

# 2025 VISION

THE JOURNEY OF BEING  
AND MAKING DISCIPLES





For over five years now, Bendigo Baptist Church has been on a journey to transform our thinking and focus, our DNA if you will, to becoming a disciple-making church. What started five years ago has become more of a reality for us...but we feel we have only scratched the surface of what the Father has in-store for us as we embark on this next five year discipleship journey He has called us to.

On our journey over the last five years, we have seen and experienced many wonderful things. Our congregations have experienced wonderful times of worship, fantastic teaching from our pastors and ministry team members, wonderful care and meaningful connections, delectable times of fellowship...all resulting in deeper and closer relationships with one another. I also believe we have grown deeper in our knowledge of God's Word and His calling on our lives. What a wonderful five years we have had!

I trust the next five years will be a reflection of the growth we've seen over the last five, yet even more exciting, as we continue as more mature disciples in following God's plan and desires for us individually and as a local body of believers. This 2025 Vision document is not just a governance document for Church Council and ministry leaders to follow and be guided by, rather, it is a document all who call Bendigo Baptist Church home can read and be inspired by in their personal faith journey.

Finally, I'm convinced the Father will continue using a group of believers, like Bendigo Baptist Church, who are aligned and connected through head, heart and hands, as long as we stay the course laid before us, stay true to His calling on each of our lives and have a deep and last-ing desire to make disciples for the Kingdom.

Philippians 1:6 says: *"Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."* The Father has great plans for His church...let's be faithful in the journey He has allowed us to be a part of!

TIM SCHOFIELD • CHAIR, CHURCH COUNCIL



Several years ago, our church engaged in a lengthy process of discernment that resulted in us embracing five key priorities (Discipleship, Care, Connect, Evangelism and Community Engagement) that we believed God was asking us to pursue. These priorities were strategically placed into our 2020 Vision, becoming a key part of our ministry focus as we sought to reach our city, state, nation and globe for Christ.

A few months ago, the Church Council decided it was time to review our progress around each of these priorities, and once again seek to hear what God might be saying to us as His church. We instigated a church-wide survey during the month of July asking a variety of questions pertaining to our previous strategic plan. The feedback was incredibly helpful and we felt the strong affirmation of this church encouraging us to keep pursuing a disciple-making culture where young and old are following Jesus, being transformed by Him and are committed to living out His mission in this world.

**“MISSION OF GOD IN THE HANDS OF ORDINARY PEOPLE”**

So, what does that mean for us as the people of God, as we pursue our strategic 2025 plan? We are convinced that **BEING** and **MAKING** disciples of Jesus Christ must be the all-consuming focus and priority of every person in our church (Matthew 4:19; 28:18-20). It's the *"mission of God in the hands of ordinary people,"* and we are committed to playing the part that we've been called to do.

I am excited about the journey that lies ahead for our church as we make biblical disciples in relational environments. As we look towards the future, let's remember that our measuring stick for what's possible must always be God and not us. The Apostle Paul reminds us of this truth when he said that God is *"...able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine..."* (Ephesians 3:20). He will direct and order our steps and I'm confident that God will continue to empower and use each of us at Bendigo Baptist Church to advance His kingdom purposes and help us to see our 2025 vision become a reality.

PASTOR DAVE LOVELL • SENIOR PASTOR

# OUR VISION AND MISSION

## OUR VISION

**TO BE A COMMUNITY OF EMPOWERED BELIEVERS REACHING OUR CITY, STATE, NATION AND GLOBE FOR CHRIST.**

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.”  
(Matthew 28:18-20 NIV)

## OUR MISSION

**MAKING BIBLICAL DISCIPLES IN RELATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS.**

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”  
(Matthew 4:19 NIV)

# 2025 VISION SNAPSHOT

**As we seek to reach our city, state, nation and globe for Christ, we ENVISION by 2025 that our church will be:**

## ONE

A disciple-making church where young and old are following Jesus, being transformed by Him and are committed to living out His mission in this world.

## TWO

Inspiring and equipping one another to passionately share the Good News of Jesus, through word and action, no matter the cost.

## THREE

A community who passionately seeks to encounter God in intimacy and power through the Bible, prayer and worship.

## FOUR

Demonstrating God's love and care in tangible ways as we expand the reach of our community engagement through each ministry campus, as well as Bendigo Baptist Community Care Inc. (BBCCI).

## FIVE

Engaging a broad audience through our online campus; which allows a diverse group of people to explore faith, their relationship with God and grow in spiritual maturity in Christ.

## SIX

Continuing to take Holy Spirit inspired courageous steps of faith as we prayerfully pursue God's call upon our lives.

## SEVEN

Planting and partnering with like-minded churches, both locally and globally, to advance a disciple-making movement, with the understanding that we are always better together.

# OUR MINISTRY STRATEGY

Jesus' model of ministry clearly shows us the best way to make disciples is in real relationships.

## WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

We frame our definition of a disciple or a fully devoted follower of Christ around Matthew 4:19. *"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."*

This verse provides the framework for the three key parts we find in the New Testament on what it means to be a disciple. A disciple is one who:

1. Is "following" Christ (**HEAD Response**) and has made Jesus Lord of their life.
2. Is being "transformed" by Christ (**HEART Response**) and is becoming like Christ in attitude and action; and
3. Is "committed" to the mission of Christ (**HAND Response**) in this world.

Based on those three parts, our definition of a disciple is:

**A FOLLOWER OF JESUS WHO IS BEING TRANSFORMED BY HIM AND IS COMMITTED TO HIS MISSION.**

Knowing that God has wired us for relationship, we are committed to the task of **BEING** and **MAKING** disciples of Jesus using the strategy of relational environments. We make disciples that make other disciples in this manner because Jesus did it that way. As we read through the Gospels and study the ministry strategy of the early church, we note there are different relational vehicles for helping us grow and mature as disciples of Christ. We describe these relational vehicles in the following way:



**TRAIN = LOCAL CHURCH (ACTS 2:42-47)**

**BUS = MINISTRY PROGRAMS / EVENTS (ACTS 6:1-6)**

**VAN = LIFE GROUPS (LUKE 9:1-10)**

**CAR = ONE-ON-ONE (MARK 9:2)**

**MOTORBIKE = SIDE-BY-SIDE (JOHN 3:1-8)**

We believe that we need all of the above relational environments (i.e. vehicles) at play in our lives to help us grow towards spiritual maturity in Christ. This was God's plan as seen through the example of Christ.

At Bendigo Baptist Church we are committed to the task of **BEING** and **MAKING** disciples of Christ. We do this knowing discipleship is a journey and not an event. While we have an important part to play, effective discipleship is impossible without God. We trust and rely on His Holy Spirit to lead and guide us in all that we say and do.

# BENDIGO BAPTIST CHURCH

