

## The Bible Church, Singapore Vision 2028 (Summary)

### Introduction

In the past 10 years, the church has embarked on a vision discernment process once every 5 years, which would then guide us subsequently. This process ensures that we have a habit of seeking and listening to the Lord as a leadership team. Likewise, as we prepare to celebrate our 65<sup>th</sup> church anniversary in 2023, the Church Council and the Staff team have embarked on a similar process over the past 18 months to seek the Lord in prayer and to hear one another with respect to the thoughts and aspirations for the church. We hope to articulate our discernment of the Lord's leading for the church for the next 5 years (Jan 2023 to Jan 2028).

Naturally, this discernment process is undergirded by the mission and vision of the church. The Bible Church exists *to glorify God by being disciples in a disciple-making community of Jesus Christ*. In so doing, we desire to be *an authentic biblical community discipling effectively*. This vision document is a culmination of this discernment process. With the pandemic and its accompanying effects on all of us as the backdrop, the church leadership believes that we should pay attention to how the church not only survives the pandemic, but thrives beyond it, with one basic question: ***How may the church seek to GROW, both spiritually and numerically, in the next 5 years?***

To answer this question, we have identified at least **3 Core Areas** and **3 Strategic Areas** that require our particular attention for the next 5 years.

### Core Areas (Overview)

The leadership team evaluated and collectively felt that we must continue to GROW in 3 core areas. These core areas have been identified because, even though they are part of our 8 core values, we are generally weaker in these, or they are particularly important in our season of church life.

#### **1. Greater prayerfulness**

Prayer is such a vital part of our Christian life that we need to grow in this area. Our vision is to see everyone becoming more dependent on God through prayer. This is even more critical since it is the engine room to any church health and growth. To this end, in the next 5 years we will help and nurture our members to deepen our passion, perspective and practice of prayer through various personal and collective efforts.

#### **2. More caring and connected community**

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused much disconnectedness and dissonance in the faith community. As we exit this pandemic albeit cautiously, we see the urgent need to deepen our sense of community as a church. In particular, we want to GROW:

1. As a safer, more authentic and caring community for one another.
2. As a more connected inter-generational church.

#### **3. More prevalent disciple-making**

As a church, we have been focused and committed in growing as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. Through various platforms and ministries, we have emphasised the importance of discipleship.

Nonetheless these are various gaps and growth areas that we hope to address in the next 5 years:

1. To see church members committing themselves to make disciples personally, as an obedient response to Jesus' call for us.
2. To see church members bringing and integrating their faith into the marketplace and family.

## Strategic Areas (Overview)

To GROW spiritually and numerically in the next 5 years, there are 3 strategic areas where we sense that the Lord is leading us to focus on more intentionally. These are strategic areas because they require urgent attention, especially in view of our life-cycle and season as a church. Here is an overview:

### **1. *Phygital church (Physical-Digital Approach to ministry and missions)***

Over the past 3 years, the church has been utilizing various digital platforms to engage the congregation and reach out to those outside the church. In the process, we have gleaned their potential possibilities and pitfalls. Therefore, we see the need to clarify and consolidate the appropriate and strategic use of these digital platforms. It is a “both-and” rather than an “either-or” approach. This will allow us to harness their potential while avoiding the pitfalls, to complement our existing physical platforms for ministry (like worship and education) and missional (like missions and evangelism) purposes.

### **2. *Urgent local outreach***

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we have been called to share the gospel to the lost through our words and works. Yet, this is an area of challenge for us as a church, especially due to the pandemic, where interpersonal contact has been reduced significantly. As such, as we return to normalcy in the next few years, we see the urgent need:

1. To increase our outreach passion and effectiveness, both personally and collectively.
2. To serve the needs of the people in our personal sphere of influence, as well as in the West Coast area and beyond.

### **3. *Leadership revitalisation***

Leadership renewal has been on our radar screen for the past few years, but it has become more urgent and critical for the next 5 years. This revitalization efforts will involve:

1. Tweaking the model and personnel for staff team leadership
2. Recruiting and training new staff members
3. Recruiting new council members, especially elders, and
4. Introducing a pipeline of ministry leaders who can lead the church into the next decade.

## Summary

In a nutshell, in the next 5 years, we seek to **GROW** in quality and in numbers, through **GROWTH** in the Core Areas of (1) greater prayerfulness, (2) More caring and connected community and (3) More prevalent disciple-making; and the Strategic Areas of (1) Phygital Church, (2) Urgent local outreach and (3) Leadership revitalization.