

FOLLOWING JESUS @ VINEYARD COMMUNITY CENTRE

28 January 2018 Pastoral Letter: **OUR VISION GOING FORWARD**

To be a healthy Jesus family that is *diverse, spiritual, healing, equipping* and *transformational* in and beyond our community:

Diverse: Authentically reconciling genders, ages, cultures and classes.

Spiritual: Intentionally growing intimacy with God and others.

Healing: Wholistically restoring people to wellness.

Equipping: Purposefully developing people for life and ministry.

Transformational: Joyfully engaging the world through evangelism, social transformation, church planting and missions.

The five priorities of this vision are 'the what' we do first, what we focus on. Imagine a vibrant inter-generational and rich multicultural community of spiritual formation and discipleship, where people are healed up and grow toward wholeness, equipped for life and ministry in God's Kingdom – all as witness to the world, for transformational involvement in our context and beyond. "*Where there is no vision the people perish*" (Prov 29:18). When there is no direction, no prophetic picture of God's Kingdom future for us, we meander, lose passion, and give in to our lower nature!

What do we need in order to live into this vision, to implement and achieve it?

If you do the same things you've always done and expect a different result, you're crazy!! We want to change the way we do things. We want to do fewer things more effectively *together as community*. We don't want disconnected groups and ministries doing their own thing. Rather, to build community where every home group, ministry and mission team, intentionally focuses on doing **THE FIVE VISION PRIORITIES** in and through what they do. This applies to our Sundays, gathering as family to worship Jesus, to follow him to where he's leading us. Let's be open and experimental... to experience God!

We need to pray, to cry out to God for the fulfillment of this vision. Prayer lifts faith and expectation of the Spirit to move freely and do things among us. We soooo want this! We call on our church to pray in small groups, to come before the Sunday services to pray from 08:00 onwards. We will announce special times of intensified fasting and prayer for God to work powerfully among us.

We are prioritizing community building, so we need to connect and integrate. We 'do community' in home groups and Sunday services, via other social and ministry involvements. Therefore, **we invite all newer folk attending our church** to 'look-in' to who we are, how we do church, and what it means to belong. *Please plan to stay behind after church on Sunday 18 February for a one-hour 'look-in time.'*

We need to grow in inclusive participation by everyone. Jesus gives each of us gifts & ministries to build up his church. We discover and exercise our gifts in relationships, as we give ourselves to community, as we seek to love and serve for the good of the whole, under the co-ordination of the leadership. To help us achieve this we've restructured our core teams: Oversight Team, Staff, Catalytic Team (a new development), Children & Youth Church. See the back of the bulletin for names and contact details. And see the pamphlets on the table at the back of the hall for the various small groups and ministries, for the 'next steps' where you can get involved.

We need financial commitment and backing. To do all the above we need your faithful & consistent giving. December was R45 000 *below* our average monthly tithes & offerings. January has been even lower. We had to take R60 000 out of our savings to pay staff salaries this month. Please prayerfully consider what you can give (extra) to help us make up the shortfall. Thank you!

Lastly, we need your heart commitment and preparedness to 'walk the talk' together. It will not be easy to achieve our vision. It will stretch and discomfort us, but fill us with joy! Let us all commit to follow Jesus *together* in this exciting journey that he's taking us on! God bless!