

Restoring the Vision, Part 1

I. Several Commitments Have Not Changed in 18 Years:

A. A commitment to proclaiming:

- the power of the full gospel of Jesus Christ;
- the promise of victorious living here on earth and forever in heaven;
- The possibility of changing the lives of others;

B. A commitment to living out our five-fold purpose as a church as given to us by Jesus in the Great Commandment and the Great Commission:

“... ‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.” Mark 12:30-31 (NLT)

“Therefore go 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.” Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

- To “Love God with all your heart” is WORSHIP.
- To “Love your neighbor as yourself” is MINISTRY.
- To “Go...make disciples” is EVANGELISM.
- To “Baptize...” is to incorporate into FELLOWSHIP.
- To “Teach them...all things” is DISCIPLESHIP.

C. A commitment to our vision: to become a healthy, growing church that sends healthy, growing Christians into ministry to our church and mission into our community and world.

II. We Are Fulfilling Our Vision by

Caring and healing; where the hurting, the depressed, the frustrated and the confused can find love, acceptance, help, hope, forgiveness, guidance and encouragement.

Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with thousands of residents of Arden Arcade and the greater Sacramento region.

Welcoming 1,000 members into the fellowship of our church — loving, learning, laughing and living in harmony with God and each other.

Developing people in spiritual maturity through small groups, classes, seminars and retreats.

Equipping all believers for a significant ministry in and through CCC by helping them discover and develop the gifts and talents God has given them.

Sending out numerous missionaries and church workers into the community and around the world.

Planting at least one new church every year in the greater Sacramento region.

Occupying multi-site ministry facilities that include a worship center, community center, offices, counseling and prayer center as well as multi-use rooms for training, social and recreational purposes.

Worshipping the Lord God Almighty, the Creator, Provider and Giver of Life with ministries and lives that glorify Him.

- We are biblical in our world view:
- We are Christ-centered in our theology and lifestyle.
- We are Spirit-led and Spirit-filled in our ministry and mission.

III. We Haven't **Fulfilled** This Vision...**YET!**

- A. A poverty of resources.
- B. The presence of opposition.
- C. The prevalence of fear.
- D. The pervasiveness of sin.

IV. God Will Restore What Has Been **Lost**.

- Joel 2:21-27 (NLT)
- A. Jesus' ministry of restoration: Restoring
 1. The Kingdom of God to earth.

So when they met together, they asked Him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" Acts 1:6 (NIV)

2. What was damaged.

Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. Matthew 12:13 (NIV)

Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you"; and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this." Matthew 9:29-30 (NIV)

3. What was lost:

a. Life

If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it. Mark 8:35 (NLT)

Then the dead boy sat up and began to talk! And Jesus gave him back to his mother. Luke 7:15 (NLT)

“For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.” Luke 19:10 (NLT)

b. Relationship with God

Since our friendship with God was restored by the death of His Son while we were still His enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of His Son. Romans 5:10 (NLT)

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:13 (NIV)

4. Restoration was/is the sign of the Messiah:

Then He told John’s disciples, “Go back to John and tell him what you have seen and heard—the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor. Luke 7:22 (NLT)

- Jesus will restore all things at His 2nd Coming:

[God will] send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. Acts 3:20-21 (NIV)

V. Our Restoration Has Begun.A. Faith

1. in Jesus as our Lord, Savior and soon-coming King.
2. in the life-transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence, and don’t take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. Then I will teach your ways to rebels, and they will return to you. Psalm 51:10-13 (NLT)

3. in the miraculous presence of the Kingdom of God.

4. in the principles and practices of the Bible.

B. Finances

The LORD says, "I will give you back what you lost to the swarming locusts, the hopping locusts, the stripping locusts, and the cutting locusts. It was I who sent this great destroying army against you. Joel 2:25 (NLT)

C. Facility

"But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!' Luke 14:28-30 (NLT)

VI. Where Do We Go from Here?

Prepare yourself to hear from God.

Inform yourself about your church and our vision.

Commit yourself to join God in what He's doing.

Keep on asking, seeking, knocking.

"And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." Luke 11:9-10 (NLT)