efforts. A corner is a place where we feel God has positioned us to shine the light of Jesus in a redeeming way, through our service, love and commitment. Such corners would currently be the homeless in Burleigh, Burleigh Heads State School, Our Playgroup Families, and the OpShop we are starting to establish.

where people will be overwhelmed by the love of Jesus, drawn to an irresistible hope and transformed by the Gospel.

This is the desire of our heart for every person. We recognise that it is the Holy Spirit who convicts people of their sin, not us, and it is the Holy Spirit who transforms a person's heart not us. It is also acknowledging the sacrifice of Jesus that ensures people are free and can live with the hope that the Gospel offers. The Gospel is the good news of what Jesus achieved through the cross and resurrection for every person.

We see our place on the hill in the centre of Burleigh

Our location is very important to our identity, and what God has called us to do. We are known as 'the Church on the hill,' and increasingly we hope this will be used as a metaphor for the hope people find in Christ through us, as well as our physical location.

fit to serve our local needs and a gathering place where people are brought from far and wide,

Our building is an important part of the resources God has given us, and we need to use it to (1) develop missionaries we send out (think disciples, Christians, you), (2) as a community centre people come to and discover God's love while they are here. This may be through missional initiatives we hold here and offer to the community, or by offering our building to community groups to use.

and we see a church that is multiplying across the region with a local and wider impact for His glory."

In our future is very much the mandate to plant churches. This may take up a variety of expressions and forms, and we have not yet been given any clearer direction by God. One hundred years ago we were a church plant of Southport, and six years ago half of us were a church plant of Newlife, and for us to see the Gospel reach more people on the Gold Coast, we know we need to plant more churches. This may mean that you will one day be part of a church plant, sent out from Burleigh, to see another local community won to Christ.

COMMUNICATING THE VISION

Over the last three months the leaders in our church have been prayerfully discerning and developing our vision for the next 5 years. Jesus' ministry can be held in what he commanded - Mark 12:30-31. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. 'The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

And in what Jesus commissioned - Matthew 28:18-20. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore 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. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

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The first half of our vision captures the internal health God wants to develop in us, born out of what the early church first experienced as recorded in Acts 2:42-47. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

COMMUNICATING THE VISION CONT...

The second half of our vision captures the external impact God wants to have through us, powerfully seen in the early church as recorded in Acts 1:6-8. Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

In its current form, our vision isn't something you can easily remember to then share with someone who asks you "What is your church about?"

To resolve this issue a sub-team of leaders have been working on how to reduce this beautiful paragraph or picture down into 4 - 6 words, that communicate our vision. This short sentence will convey who God is calling our church to be, where God is leading us and what's important to us.

This short sentence (think slogan, catchphrase, motto) needs to reflect our desired internal health and external impact, using real words people can immediately understand, which create an emotional response, while not being cliché.

The sub-team of leaders has developed the following options, we may choose to endorse:

- **Unconditionally loved for freedom in Jesus**
- **Encountering Jesus' love, transforming lives**
- **Trusting Jesus, restoring hope**

This is one of the ways we'd love your input regarding the vision. We want to know which one of these resonates with you the most. Or perhaps a different phrase is the one we should go with. Of course, it must also be born out of our vision and fulfil the requirements outlined above.

Over the next two weeks we'll be going through a process of honing in on which phrase God is calling us to use, to capture what His desires are for us. This week you are invited to ponder this document, read the Scriptures, pray through our vision, and choose one of the three statements above, or offer a fourth to be considered.

To have a fourth suggestion considered, please email or speak to Ralph during this week. He'll need the opportunity to look at it before Sunday, to ensure it helpfully portrays the vision. We will then use some time during next week's service, to give everyone present the opportunity to vote on the final offerings. If there are two or three that seem evenly weighted, we will spend the following week in prayer over those options and vote again on the final suggestions the following week. Our heart behind this is to include everyone in the shaping of our vision, as you are all an important part of this next season.

My offering of a vision slogan, catchphrase, motto is:

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