

Vision C3 Blenheim

Geoff and I have been praying and talking for some time now about our vision for this C3 Blenheim Church. Actually, we believe this is God's vision. I had been really seeking God about it and all of a sudden, I felt the Holy Spirit drop these three words into my heart - **REACH, PREACH, TEACH**. You may have noticed the sign as you came in. As I prayed and studied what these three words meant and how to apply them the vision expanded.

So today I want to share with you what we believe C3 Blenheim stands for, what we want to be working towards and achieving as we all go forward in Christ.

REACH: At first, I thought that meant to reach the lost. And yes, it does, but it goes far beyond that. We are to **REACH UP, REACH OUT, AND REACH DOWN**.

If you look at the Cross it goes up and down and across. Our first and foremost duty or calling is to **REACH UP** to God. He has reached Down to us, that we might be able to **REACH UP** to Him. We must have a relationship first with God, **before** we can effectively reach out to others. As I was pondering the phrase that we often advise people - 'Trust in God', I thought, especially if we say this to a new Christian— what will they think

that means? They may think, yes that's nice, but **HOW** do I do that? If people have been let down, abused, neglected or have felt disillusioned with life, they may not know how to trust **people** who they can see, let alone trust **God** whom they cannot see. How can you help someone to learn to trust God? Well they have taken the first step by repenting and giving their lives to Him. That is faith and trust. In a relationship, we have to get to know someone first relatively well before we learn to trust them. The same can be true for God. It's all very well to tell someone to trust God, but if they don't know Him, or haven't formed a relationship with Him, they will find that very difficult. That's where reaching **UP** is first and foremost in our vision. We must be actively spending time with Jesus, reading His Word – talking to Him, Worshipping Him, thanking Him, Praising Him, and just being quiet in His presence, **and** encouraging one another to do the same. This is how we get to know Him, and learn to trust Him and grow in Him. It takes time to form a meaningful relationship. However, God in His wonderful Graciousness transforms us when we give our lives to Him and does something very profound. Some people have a wonderfully powerful Salvation experience, others come quietly but surely. Whichever way – God sees to it that you are aware of something happening deep within. This indeed kick starts our relationship in a wonderfully positive way, and gives us the ability to begin to trust Him and love Him. It's like falling in love.

When we fall in love with someone, we just want to be with that person all the time. We think about them constantly and can't wait to be with them again. We don't have to wait to be with God, as He is always with us. However, we do have to make time to fellowship with Him in a personal way. This is how we grow and mature in Christ, how we gain confidence in who we are in Christ. How we gain confidence in Him. This is what secures our relationship and keeps our love from growing cold. I find the quickest way to trust God, is to surrender to Him, to submit to Him, acknowledging that He is my BOSS, He is my KING, He is my LORD, that He knows the beginning from the end and He IS SOVEREIGN. When I remember these things, I find it easier to trust Him in hard circumstances. I call to my memory His past faithfulness's and **stay** my mind on Him. Just like Isaiah says in Isaiah 26:3-4 "You will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You because he trusts in YOU. Trust in the LORD forever, for in YAH, the LORD is everlasting strength."

So, **REACH UP** to God and begin to cultivate or continue to cultivate that most precious relationship. I can assure you, you will NEVER regret it, NEVER! God is not man that He would lie to you or be unfaithful, or leave you. HE REALLY IS TOTALLY TRUSTWORTHY. As we come close to Him we will find out how true that is.

Things may not always be as we would want, but God has a master plan and is teaching us and growing us even in the midst of trials, actually especially in the midst of trials. Jesus says in John 16:33. 'These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world, you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the World' Don't forget to chat to God throughout the day. Include Him in everything you do.

When I say God, I am saying: Our Heavenly Father, Our Lord Jesus, and Our Helper the Holy Spirit.

Collectively we REACH UP when we Worship and Praise Him together, when we pray together, when we wait on and in His Presence together – His anointing comes and we are touched. When His Presence comes, He moves us and we

REACH OUT - We prophesy, we pray for each other, we have a word for each other, we honour Him with the gifts we have been given, we dance, we sing, we allow ourselves to be used by Him, we have a word of encouragement.

REACH OUT - to others. The two greatest commandments: are
 - to Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your mind and all your soul - (**REACH UP**) and to Love your

neighbour as yourself - (**REACH OUT**). Who is our neighbour?
Everyone!

When we **REACH OUT** in the Love of God, peoples' lives can be transformed and changed. We are not to just enjoy life for ourselves and ignore the plight of our fellow Christian brothers or sisters or our fellow human beings. We need each other, and we need to help each other. The Bible tells us to look out for all people and especially those who are in the faith. We all have people in our sphere of influence, people who others cannot reach. God has put specific people in our paths who we can show the love of God to. So, let us **REACH OUT** and be Jesus to others. This is what Jesus loves to see. People helping, loving, accepting, forgiving, one another. God wants unity in the house. When there is unity, there is power. Look at the Tower of Babel! There was unity and power, in fact God said soon there will be nothing they can't do. When we truly have love for one another there will be unity, and there will be power. Love shows itself in actions. It is caring and wanting the best for another. This will come about as we continue to **REACH UP** – which in turn gives us the strength to **REACH OUT**.

REACH DOWN: This is **NOT** a derogatory term in this instance. We are not saying that we are better others. This is a picture to remember the vision. Remember the picture of the Cross. Up-

Across-Down. We are to **REACH DOWN** to help our brother or sister up when they stumble and fall, (there are times when we all need a hand to get back up again.) We are to **REACH DOWN** to bring the lost up from Satan's grip, and bind up their wounds. Look at the picture on the Banner. This is what we mean by **reaching down**. In love saving those that are falling. Give them a hand up. That may be a fellow Christian or an unbeliever. For a brother or sister, we are to help them get back on track, encourage them to keep going, to keep running the race. To give a helping hand whatever that may look like. For the unbeliever, tell them the truth about God. Love them and support them. Jesus said 'whenever you give a cup of cold water to one of these little ones, you do it unto me. When you feed the hungry, visit the sick, or those in prison, or tend to the widows and the orphans you do it unto Me. Jesus also says in Luke 6:27-36 Love your enemies, bless those who curse you,....give to everyone who asks you, do good to everyone, not just to those that love you.... **"But love your enemies, do good and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore, be merciful, just as your Father is also merciful."**

If we love those who love us, what credit is that to us? For even sinners love those who love them.

So, let us REACH DOWN and give each other a hand up.

PREACH:

Once again, we look at the cross. **PREACH JESUS – UP,**
PREACH THE GOSPEL – OUT – to all the world, **PREACH**
TRUTH, this brings people up out of the lies fed by the enemy.
 The truth is what sets people free. If the truth goes deep down
 it will lift up and set us free.

We can all **PREACH**. Jesus told his disciple's in Mark 16:15
 “Go into all the world and **PREACH** the Gospel” – You don't
 need a pulpit to **PREACH** – anyone can speak about the
 gospel to another. This is what we have been learning the last
 few Wednesday nights. **PREACH** means to proclaim good
 tidings, to deliver – like a sermon, to advocate a religious or
 moral truth in speech or writing. Profess, pronounce, expound.
 To give earnest advice.

So, we can all **PREACH**, however we are to do this in love, not
 in judgment or forcefully.

So, we **PREACH** Jesus, we **PREACH** the Gospel, and we
PREACH the truth. The Gospel is, (in a nutshell) - Jesus Christ
 came in the Flesh, was crucified for the forgiveness of our sins,
 was raised the third day, was seen by many and taken again to
 Heaven, and lives forevermore to intercede for the saints, and
 will one day come again and take us to Himself. The dead in
 Christ first and then us who remain. The **TRUTH** is - God
 Created the Heaven and the Earth and all that is in them,

including us. We are accountable to Him, and one day will have to give an account of our lives to Him. We all need Jesus to wash away our sins and bring us into a right relationship with the Father. Oh, how thankful we are to God for His Wonderful gifts to mankind. Let us give thanks to Him always for His Precious and Most Wonderful gift of Salvation to us through His Son Jesus Christ.

I have some tracts here of all sorts, to help equip you to take the Gospel to your part of the world. Have a look, they are all different, see which ones suit your style and take a few. I will get more in due season.

TEACH: Once again we have **UP**, **OUT**, and **DOWN** - the **CROSS**.

UP is **FAITH**, looking to Jesus, the Author and Perfector or finisher of our Faith (Heb. 12:2).

FAITH comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

TEACH the Word, and Faith comes. We **TEACH** the ways of our Lord. We **TEACH** the Words of our Lord. We **TEACH** the whole council of God. We can all be teachers in our own areas of influence. Our testimonies can strengthen our **FAITH**. When we share what God has done in our lives, our faith grows. We want to **TEACH – FAITH** – that is - looking to Jesus in **all** circumstances, sharing how God has touched us and helped us in our time of need. We learn that we do not rely on ourselves,

but on the **ONE** who has Redeemed us by His Own Blood. We believe and trust a God that loves us and is for us not against us. We **TEACH** a **FAITH** that can move mountains. A **FAITH** that believes God's promises and takes God at His Word. A **FAITH** that holds on in the most difficult of circumstances. A **FAITH** that is tenacious and won't let go until the breakthrough comes. A **FAITH** that calls into being those things which do not exist as though they did. A **FAITH** that goes from strength to strength.

This **FAITH** brings **HOPE**: Our **HOPE** is not founded on airy fairy wishful thinking! No! Christian **HOPE** is a confident expectation of something that **WILL** happen, (not the world's hope that something that might happen). We have a secure **HOPE**, a **HOPE** that does **NOT** disappoint.

HOPE reaches out.

We can **TEACH** others there is **HOPE** to be had in this world of uncertainty. Titus 2:13 "Looking for the blessed **HOPE** and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ." Romans 5:5 "Now this **HOPE** does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

When the Truth is **taught** – **HOPE** comes and lifts us up and encourages us. We have **HOPE** as we look in the Perfect Word of God, it **teaches** us that we have a way back to God, we can

draw near to Him and we have an eternal home waiting for us in Glory with Jesus our Saviour. Hebrews 6:19, 20a **“This HOPE we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus.”**

So, we **REACH** out to others, and each other with the wonderful good news of **HOPE – Christ in us the HOPE of Glory.**

Yet the greatest of these is LOVE:

WE TEACH LOVE:

The LOVE of God is absolutely PROFOUND. Going deeper and wider and higher than we can possibly fathom.

LOVE reaches **DOWN** to the depths of our being and brings us up out of our doldrums, out of our mire, out of ourselves, and brings us to the Light, the Truth, the Freedom, and the Hope, that is in Christ Jesus.

We **MUST TEACH the love of God!** The world is full of hatred and bitterness, and blames God for all the bad things and does not see God as a loving God. Do they see the **LOVE** of God through us? Do they experience the **LOVE** of God through us? Are we **JESUS** to a dying world? **A smile! A hug! A listening ear! A helping hand! A glass of cold water! A food parcel! A letter! A text! A phone call! A visit!**

What does **LOVE** look like? It looks like this! (**Stretch out arms**).

LOVE MUST BE TAUGHT, SHOWN AND LIVED!

If you look at these three words:

REACH! PREACH! TEACH!

I wonder – what can you see within?

EACH!

This vision is for **EACH** one of us. Each one of us can

Reach up, Reach out, Reach down.

Preach Jesus, Preach the Gospel, Preach the Truth.

Teach Faith, Teach Hope, Teach Love.

Together we can make a difference!

And what holds it altogether?

PRAYER, PRAYER, PRAYER, PRAYER, PRAYER:

Prayer needs to be in the middle, at the beginning
and at the end. **GOD MOVES THROUGH PRAYER!**

When all these things are worked out in the body with
unity – what a mighty force we will be.

Watch out World!

God's People are on the Move!