

VISIONS



Comox
Pentecostal
Church



From The Start

ACTS 2.42-47

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They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods they gave to anyone as they 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.

Don't you love where the word "awe" is placed in this passage of scripture? Some might find it tempting to use the word awe after the long list of impressive things the early church was known for doing. But then it would have suggested the awe was because of the church. Instead, after discovering that the first church was devoted to knowing Jesus through scripture, His family, communion, and prayer, we find – awe. Awe, because of Jesus.

We know we're called to be a church that is healthy and on mission, just like the early church of Acts 2. But we know that what always matters most and what always matters first is Jesus. We will find that our doing and our being flows best from our beholding.

In Comox Pentecostal Church, Our Vision is Always Jesus.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Bringing the Message and Ministry of Jesus Into Everyday Life



The Vision Explained

Bringing: When God came to transform the world what kind of pace did He take? 5km/h. That's human walking speed. Jesus came and dwelled among us, He walked along sea sides and city streets bringing Heaven's love and truth at the divine pace of humans in relationship. This influences how we intend to do our part in our community and through our church today.

Message and Ministry: Jesus didn't do everything solo. In shocking generosity and trust, He called ordinary people to follow Him and do the things He was doing and say the things He was saying. Today, everyone still has a chance to "do the stuff." The truth of Jesus' message and the power of His love at work are not in the hands of a select few. Jesus' words and actions will advance through the everybodys and anybodys that will trust and follow Him!

Jesus: Our vision is always Jesus. Not a church, a program, a personality, or even the ways or works of Jesus, as wonderful as they are. Jesus is at the centre! He is the beginning and the end. He is over all. In all. And for all. He is the Word made flesh. He is the Lamb who was slain and who triumphed over death and every evil darkness. He is the only Saviour and the only Lord. His rule of peace will never end. Jesus is alive today! He fills our lives by His Spirit, and is renewing our world through His faith-family, the church!


Everyday Life: The words and work of Jesus are not limited to a Sunday church service. If that were so, faith would really be about what happens for around two hours on one day a week. But Jesus died for - and lives for - so much more. The other 22 hours and 6 days matter just as much. I guess if we're taking the saturation



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of our faith into day-to-day living seriously, you could say we're a 22/6 church! As wonderful and important as Sunday gatherings are in our church life, imagine how much more God can do in us and our community when Jesus' words and ways work through each of us into our neighbourhoods, schools, and workplaces in the everyday stuff of life.

BRINGING THE MESSAGE AND MINISTRY OF JESUS INTO EVERYDAY LIFE!



001° The Story of God and the 5 Trees.
002° 127.
003° Wholiness.
004° The First and the Best Plan.
005° 3 Cups of Tea and 6 Other Friends.
006° Going Out on a Limb.
007° The Big Smile of Achoo.

VALUES

The Story of God and the 5 Trees

001° // VALUES

In other words, we value the gospel and that God is at the centre of history’s story (not us!). The Bible tells us a story of God at work in our world through 5 trees: life, freedom, faithfulness, forgiveness & renewal. Each of the trees points to Jesus and helps us to see what God’s heart is like. The gospel of Jesus is not just a story for us to grasp and a language for us to become fluent in, it truly is the best news the world is dying to know!

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who will trust Jesus”

ROMANS 1.16

127

002° // VALUES

In other words, we value people. Genesis 1.27 says God created all people in His image. Think about how much us broken and imperfect parents can love our children and now imagine how much God must love each of His children! This means that every soul and every heartbeat –from very first to very last—matters. Valuing people means we learn to see past the best and worst of what people do and see into their true inherent worth. According to Jesus, every one is to die for!

“You have crowned people with glory and honour”

PSALM 8.5





OUR MISSION IS SIMPLE: BRINGING THE MESSAGE
AND MINISTRY OF JESUS INTO EVERYDAY LIFE!

Wholiness

003° // VALUES

In other words, we value health. While spiritual health matters a lot, it is only part of wholeness – or, wholiness, if you will. We discover in the Bible that flourishing emotionally, thriving relationally, and being well physically all matter deeply to Jesus. Your well-being and ours together as a family of faith are important. This is why we care about growing as whole people and as a healthy organization. And this is why we look to Jesus, not just as our example, but as our source of life, healing and health.

“Jesus makes the whole body fit together so that it is healthy and growing and full of love.”

EPHESIANS 4.16



The First and the Best Plan

004° // VALUES

In other words, we value family.
It seems like a given that God loves church and loves ministries of all kinds. But when we look to the beginning of His story, in Genesis, God doesn't put a church or a ministry in the Garden of Eden. He put a husband and a wife together with a purpose to multiply His blessing globally. This is why marriages matter. And this is why equipping parents and grandparents to help children and teens know and love Jesus matters so much. God's first and best plan for advancing His good purposes worldwide has always been family.

"God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the Earth."

GENESIS 1.28

3 Cups Of Tea And 6 Other Friends

005° // VALUES

In other words, we value relational witness. While there are times and places for sharing the message of Jesus rapidly and en masse, it seems that His truth is received best across bridges of friendship. In some Asian cultures it is said that "three cups of tea" is the time it takes to get to know someone. Studies have also said that the most common way adults in North America come to trust and follow Jesus is by having seven credible Christian friends. Want to see others in the Comox Valley discover the love and truth of Jesus? Go for some drinks and make sure to help them become friends with your friends who love Jesus too.

"The harvest is plentiful. Go! I am sending you."

LUKE 10.2&3



Going Out on a Limb

006° // VALUES

In other words, we value risk. When you look at a tree, where is the fruit located? Not inside where it can be easily accessed safely from the trunk, but out on a limb. It seems that fruitful Christian lives – and fruitful churches, for that matter—have to face the fact that the important results we hope and pray for are rarely found inside our comfort zone. We’re not talking about being reckless, but understandably, something called “the Christian faith” includes trusting God, at times radically. As uncomfortable as this can sometimes be, this is good news. When we are dependent upon God, we don’t just see what we can do, but we get to see what only He can do!

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.”

PROVERBS 3.5

The Big Smile of Achoo

007° // VALUES

In other words, we value generosity. Contrary to the consumeristic messaging of our world, Jesus teaches us that a life oriented around giving is much more fulfilling than one oriented around getting. We’re the kind of people that support our church and other great causes financially. And, we don’t just seek ways to help those in need, but we see the Biblical pattern for blessing all others. Scripture even tells us there’s joy in generosity – and it’s true! We don’t give to get blessed, we give because we are blessed. That’s why it’s the big smile of “achoo” (bless YOU, not bless me).

“You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous in every way.”

2 CORINTHIANS 9.11



What Are We Called To?

FOUR THINGS.

There are all kinds of wonderful things our church does. But if we could only call everyone to four things, here's what they would be.

1. JESUS

Keep your first love your first love. Don't just try to learn about Him. Read the Bible to see and know Jesus. Listen to Him. Express your heart to Him in prayer. Keep a meaningful and growing connection with Him! This is the most Important thing ever.

2. SUNDAYS

Ever since the resurrection of Jesus (which happened on a Sunday!), worship and teaching have changed forever. We gather as a whole church on Sundays to encounter Jesus together in worship and to be equipped by His word to live lives that bring His message and ministry into the rest of the week.

3. DNA RELATIONSHIPS

DNA stands for Discipling, Nurturing, and Accountability. Every follower of Jesus needs at least 1-2 others in their life who they can connect deeply with. This takes effort, intentionality and vulnerability. But can we develop as followers of Jesus without these kinds of things? The character of Christ is formed in us as we get together to open our lives to each other in care and growth.

4. GOSPEL INTENTIONALLY TOGETHER

It seems that one of the strongest apologetics for our faith today is community. Your life can bear witness to Jesus alone, but when you team up on mission with others your effectiveness is multiplied. Maybe there are other followers of Jesus in your part of town that you could love and serve your neighbourhood together with. Or, maybe there are other co-workers, or people in the same field or with the same hobby that you could partner with to reach others in that same mission field. Imagine the potential of common mission groups throughout the Comox Valley. Or, for those who remember our neo-Latin attempt: Proximus Maximus Togetherness!

These four things seem strategically able to help us fulfill the most vital parts of our collective doing and being. More importantly, they help us and others to see Jesus.

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