



2012

TOGETHER



CONTENTS



Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and 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 he 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.

Our Heritage.....	3
The Great Commission.....	4
Our Mission.....	5
Our Vision.....	6
Mission Outcomes.....	7
Our Values.....	9
Our Priorities.....	11
Our Goals.....	12
Our Response.....	13



OUR HERITAGE

Lesmurdie Baptist Church can trace its beginnings to Christmas day 1964 when Clare Shelley, having just moved into Lesmurdie with her family, felt God instruct her to begin a women's group. She dismissed this leading at first, until a similar incident occurred a few days later, and in April 1965 a Homemaker's group was established in the Shelley home.

Responding to God's call in the early days took bold and persistent faith. A small group of believers genuinely trusted it was God's will to have a vibrant church serving the Hills area. They met regularly to pray, study Scripture, plan and implement ministry to reach their community, until in September 1969 LBC was born. The fledgling church secured land, built its first facility and later another. They eventually called their first pastor, and continued to be actively engaged in reaching the community through a variety of initiatives. Naturally the church has had its share of ups and downs through the years, but through it all God's call has never waned: this church exists to bear witness to Jesus Christ in the Hills region of Perth.

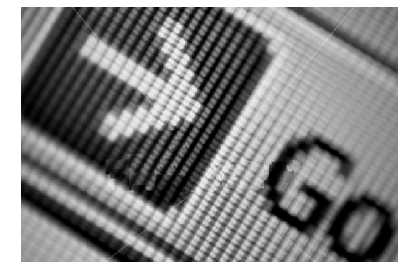
Responsiveness to divine direction; an absolute conviction that God intends LBC to be here; a boldness of faith which presses forward and perseveres in spite of obstacles; strategic initiatives to engage the community; genuine care for others: these are some of the attributes that led to the founding of LBC, and they are deeply embedded in our DNA still. We have a wonderful history of God's hand of blessing on this church, and his grace is with us still. We have also a wonderful example of faithfulness and devotion to Christ and his call. This is our heritage.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth is given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing 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.'

Jesus' Great Commission is the job description of the church. In these last words of Christ we find God's strategy for extending the kingdom of his love into all the world: to gather men and women, boys and girls, and grow them as keen and faithful followers of Jesus Christ, in the company of his people. Therefore, our major focus must ever be on this primary task, to go proclaiming the gospel in order to develop a community of disciples.



OUR MISSION

Lesmurdie Baptist Church exists to gather and grow keen followers of Jesus Christ in faith, love and service.

Rationale

We believe that God has acted decisively in Jesus Christ to establish his kingdom, and that through the power of the Holy Spirit his kingdom is continuing to grow throughout the entire world.

Lesmurdie Baptist Church exists to bear witness to the reality of God's kingdom in the Hills region of Perth.

We Believe

That we are called to be a community of people who worship God wholeheartedly, follow Jesus Christ faithfully, and seek to live daily in the love and power of God's Holy Spirit.

That we are called to demonstrate the reality, life and power of this kingdom in our lives together, and to call others also to participate in this kingdom of God's love, righteousness and peace.

Finally, that we are called to partner with God in his mission to bring reconciliation, justice and healing to this broken and hurting world — a world created and loved by God.

OUR VISION

We see a large regional church deeply woven into the fabric of the Hills and Foothills community, touching lives with love and hope, and making a difference in the world.

We see a growing, vibrant community of worshipping Christ-followers energetically and joyfully using their gifts and resources to serve God's kingdom.

We see attractive, modern facilities housing diverse congregations, ministries and community activities.

'When God gives you a vision, transact business on that line, no matter what it costs.'

- Oswald Chambers



MISSION OUTCOMES

Changed Lives

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

In place of the brokenness, alienation and bondage that afflicts our world, Jesus Christ offers his people wholeness, freedom, acceptance and peace. Jesus Christ calls us into a relationship with himself by which our lives are continually transformed into his likeness.

New Community

Ephesians 4:2-3

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Followers of Jesus Christ are called to journey together through life in a grace-filled spiritual community where deep respect and genuine care for others is evident, where authenticity, equality and diversity are valued, and where members serve one another in love, celebrating and enjoying their common life together.



Generous Service

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

God's people follow the life-giving path of Jesus in generous deeds of kindness, hospitality and service. They devote themselves to active, energetic and joyful service intended to demonstrate Christ's love and compassion in a broken and hurting world. They use their gifts to serve others in the church and in the wider community, inviting everyone into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ.



OUR VALUES



We Value Scripture

Because we believe that God's Word is the primary means of life-change and spiritual transformation; because we believe that God's Word is the foundation of all Christian ministry; therefore we value the preaching, teaching, reflection on and application of Scripture in our lives personally and corporately.

We Value the Presence of God

Because we believe that the Holy Spirit is the power of life-change and spiritual transformation; because we believe his presence and guidance are essential for fruitful Christian life and ministry; therefore we value and seek the presence and guidance of God in our worship and prayer together.

We Value Life-Long Spiritual Growth

Because we believe that full devotion to Jesus Christ is normal; because we believe that Christian life is a journey of discovery and maturity; therefore we value life-long growth in mature Christian character, in faith and knowledge, in love and healthy relationships as we journey toward the goal of Christ-likeness.



We Value Stewardship

Because we believe that full devotion to Jesus Christ is normal; because we believe that Christ has called and commissioned us for participation in his own mission; therefore we value stewardship of our resources, including our time and money, our gifts and talents for the sake of the mission to which we are called.

We Value Team Ministry

Because we believe that we are better together than we are on our own; because we believe that every Christian has special gifts and grace they are called to share with others; therefore we value serving God together in teams, celebrating our diversity while maintaining our unity as we seek to faithfully serve God and advance his kingdom together.

We Value Cultural Relevance

Because we believe that all ministry must be contextualised if it is to be understandable to those outside the church; because we believe that we are called to give our very best to God and others in service; therefore we value excellence in presentation, and creative and innovative forms of ministry which enhance our communication of the gospel to those we seek to reach.

OUR PRIORITIES

Evangelism

To reach unchurched people with the Gospel and see them become keen followers of Jesus Christ

Build Community in Small Groups

To redevelop small group ministry to facilitate belonging, friendships, growth and care

Build Community in Team Ministry

To develop a team-based approach to service to facilitate belonging, friendships, growth and care

Operational Systems and Support

To introduce policies and procedures to reduce complexity and add support to existing roles and programmes



OUR GOALS

2009—2010

Recognising our priorities, Lesmurdie Baptist Church will aim to reach these church-wide goals:

- To** train 100 LBC members in an evangelistic process, and encourage their ministry in personal and Crossover contexts
- To** offer at least 10 various evangelistic events where people have opportunity to respond to a gospel message
- To** begin twelve well-led, well-supported small groups
- To** transition from a roster-based to a team-based ministry environment
- To** create an operational policy and procedures manual with specific sections for each ministry area
- To** add 1.0 administrative staff roles

OUR RESPONSE

We believe that this mission and this vision, and these mission outcomes and values represent God's call to LBC, and the path he calls us to journey together. This is his will for us. Therefore, our response can only be to answer this call with joyful, energetic and resolute faithfulness.

God invites us into partnership with himself in *his* mission to gather and grow keen followers of Jesus Christ, to see people in this area touched with his love and changed by his power.



Therefore, we invite you to take up this call to follow Jesus as the theme and focus of your life, to join us in this journey of faith, *together*.



Hebrew 13:20-21

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.



Colossian 1:9-11

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, with joy.



Jude 24-25

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.