



JUICE

E-zine of the Vineyard Churches of Aotearoa New Zealand

OUR VISION: Being disciples, making disciples | OUR MISSION: To build churches that grow disciples who reach the world for Jesus

BUILD AND GROW



By national director Lloyd Rankin

Growth is the focus of New Zealand Vineyard churches this year through our GROW2010 plan.

GROW2010 aims to “lock in” this focus on partnering with God to reach New Zealanders with a credible and authentic invitation to become followers of Jesus and ultimately devoted disciples who do the work of the Kingdom and whose lives reflect the character of Kingdom life.

Our 10-year emphasis is GROW2020, and by 2020 we hope and believe each of our churches will have grown 20% each year and that we will have produced new churches by 20% per year. So by 2020 we expect to have grown from 16 churches to 102 churches, and for our present churches to be growing in size, influence, health and effectiveness.

Standing at the midpoint of 2010, that goal seems difficult and almost overwhelming – to us it is impossible when we look at multiplying a huge number of church planters and pastors, worship leaders, small group leaders, children’s workers, youth workers, church staff, helpers, servers etc. But while it is humanly impossible, with God all things are possible.

I think He wants us to feel the weight of just how big a task it is, to realise that it is impossible for us humanly to do it, and that it requires faith and obedience from us and letting Him spend us how He wants.

When I have thought and prayed about how to grow a church I always come back to this reality. I often find myself focusing on how I could build the church and praying that Jesus will love the people. Then I remember He said HE would build His church – and He asks me to love the people. It is always a mistake to get

them around the wrong way! He sends us to love people so much they ask why.

The ultimate expression of love for a person is discipleship. Even in the most intimate human relationships – marriage – we are called to disciple each other. We are invited to love and lay down our lives for our spouses, to serve, look after and help them become the men or women God created them to be.

“ Jesus had the 3, the 12 and the 70 in His discipling group. Think about which 1 or 2 or 3 people you could deliberately invite into your life.”

In the same way, discipling is loving and serving people in such a way that we help them become the people God created them to be, to help them discover their gifts and talents and invite them to use those in God’s expanding Kingdom.

Jesus had the 3, the 12 and the 70 in His discipling group. Think about which 1 or 2 or 3 people you could deliberately invite into your life – especially to replicate what God has called you to do. We need pastors to be discipling pastors-in-the-making, and worship leaders with worship leaders, business people with business people, teachers with teachers etc all doing the same if we have any hope of keeping in step with God’s plan for multiplying our churches.

WHAT’S AHEAD:

JUNE:

14th - 17th - Vineyard board and council meeting, Auckland

JULY:

8th - Invasion:Urban, Urban Vineyard - Auckland-wide young adults get together

9th - 11th - WinterCamp 2010, Lake Taupo - NZ wide youth camp



CHURCH FOCUS:

MountainView Vineyard - Stratford

Pastors: John and Corrina Sheed

Vibe: At MountainView Vineyard you will find a bunch of people who desire to hear the words, see the works and experience the presence of Jesus. We seek to reach our generation through a contemporary model of worship and ministry by “being Jesus with skin on”, getting outside of our church building and being involved with our community, Stratford, and the surrounding district.

Happenings: 2010 is a big year for us! We purchased land in 2009 and this year we plan to build our new home on it. This will be terrific as it will bring all our community programmes under one purpose-built roof, and also provide much-needed space for our full Sunday service.

Numbers:

2 salvations, 2 baptisms in last month

120 children in two weekly sessions of Music4Kidz

74 kids in children's church

17 staff members in church, daycare, after-school programmes

Quote: “The thing I love about this church is that it's more famous among the unchurched of Stratford than the churchd” – Garth W



BEST BLOG:

Here's a snippet of one of national director Lloyd Rankin's blogs. Want to read more? You can find his weekly input at our website, www.vineyard.org.nz

“We have the privilege and task of both becoming disciples (Christ being formed in us) ourselves, and discipling others – like Paul, labouring to see Christ formed in others” - Spiritual Direction

INPUT

Here are some things you should be adding to your resource-shelf, downloading or bookmarking:

R:

Brian McLaren, “A Generous Orthodoxy”

Desmond Tutu, “No Future Without Forgiveness”

D:

InsideWorship Podcast <http://www.insideworship.com>

Andy Stanley Leadership Podcast <http://feeds.feedburner.com/AndyStanleyLeadershipPodcast>

B:

24-7 Prayer Blog <http://www.24-7prayer.com/blog>

The Resurgence <http://www.theresurgence.com>