

CHAPTER 1

OUR NAME, OUR MISSION, OUR VISION AND OUR VALUES



Why the Name ‘Eastgate Bible Church’?

1. When you hear the name ‘Eastgate’ you may think of a church on the east side of the city (or maybe even a certain motel at the top of the range!). While we did indeed begin in a building on the east side of Toowoomba (a funeral home no less!) the reality is the church was named ‘Eastgate’ because we were inspired by a 2500 year old bible prophecy. In a truly amazing vision the exiled prophet Ezekiel is led to the eastern gate of the temple where he sees the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east with a great ‘shining’ and with the thunderous sound of ‘many waters’¹. As we thought about this prophecy, and were inspired by the idea of God’s ‘shining’ and ‘thunderous’ glory filling the whole earth, the name ‘Eastgate’ seemed to fit. Like true worshippers in the ancient temple of the Old Testament, we at Eastgate Bible Church want the glory of the one true God to be our deepest and most profound calling².
2. We as a church are deeply inspired by Ezekiel’s vision of God, in person, re-introducing Himself to His needy creation knowing that this prophetic image, in its ultimate fulfilment³, is actually a vision of God incarnate – Jesus Christ – returning. We are inspired by this vision knowing that God’s ultimate glory on earth will mark the beginning of an age more wonderful than anyone can comprehend. Jesus’ return will start an age when every tear is wiped away, the earth is freed from all injustice and, best of all, God is seen up close and personal. God, in Jesus, once wounded, then crucified and then resurrected, will be seen as He really is – as the eternal Son. With this in mind our name is really our calling – our calling *to be found faithful at Jesus’ return for the glory of His one and only name.*

¹ Ezek 43:1, 2

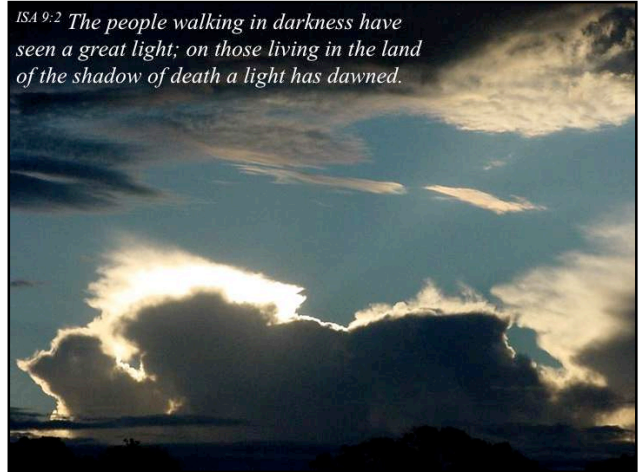
² 1 Ki 8:11, 1 Ch 16:28

³ We believe that while the physical and temporal nature of the Jewish temple has been swallowed up by the spiritual and eternal realities fulfilled in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ, the OT ‘foreshadowing’ offers up important lessons for the hope and endurance of our twenty first century church.

An ‘Eastwards’ Orientation to the Glory of God

3. As expressed in our name our calling at Eastgate is a simple one – to see God glorified. But what does this mean exactly? What it means is that we long to, in a very real sense, see the glory of Christ in God filling the whole land. We long to see His name hallowed, famous and respected in our lives – not just as Sunday Christians but as every-day of the week Christ-followers. This means we yearn for Christ’s glorious kingdom to come: for His righteous, gracious and just rule to be established over every thought, every mind, every life, every enemy and eventually every square kilometre. In essence, we long for the name of Jesus to be treasured in our city, our country and our world. We long for him to be seen as he really is – the hero of the world.

ISA 9:2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.



4. From the outset we acknowledge this to be a high calling. Our motivation in this must therefore always be the gospel of Jesus Christ because it is in the gospel, through the revelatory power of the Spirit, we find irresistible reasons to love Jesus with all of our hearts and to serve Him with the same. Such a calling, when it is from Him, through Him, for Him and to Him⁴, is therefore not only utterly achievable but also utterly compelling.

5. But what then is the gospel and what does it have to do with God’s glory? We get an answer to this question when we consider how Jesus prayed in John 17. We believe that the prayer of Jesus ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you’⁵ was astonishingly, magnificently, and comprehensively fulfilled (i.e. made glorious) by Jesus’ sinless life, brutal crucifixion, awesome resurrection and the wonderful promise of His return. This story of Jesus’ life and death and life – this story of ‘first importance’⁶ – is known very simply in the bible as ‘the gospel’ – the ‘good news’.

6. Peculiarly enough, Jesus’ prayer for glory was not answered, as one might expect, with the glory of a political or social victory, but the staggering ‘glory’ of a brutal death on a Roman execution device. This ancient torture device, upon which Jesus’ perfect life of love and service was brutally ended, became the precondition to His resurrection (and therefore the authentication of His life and teaching) when His corpse – stone-cold dead for three days – rose victorious from the grave. Jesus thus spectacularly secured His victory over sin and death⁷ *through* the ugliness of the cross and *despite* the vicious confluence of human sinfulness and pride. The prize of this victory – God’s justness

⁴ Col 3:17

⁵ Jn 17:1

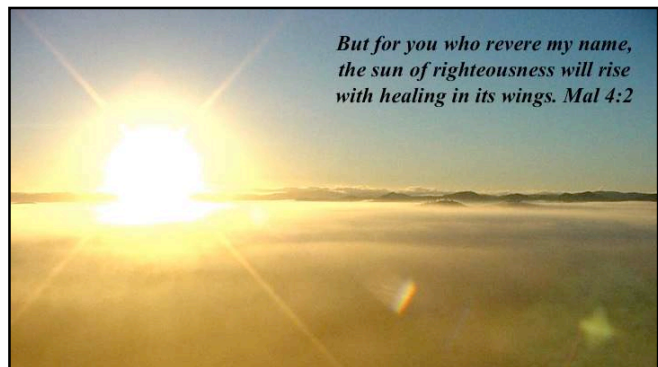
⁶ 1 Cor 15:3

⁷ attested to by numerous witnesses and an empty tomb 1 Cor 15

vindicated and eternal life with Him for the ex-condemned – is now freely available for all that humbly turn to him in repentance and then await, in purifying hope, for His return⁸.

7. We at Eastgate see this gospel, this good news, as truly glorious and therefore worth talking about and living for. It is glorious in the way the root cause of all social and political evil – human sin – is dealt with once and for all by Jesus’ substitutionary atonement on the cross. For it is sin and death, and their main protagonist Satan, that together are the great adversaries of mankind⁹. Therefore, in dealing with sin and death as the core problems of humanity, Jesus also dealt with *all* of the world’s problems – as will ultimately be seen in the consummation of His return. Thus we can truly say as the early church fathers did ‘Christus Victor!’ – ‘Christ the Victor’ over sin, death, poverty, famine, drought, earthquake, corruption, abuse and every other ugliness or trauma in life. We therefore lovingly, thankfully and faithfully preach the glory of God in Christ; that is, we preach Christ Incarnate¹⁰, Christ crucified¹¹, Christ resurrected¹² and Christ returning¹³ – we preach the gospel¹⁴. This is because the calling and vision to glorify the Name necessarily involves the calling to preach the glory of the Gospel of Christ¹⁵. It is towards this calling that every ministry of Eastgate is orientated. Thus, when we say we are orientated as a church towards the Glory of God, we are orientated towards *the light of the gospel of the Glory of Christ who is the image of God*¹⁶.

8. While these are the wonderful truths of scripture they are of no avail to us personally without a faith-response – without lives lived out of, and in response to, the power of these grace-bringing truths¹⁷. This requires dependence on Jesus through His Spirit. To be dependent on Jesus means we *need* Jesus, we are trusting in Jesus and we are



honouring Jesus with our lives not just our words. This is a high calling. It is, in fact, a supernatural calling which begins in, is sustained by, and ends in, the power of God himself through the Holy Spirit who Jesus promised would be with us always¹⁸. Such a calling, as with all of God’s callings, can therefore only be accepted humbly in faith-dependence on God who, by his own mercy and grace, freely supplies just the faith and

⁸ 1 Jn 3:3

⁹ Ro 5:12, Rev 20:10, 14

¹⁰ Jn 1:14

¹¹ 1 Cor 1:23

¹² 1 Cor 15:4

¹³ 1 Th 4:13-18

¹⁴ 1 Cor 15 Insomuch as these events are the culminating expression of God’s redemptive plan, as revealed in the bible, they can be referred to collectively as the ‘gospel’

¹⁵ 2 Cor 4:6

¹⁶ 2 Cor 4:4

¹⁷ Ro 10:10, Mt 7:24

¹⁸ Jn 14:16, Mt 28:20.

grace we need¹⁹. This is because *when we are weak He is strong*²⁰. In this dynamic of dependence upon God, He, rather than our own self-satisfaction, becomes all the more special. We therefore believe God's glory manifests itself in gospel-living Christians who are Christ-dependent in their workplace, learning-place and home-place. God shines in Christians who think Christianly, speak Christianly and act Christianly. We do not believe God gets any glory from Christians who are Christian on Sundays but are indiscernible from everyone else the rest of the week. God, for His own glory, calls Christians to be Christian in a biblically real and immanently practical sense. This means we need Him desperately if we are to be the salt of the earth and a city of light on a hill²¹. We believe that, in dependent faith upon Jesus in the Holy Spirit,²² such a calling is not only possible it is expected.

9. When we realise how inadequate we are for these tasks, how lost we are within ourselves and then, in faith, how much we need his Spirit, our weaknesses become a pointer to our need for Christ. In this Jesus-dependent dynamic, Christ's kingdom advances as we are changed by His grace and, with us in our little 'worlds', our families change, our cities change and our countries change as we, by faith, live the gospel in ordinary minutes and hours. Christians are those who know *and live* the high calling of the gospel of Jesus by faith in Jesus. Therefore, *we are not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*²³.



An 'Eastwards' Orientation to the Written and Incarnate 'Word'

10. We are Eastgate **Bible** Church because, as placement of the word 'bible' in our name suggests, the bible is central to our spiritual life. It would have been in the eastern and public courtyard of the OT Temple that the people of God gathered to hear and be taught the Word of God²⁴. So too, we as a church, are orientated towards the preaching, teaching and living out of God's Word. Without the written Word we cannot meet the living, incarnate Word; that is, we cannot meet the living Lord Jesus who is, in one way or another, spoken about in every one of the 66 books of the bible²⁵. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we meet the Lord Jesus in every page of the bible. Therefore, inasmuch as the Bible connects and reconnects us to Jesus, *this Word, this Bible, is to us our very life*²⁶

¹⁹ Eph 2:5

²⁰ 2 Cor 12:10

²¹ Mt 5:13, 14

²² 2 Cor 11:30, 2 Cor 12:9, Heb 10:39

²³ Ro 1:16, 17

²⁴ Neh 8:1

²⁵ Lk 24:27

²⁶ Dt 32:47

because it connects us to the life-giver – to the one who, in a clear allusion to the OT passage ‘man cannot live on bread alone but on every word that proceeds from the mouth of God’²⁷, called himself the ‘bread of life’.²⁸ As we read (and ‘feed’ upon) this word of life, the bible encourages us in our love for Christ-in-God, corrects us in our sometimes-distorted perceptions of Christ-in-God, and rebukes us for loveless, faithless and hopeless sinfulness towards Christ-in-God. It is truly our ‘life’.

11. The study of the bible both at home and in the church is central to our love for God and we as a church are therefore committed to its centrality in our church life. The centrality of the written word as a means of knowing the living Word – the Lord Jesus – is expressed in our mission statement:

Know the Word, Live the Word, Proclaim the Word...

12. The mission statement for Eastgate Bible Church reflects a declaration of a serious commitment to know, live **AND** proclaim the great truths of scripture so that, in the dynamic of Christian knowing, living and proclamation; God’s excellencies and Glory in Christ would be clearly evidenced.

13. There are four critical themes that make up Eastgate’s mission statement. Firstly, as made obvious by the paragraph above, we are orientated towards the preaching and teaching of God’s Word with relevance and faithfulness. It is worth repeating that without the written Word we cannot meet the living, incarnate Word; that is, we cannot meet Jesus. The use of capitalised ‘W’ in ‘Word’ is therefore deliberate and refers to knowing not only the written ‘word’ but also knowing Jesus the living ‘Word’. As mentioned above, we believe that through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can meet the Lord Jesus in one form or another in every page of the bible there to be, whatever the case might be, informed, corrected, rebuked and encouraged in our understanding and affections towards Him. To know, live and proclaim the Word is therefore to know, live and proclaim the Lord Jesus²⁹.

14. Secondly, we are very much aware that an emphasis on *knowing* to the detriment of *living* turns a church into a mausoleum. We do not want to be a church tomb therefore we take Jesus teaching in the parable of the wise and foolish builders³⁰ seriously; that is, those who hear His words and *do them* are wise and anchored to a sure foundation (Him), while those who hear **but do not do** are foolish and quickly swept away. Our mission statement is therefore a declaration of gracious orthodoxy and faithful, loving

²⁷ Dt 8:3, Mk 4:4

²⁸ Jn 6:35

²⁹ see also the Eastgate values statement

³⁰ Mt 7:24-27

orthopraxy – the commitment to right knowing *and* right living. We believe that right knowing and right living are two sides of the same spiritual coin. We do not believe Christianity is mere intellectual assent decoupled from real life.

15. The truth of the Word calls for an actualised response: a response that ultimately equates to increasing love for Jesus and for others³¹ and, out of this love, Christlike changes not only in mental understanding but in behaviour and attitude. The bible articulates this using the metaphor of fruit³². We therefore want to be a people that upon knowing the word bear good fruit, fruit that will last. We want to know that year-by-year, through dependence on the Holy Spirit, our lives are becoming more and more like our master the Lord Jesus. We also want as a Church community to encourage each other on in this calling out of a deep and growing love for each other³³ which is why we hold personal accountability to other members of the church and the practice of church discipline as important (see also the Eastgate Church Discipline Article on our website).

16. Again, it is worth repeating, dependence on the power of the Holy Spirit is especially important here in avoiding self-righteous, works-based Christianity or, alternatively, self-recriminating and impotent ‘cheap grace’ Christianity – both of which are sinful and dishonouring to God. We believe to live the Word is to live in continual dependence upon the Lord Jesus and his indwelling Spirit. We do not want to preach a message that neglects the realities of living in a world



stained and damaged by sin – a complex, demanding and often disheartening world. Nor do we want to preach a watered down message simply because of our own weak faith or the pressures of a secularising society. Rather in knowing *and* living the Word, we want to encounter the exceedingly high standards of God’s perfections, his consequent expectations³⁴ of twenty first century humans and their subsequent convergence in the work and person of His precious son. In this way, as our filthy-rag³⁵ righteousness and our apathies are exposed by His infinite holiness and His infinite love in the cross, all of us will be enticed away from futile dependence on dead works and/or cheap grace to our only hope Christ Jesus.

17. Thirdly, It will be this ‘boasting’, this ‘look what the Lord has done’ thankfulness overflowing in church life that we believe will most glorify God. Our commitment to a proclamation of the Word in Eastgate’s mission is therefore not only a commitment to

³¹ Lk 10:27

³² Col 1:10,

³³ Heb 10:24

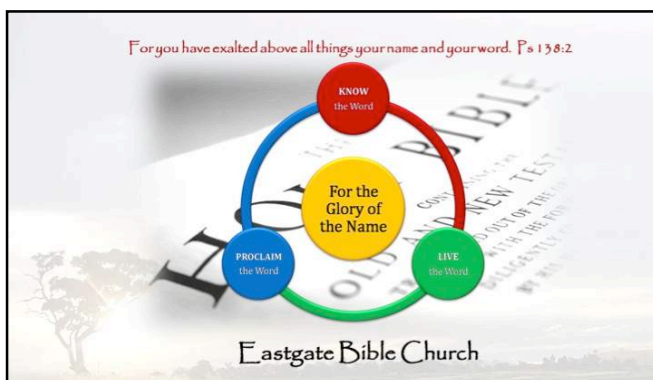
³⁴ being as they are expressions of His character

³⁵ Isa 64:6

individual and collective evangelism³⁶ but also a continual commitment to knowing and living the Word of God. In line with St Francis of Assisi's famous assertion that Christians should always preach and 'sometimes with words'; knowing and living the word means the *lives* of Eastgate members should preach a grace-sermon just as much as their *words*. This of course is not to diminish in any way the importance of the spoken word of evangelism remembering that St Francis was himself a preacher.

An 'Eastwards' Orientation in our Vision

18. The mission statement of Eastgate Bible Church has, as it's ultimate objective (as a *vision*), the 'Glory of His name'³⁷. To genuinely know, to authentically live and to fervently proclaim the Word is to lift high the name of Jesus and therefore the name of God. This is not a one-off thing but an ongoing cycle in which lives are increasingly changed and the Name is increasingly glorified. As a church we recognise our need for the Word – for Jesus – as an everyday need. The ellipsis (the '...') at the end of the mission statement thus signifies the 'ongoingness' of our mission. As a church we need to 'know, live and proclaim the Word' for His glory as an ongoing cycle. Therefore our intent, in His grace, is for this mission and vision to become the heart-cry of every Eastgate member. From those called to executive work to those engaged in blue collar employment; from the children of the church to the elderly, from married to single folk, from street ministries to military ministries, from home to work, from church-planting to retail, it is our congregational desire to know, live and proclaim the Word *for the Glory of the Name*.



19. This vision for the glory of the Name is cast in the imperative by biblical promises of Jesus' return. Like the OT temple, we are orientated towards the return of our Lord Jesus in a spiritual sense as the temple was in a physical sense. It is to the east of the OT temple

that Jesus told his disciples he would return in the same manner he was about to leave. The Prophet Zechariah gives a vivid image of this when he describes the Lord Jesus descending upon the earth to the east of the temple and splitting in two the Mount of Olives³⁸.

20. With this evocative image in mind we are orientated towards the return of the Lord Jesus as our calling and vision knowing that His return now is nearer then it ever was. Though we do not know the day or the hour it could be before the eyes reading this

³⁶ See also Values Statement

³⁷ There are many ways of conceptualising mission, vision and values. Very simply we see the vision as the goal or the endstate while the mission is the means of attaining that goal. Values are those desirable personal and collective traits that enable the mission.

³⁸ Zech 14:4

sentence reach the end of the page. The bible tells us that *He who is coming will soon come*³⁹ and this means that for us as the Eastgate Community there should be a sense of urgency and a sense of expectancy about all that we do. The bible tells us to redeem time and to number our days very carefully. This means we are to number them as a man numbers a precious commodity because even with a ‘full’ life (70 or 80 years) our lives are indeed very short – they are in fact, in the context of eternity, just a ‘morning mist’⁴⁰.

21. To be ready *any* time (as is expressed in the story of the wise and foolish servants and other kingdom parables⁴¹) means to be ready *all* the time. This means our Church vision, our calling, is a calling to faithful readiness. As a church we wish to one day personally and joyfully answer Jesus end-times question ‘will I find faith on the earth?’⁴² with a humble ‘yes’ and to hear the most precious affirmation of all: ‘well done good and faithful servant, enter into your rest’.

22. Our vision is therefore:

Faithful to the Call, Ready for the Return – for the Glory of the Name.

An ‘Eastwards’ Orientation in our Values

23. As a part of the calling to be ***faithful and ready*** we have sensed the Spirit’s leading in articulating seven key values for the church. Our values serve as both markers and goals: as characteristics and aspirations.



24. In a very real sense our values, as indicators and aspirations, reflect the ‘now but not yet’ idea of Christ’s Kingdom. We recognise that Christ has inaugurated His Kingdom with the victory of the cross and the resurrection but not yet consummated it with the complete and comprehensive rule of His return - therefore we recognise a ‘now but not yet’ sense to His Kingdom. This also applies in a ‘now but not yet’ sense to the fulfilment of these values in the kingdom rule over *every* area of our lives – thoughts, actions and attitudes as well as jobs, hobbies and other

³⁹ Heb 10:37

⁴⁰ Ps 90:12, Jam 4:14

⁴¹ Mt 25

⁴² Lk 18:8

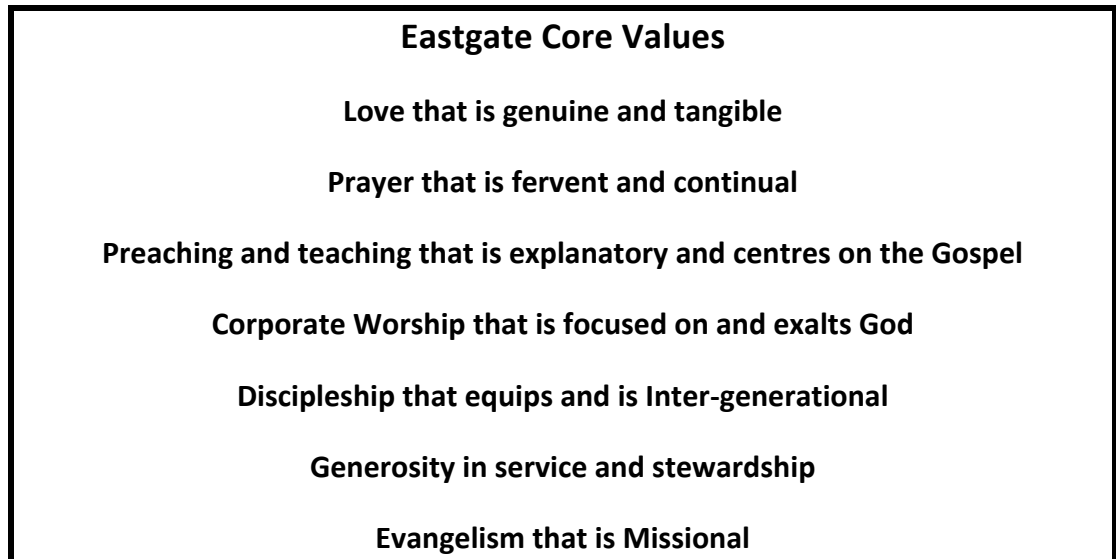
activities. In our values then we recognise that we are certainly not yet, as a church, as loving, as prayerful, as biblically faithful, as worshipful, as intergenerational, as generous or evangelical as we should be but at the same time we recognise that if we truly belong to Jesus then one day *we will be* – gloriously so. The important thing here is an upward vector, an upward trajectory, in the living out of these values. As such they become both indicators of our progress and aspirations of the ‘not yet’ as He calls us to be more fruitful in these areas.

25. Thus our values help us to see our need for Him as we see our need in ‘the now’ for greater love, more fervent prayer, more biblical faithfulness, more profound worship, more intergenerational care, more generosity and more missional zeal – the perfections of which are still to come in the ‘not yet’. What bridges the gap between the now (our insufficiencies) and the not yet (our ultimate perfection later) is the work of Christ through the Spirit. This work manifests itself in lives lived in Godly training⁴³, repentance and faithfulness. We have articulated this in our mission as a dynamic of ‘knowing’, ‘living’ and ‘proclaiming’ the Word; that is, knowing, living and proclaiming Jesus. Thus our values are both ‘aspirational’ and referential. They are the embodiment of what we pray we will become and they are spotlights on where we are right now. They therefore express our need to grow in Jesus as we know Him better, Live like Him better and Proclaim Him better. The mission, vision and values of Eastgate therefore underpin the decisions we make, infuse the ministries of the church, and are the embodiment of what we hope to become – all for His glory.

26. Putting the church’s vision, mission and values together then: our vision is our calling (our objective, our goal). Our mission is the means of fulfilling this calling and our values are the markers by which we can judge the ‘success’ of our mission and the markers of thankfulness to God as He fulfils His calling on our lives. As members of Eastgate we want to be found faithful to the call and ready for Jesus’ return for the glory of His name (our vision). As members of this church we are committed to knowing, living and proclaiming the Word (our mission) and the characteristics of this mission and calling will be love, prayer, preaching, worship, discipleship, generosity and evangelism (our core values).

⁴³ 1 Tim 4:7, 8

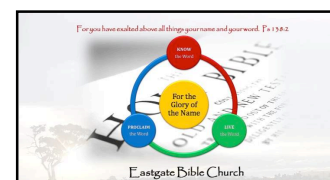
27. The values of Eastgate Bible Church plainly stated are as follows:



28. Thinking through the Eastgate character in this way enables us to put practical details into where we are going as a church. This gives us the direction in which the first steps must be taken. In our vision, values and mission we have our ‘marching orders’. With this in mind each value and its theological underpinning (the ‘know’ of our mission) is expressed below along with both current and future ministries where these values can be lived out more fully (the ‘live’ part of our mission). In these sections you will also find the R4J Vision. Without being too daggy this is how, in general terms, we would like the relevant ministry to look when Jesus returns. Each year, at the first members meeting, which we have called a C&C Meeting (‘Confirmation and Calling’ Meeting) we will briefly summarise how each of the ministry areas are going (confirmation) and what new ministries or faith goals we feel the Lord is calling us to at that time (calling). Additionally the website, under the ‘live’ moniker, has the ‘one page plan’ for each ministry area. The one page plan is a synopsis of each ministry area and its relation to our mission, vision and values.

29. A faith goal, alluded to above, is simply a goal associated with a ministry area that is required for that ministry to flourish and is impossible to achieve without divine intervention which then provides a focus for prayer. The idea of the faith goal is therefore to depend on God – especially in the sustaining and flourishing of the church’s ministries. Faith goals will be updated from year to year and published on the website. At the second and final C&C meeting for the year the idea is that the church spends time in praise and thanksgiving for answered faith-goals and continues to pursue the Lord’s direction in unanswered goals. Make sure you check the website each February to see the updated faith goals.

30. What is worth mentioning at this point is the fact that we at Eastgate see our primary calling worked out in the



workplace, home place and learning-place. Therefore many of the church ministries exist to support you in your ministry area 'out there'. It would be most detrimental to our mission and vision if we become an insulated, 'centre-wards' organisation tightly wound with various church programs and very little outward focus. Therefore we acknowledge that many members at Eastgate, while committing to regular worship times, and perhaps one other Church activity each week, will not be primarily concerned with filling positions within the church. Instead they will be concerned with a heartfelt call to make Jesus famous in their home, their work and their learning places with the Church assisting them wherever possible to fulfil this call.

31. Nonetheless, there are those who are called and gifted to fulfil specific tasks within Eastgate, tasks articulated in some detail below. Just as it would be sinful to ignore the call to be a missionary in the workplace and a mentor in the home place, it would also be sinful to ignore the gifts of encouragement and up-building given to some members for the equipping of the saints⁴⁴. Moreover, we must never forget God has given us *all* a responsibility to encourage one another onto love and good works⁴⁵. It is wise for us to consider Jesus words, particularly in a culture of entertainment and amusement, that any service in His name, any following after Jesus in acts of service, will be a slog and require certain pleasures to be painfully sacrificed: "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me".⁴⁶ To wisely consider Jesus words is to realise that following him requires us to deny 'stuff' and to take on a burden, His burden. We should wisely consider what burden Jesus wants us to carry at Eastgate and what, time-wise in busy schedules, may have to be denied knowing that in it all He is worth it and that 'He who is coming will soon come'.

['May the Lord who gives life to the dead and sees things "that are not as though they were"⁴⁷ make it so.' Amen.]



⁴⁴ Eph 4:11,12,13

⁴⁵ Heb 10:24

⁴⁶ Mt 16:24

⁴⁷ Rom 4:17

Eastgate Core Value: Love that is genuine and tangible.

‘Know’

32. We value love as the sum and foundation of all Scripture⁴⁸. We affirm that the fullest expression of love is the Son of God, Jesus Christ, laying down his life for sinners on the cross⁴⁹. We recognise that we only love in a Godly way because God first loved us⁵⁰. Our love then is an expression of God’s gracious love to us and in turn enables us to truly love others⁵¹. We know that if we possess all spiritual gifts, have mountain-moving faith and Wikipedian knowledge... without love – we are nothing, and gain nothing⁵².



33. We value love as an indispensable mark of the Christian life, and the measure and test of this love to God is the desire for whole-hearted obedience to his Word⁵³. The measure and test of this love to our neighbours is laying down our lives for them⁵⁴. We value love that lacks self-concern, seeks our neighbour’s good, and is measured by how much it gives to that end. We value love as a principle of action as well as emotion. Deeds of mercy are an expression of compassion for people, both the church and unchurched. We value active love for others as a mark of a true disciple of Jesus and evidence that the Holy Spirit is bringing forth fruit in us⁵⁵ as the evidence of a changed life and witness to a needy world⁵⁶.

‘Live and Proclaim’ Eastgate Ministries of Love

R4J Vision: *Practical and pastoral (shepherding) love for each other in day-to-day life. This means praying for each other, visiting and being visited for fellowship, practical helps (in house moves, meals, house / lawn care during times of illness), help in sickness, hospital and prison visits, following up those who are irregularly attending in loving and caring ways, and anything else in accord with the leading of the Spirit of God. A church at the return that, if nothing else, is known because ‘they really love each other’.*

⁴⁸ Mt 22:35-40

⁴⁹ Jn 10:11, 15, 17; 15:13; Ro 5:8; 1 Jn 3:16

⁵⁰ 1 Jn 4:9-10, 19

⁵¹ Eph 4:32-5:2

⁵² 1 Co 13:1-3

⁵³ Jn 14:15, 21, 23; 1 Jn 5:3

⁵⁴ 1 Jn 3:16

⁵⁵ Gal 5:22

⁵⁶ 1 Pe 2:12

Eastgate Pastoral Care

34. **What.** Physical and Spiritual care for members at the practical level. Occurs primarily in Community Groups (CG) and overseen by elders in conjunction with CG leaders. Includes follow up of long term absences, visits, calls, encouragement, prayer, counselling where appropriate and teaching programs where appropriate. Includes practical support integrated with other ministries such as hospitality, prayer, finances and discipleship.
35. **When.** Ongoing
36. **Who.** Members one for another. Pastoral Care Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator Elders, CG leaders in conjunction with elders and members.
37. **Responsibilities of Coordinator.** With the support and oversight of the elders ensure members are pastorally cared for through the churches various ministries. Ensure members are encouraged and equipped to care for each other. Train and mentor Assistant Coordinator. Oversee Hospitality, Meal and Welcome Ministries. Prepare and submit update for C&C Meeting regards progress, needs, prayer points and faith goals. Organise specific activities for the Eastgate 'Love' Focus Week.

Hospitality Ministries – Fortnightly Fellowship Lunch

38. **What.** Fortnightly lunch as a means of showing love to newcomers at Eastgate. Easily transportable cold and hot food to share.
39. **When.** Runs each fortnight with members bringing food plus extra to share with newcomers. Some Sundays are a pizza Sunday.
40. **Who.** Two Coordinators plus Church Members bringing food week to week.
41. **Responsibilities of Coordinators.** Organise updates to church about ministry, compile yearly update about ministry progression and needs, organise ancillary resources (plastic cups, plates, urn, coffee, tea etc) Train and mentor Assistant Coordinator. Prepare and submit update for C&C Meeting regards progress, needs and prayer points. Update One Page Plan where required⁵⁷

Hospitality – Meal Ministry

42. **What.** Emergency or Crisis meals for members undergoing significant trials, e.g. Hospitalisation, New Babies, etc
43. **When.** Case by Case basis and in conjunction with pastoral care ministry as needs arise.

⁵⁷ The One Page Plan (OPP) is a quick means of articulating what the proposed ministry is all about, how it ties into the mission, vision and values of the church and what resources are required for the ministry. The OPPs are available on the website.

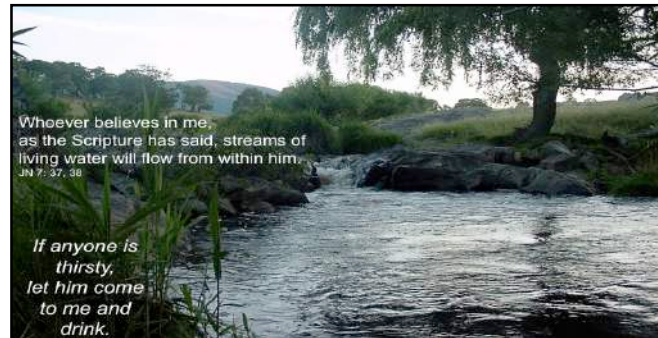
44. **Who.** Two Coordinators plus church members supplying meals under coordinators direction.
45. **Responsibilities of Coordinators.** Organise updates to church about ministry, compile yearly update about ministry progression and needs, organise meal roster based on needs Train and mentor Assistant Coordinator. Prepare and submit update for C&C Meeting regards progress, needs and prayer points.

Hospitality – Welcome Ministry

46. **What.** Organise Guest book and send welcome letter to newcomers who fill out address book. Organise welcome packs for newcomers.
47. **When.** Weekly as a part of church service.
48. **Who.** Two Coordinators plus church members where required.
49. **Responsibilities of Coordinators.** Organise updates to church about ministry, compile yearly update about ministry progression and needs, organise welcome letter from pastor and appropriate updates, organise welcome packs and guest book. Train and mentor Assistant Coordinator. Prepare and submit update for C&C Meeting regards progress, needs and prayer points.
50. **Other Ministries?**
51. **What.** Community Based, Sudanese? Foster Care? Nursing Home Visits? Mental Health?
52. **Status.** Pending?

Eastgate Core Value: Prayer that is fervent and continual 'Know'

53. We value prayer because God has spoken to us in and through the contents of the Bible and we then speak to God about Himself, ourselves, and people in His world, shaping what we say as response to



what He has said. This two-way conversation is meant to continue as long as life lasts and demonstrates our ongoing dependence on Jesus our Great High Priest. How we think about prayer, and the priority we give to it, reflects the truth of what we think about God and the priority we give Him. Prayer continually carries us back to God, depending on Him to work, save, bless, and to protect. God's great movements in this world have been conditioned on, continued by, and fashioned by prayer. Little prayer leads to limited power. God is all-sufficient to supply our every need for the work of his kingdom⁵⁸, yet we often go without because we do not pray⁵⁹.

54. We value both private prayer as taught by Jesus⁶⁰, and prayer in company with others as modelled by the early church⁶¹. In prayer, we express: adoration and praise for who God is; confession of our sins and requests for forgiveness; thanks for God's goodness; and petitions for ourselves and intercession for others. We value the Psalms as models of corporate and individual prayers. We know that all our prayers are to be made in Jesus' name⁶² because He is our Mediator, the One who secures our access to the Father, and we look to Jesus as our intercessor in the Father's presence. We value a spirit of prayer, both in our personal lives and the life of the church, as the obvious evidence of a genuine work of God and the obvious evidence of a Church dependent on Him.

'Live and Proclaim' Eastgate Ministries of Prayer.

R4J Vision: *Genuine, authentic prayer in the Spirit. An individual and collective mindset towards prayer as the primary response in trial, victory and uncertainty. Prayer individually as attitudinal not merely functional i.e. as the practice of the presence of God in everyday living through an attitude of awareness and need. Prayer collectively in church services and home groups. A praying church and a watching church at the return.*

55. **What.** Regular encouragement at church gatherings to pray as individuals and as families in the home.

⁵⁸ 2 Co 9:8

⁵⁹ Jas 4:2

⁶⁰ Mat 6:5-13

⁶¹ Ac 1:14; 4:24

⁶² Jn 14:13-14; 15:7, 16; 16:23-24

- 56. **When.** Ongoing
- 57. **Who.** All
- 58. **Responsibilities.** Pray regularly as led by the Spirit of God for others

Collective Prayer – Community Groups

- 59. **What.** Regular prayer as part of CGs and dedicated evenings of prayer as part of weekly CG cycle.
- 60. **When.** Ongoing as part of CG cycle
- 61. **Who.** CG leaders.
- 62. **Responsibilities.** CG leaders to coordinate regular prayer meetings as part of CGs. Organise specific activities for Prayer Value Focus Week.

Calls to Prayer

- 63. **What.** Semi-regular, as required, as called, dedicated prayer meetings.
- 64. **When.** Ongoing but approximately every three months
- 65. **Who.** Elders but can initiated by anyone in conjunction with elders, boot camp style, fasting with celebratory meals at end.
- 66. **Responsibilities.** Organise prayer and fasting times, place to meet, time available etc

Eastgate Core Value: Preaching and teaching that is explanatory and holds the Gospel as central

'Know'



67. We value the Word of God as the primary means God has appointed to reveal Himself to human beings in this present world⁶³. At Eastgate Bible Church we seek to preach and teach in a way that explains the Bible, without undue dependence on other books, so that all may know God more fully. We value the Scripture as objective truth⁶⁴ which can be understood, and agree the Bible still speaks with authority and relevance to all peoples and cultures across time. We place the highest priority on “word ministries”, including preaching but we also seek to elevate the role of Scripture in small groups, evangelism, counselling, and discipleship⁶⁵.

68. We value a culture of learning where everyone is seeking to know God more fully through His Word. Therefore the Bible is our standard for what we should think, feel, do, and say. We acknowledge that we can only learn what God wants us to know as we trust in the enabling of the Holy Spirit because He is the one who is both the originator and explainer of the Bible⁶⁶. The Holy Spirit’s work is to teach us all things and remind us of everything Jesus has said to us⁶⁷. This work of sanctification is by grace, through faith.

69. We recognise the Word of God must be individually applied to every area of life, and not simply listened to by ears. We must be doers of the Word and not hearers only⁶⁸. When we grow in our knowledge of who God truly is there will inevitably be a response reflected through our actions⁶⁹. This response is what is meant by the fruit of the Holy Spirit⁷⁰. We value the centrality of the gospel in all that we proclaim because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes⁷¹. The message humanity most needs to hear is what Jesus accomplished through His death on the cross. Through the preaching of the gospel the Kingdom of God advances and captive sinners are set free⁷².

70. We acknowledge historically different emphases and interpretations of the bible as well as the influences of post modernity on biblical hermeneutics. Nonetheless we believe the reformation principle of one meaning many applications is a sound one and, more importantly, we believe that when we as Christians humbly seek the right

⁶³ Jn 1:1; Heb 1:1-4

⁶⁴ Jn 17:17

⁶⁵ See <http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/about/who/>

⁶⁶ 1Co 2:14

⁶⁷ Jn 14:26

⁶⁸ Php 4:9; Heb 4:2; Jas 1:25

⁶⁹ Jas 1:22-23

⁷⁰ Gal 5:22-23

⁷¹ Ro 1:16

⁷² Ro 6:17-18; Rev 1:5

interpretation, in dependence upon the illumining power of the Holy Spirit, He is pleased to give us that interpretation so that we can live what we read. We value earnest questions about biblical interpretation at Eastgate and strive to provide a safe place where such questions can be resolved through gracious discussion, prayer and the leading of the Holy Spirit as we interpret, understand and obey together God's precious word.

'Live and Proclaim' Explanatory, Gospel Centred Preaching.

***R4J Vision:** Preaching that introduces and reintroduces people to the excellencies, the specialness, the greatness (i.e. the 'Glory') of God, of Christ incarnated, Christ crucified, Christ resurrected and Christ returning. Preaching that corrects, rebukes and encourages with great patience and careful instruction. A safe church where preachers and preaching are gracious, humble and bold. A church found to have rightly divided the word of truth at the return.*

Sunday Preaching

71. **What.** Preaching as a part of Sunday Worship Time.
72. **When.** Ongoing
73. **Who.** Elders with prominent teaching abilities and other Elders when required. Guest speakers suitably tested. Specified Senior Preaching Elder.
74. **Responsibilities.** Organise preaching rosters, supply HG ministries with study questions from Sunday preaching, train and mentor potential preachers, yearly 2 week study retreat,

School of Preachers (see also 'Sunday Night Unplugged')

75. **What.** Preaching training and mentoring as part of Sunday night semi-regular services. Review meetings.
76. **When.** Ongoing but in conjunction with other ministries and callings
77. **Who.** Preaching Elder plus Elders with prominent teaching abilities to mentor and other Elders when required.
78. **Responsibilities.** Organise Sunday night semi-regular roster. Organise evening services (see also 'school of worship'), Identify and encourage those with teaching, preaching gifts. Provide feedback, training for gifted members. Create home grown courses using local and external resources (see also church plant under evangelism value). Train and mentor Assistant Coordinator. Prepare and submit update for C&C Meeting regards progress, needs and prayer points. Organise specific activities for Teaching Value Focus Week.

School of Teachers

79. **What.** Teaching training and mentoring as part of small group ministries – youth, men’s, women’s (KYB -Know Your Bible) etc.
80. **When.** Ongoing but in conjunction with other ministries and callings
81. **Who.** CG Coordinator and leaders with teaching gifts to mentor and teach other teachers in conjunction with elders. Use Assistant concept, Train, mentor and then multiply.
82. **Responsibilities.** Identify and encourage those with teaching, preaching gifts. Provide feedback, training for gifted members. Create home grown courses using local and external resources (see also church plant under evangelism value). Ongoing supervision and encouragement for teachers. Coordinator of each ministry provides regular feedback to elders about progression. Train and mentor Assistant Coordinator. Prepare and submit update for C&C Meeting regards progress, needs and prayer points.

Sunday Night Unplugged

83. **What.** Focussed, topical-thematic preaching/teaching/discussion and or experimental/developmental worship events as part of Sunday night semi-regular services. Includes but not limited to Membership ‘Coffee and Credo Nights’.
84. **When.** Ongoing but in conjunction with the needs of other ministries and callings
85. **Who.** Local and external subject matter experts
86. **Responsibilities.** Leaders and/or suitably gifted members to coordinate. Organise Sunday night semi-regular roster. Organise evening meetings (see also ‘school of worship’), Identify and encourage those with teaching, preaching gifts. Provide opportunities for congregational interaction via question and answer, structured debate etc... Train and mentor Assistant Coordinator. Prepare and submit update for C&C Meeting regards progress, needs and prayer points.

Eastgate Website

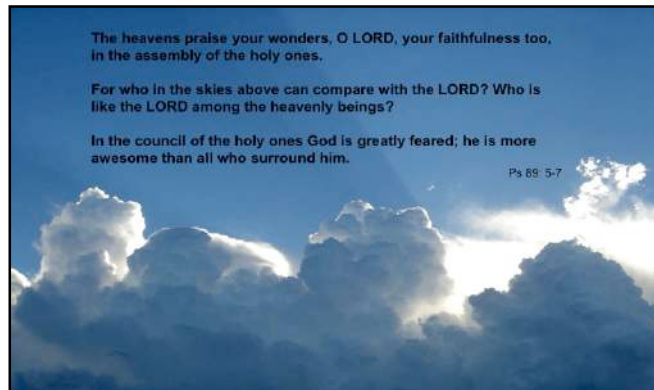
87. **What.** Website as a repository of teaching articles, blogs, discussions, Q and A, sermons etc
88. **When.** Ongoing
89. **Who.** Elders for content. At least one Webmaster for technicalities.
90. **Responsibilities.** Ensure website is contemporary and engaging. Ensure calendars, planners are updated regularly. Input content from teaching / preaching staff and other members as required. Train and mentor Assistant Webmaster. Prepare and submit update for Annual C&C Meeting regards progress, needs and prayer points.



Eastgate Core Value: Worship that is focused on and exalts God

'Know'

91. We are Eastgate Bible Church because it was through the east gate and in the eastern courtyard that the people, the community of God, gathered to feast, to hear, to sing, to worship. We are orientated towards the 'East' in our worship because it was in the eastern courtyard⁷³ that the Levitical singers led the people in worshipful singing. We love to worship. But in spirit and truth. We believe that a song should preach a sermon or be a response to a Christ-glorifying truth. We believe in the leading of the Spirit in worship. We believe in structured freedom in worship. We believe that if God is not lifted up when our worship is vapid sensationalism.



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92. We value the Word of God as the primary means God has appointed to reveal to us how we are to worship Him. At Eastgate Bible Church we seek to promote worship that centres and focuses on our God and Saviour Jesus Christ through the working of the Holy Spirit in and through the people of God. Worship is giving God His worth which is exceedingly great. Worship is that which is owed to God by all of God's creation. Psalm 148 tells us that the angels of heaven, the stars and planets of the universe, all of the physical world, the mountains and trees, the animals in the world, and all peoples of the world praise to God. He is worthy of our praise for He is the Creator of all.

93. Worship is about God and not us. Therefore, our worship of God must focus on God and exalt Him. We can only rightly worship God when we have experienced His mercies in saving us from our sins, death, and Hell. Our response must be one of surrendering all that we are and have to Him for this is "our spiritual act of worship."⁷⁴ We value worship that reveals, as Jonathon Edwards once said, God's diverse excellencies and therefore stirs up our affections for Him. All of life is to be a worship to God which means all activities done for Him are a way of expressing 'worth' of God in day to day living.⁷⁵ This includes the apparently menial tasks such as dishes, nappies, lawn mowing as well as the 'important' tasks of income earning and study. And of course it also includes the so-called 'sacred' tasks of praying, singing, giving and listening in regular church services. Nonetheless, even with a healthy day to day, minute to minute concept of worship it is important to realise the Bible teaches that those who are the Lord's people set aside focused times for individual, family, and corporate worship of God⁷⁶. Moreover when this purposeful, regular time of worship occurs something special

⁷³ 2 Chr 5:12

⁷⁴ Ro 12:1

⁷⁵ Col 3:23, 1 Cor 10:31

⁷⁶ Ps 100; Heb 10:25

happens in the spiritual places⁷⁷ and God promises to be with his people in a special way. Thus, when Eastgate Bible church gathers for corporate worship it is our desire that:

- a. God Himself is the focus of our worship, for it is His Name and His Word that we seek to exalt above all things⁷⁸. In this way our worship times, regardless of style, musical accompaniment or oratory eloquence would ‘puncture the ceiling’ as we seek to experience the transcendent presence of God.
- b. The preaching be biblical, fervent, God-exalting, and personally helpful⁷⁹.
- c. Our worship experience be “in spirit and in truth” and engages our head, our hearts, and our wills⁸⁰ in joyful expressions.
- d. Both contemporary and traditional styles, the best of the old and the new, are valued in the way in which we express our affections for God.
- e. Those involved in facilitating worship times seek the leading and presence of the Spirit and strive for technical mastery as a pleasing sacrifice and as an encouragement to God’s people.

94. We believe that the family is a microcosm of the church and that family worship in the home is a special thing that leads families closer to God. It is our desire:

- a. Every member of Eastgate learns the joys of personal worship, Bible reading, prayer, and singing⁸¹.
- b. Married couples learn the joy of partnered Bible reading, prayer, and singing⁸².
- c. Families learn the joy of regular Bible reading, prayer, and singing to the Lord⁸³.

⁷⁷ Heb 10:19-25, Jam 4:8, Mat 18:20, 1 Cor 5:4

⁷⁸ Ps 138:2

⁷⁹ Ac 20:27; 2 Ti 3:16-17

⁸⁰ Jn 4:23

⁸¹ Ps 101:1; Col 3:16

⁸² Eph 5:25-27; 1 Pe 3:7

⁸³ Ps 78:1-7

‘Live and Proclaim’ God exalting Worship

***R4J Vision:** Worship that is a fore-image of Heaven. Satisfaction, pleasure, thankfulness and joy in the Holy Spirit. True repentance, true ‘changes of mind’ towards God in Christ and a desire and eagerness to see Him uplifted in all that we do. A Church that explodes in joy not in shame at the return.*

Sunday Worship Times (See also the website for the Eastgate Music Ministry Article)

95. **What.** Worship times involving musical accompaniment, congregational singing, liturgies, items and various other biblically legitimate forms of worshipful expression in Sunday Church.
96. **When.** Ongoing
97. **Who.** Worship Coordinator plus one other. Musicians as appropriate. Worship / Song Leaders as appropriate. Integrated with School of Worship and Sunday Night Unplugged.
98. **Responsibilities.** Organise music rosters and integrate with main roster, organise practice times, organise songs for Sunday in conjunction with worship / music leaders, attend yearly TWIST conference, help organise other gifted members to attend. Encourage and facilitate family worship by teaching, providing resources, org CCLI admin in conjunction with Secretary/Treasurer. Train and mentor Assistant Coordinator. Support School of Worship wherever possible. Prepare and submit update for C&C Meeting regards progress, needs and prayer points. Organise specific activities for Worship Value Focus Week.

School of Worship / Sunday Night Unplugged

99. **What.** Worship leading / Musician training and mentoring as part of Sunday night semi-regular services
100. **When.** Ongoing but in conjunction with other ministries and callings. School of Worship Meets every fortnight and plays twice monthly at evening services and twice yearly at morning services.
101. **Who.** Coordinator plus one other. Musicians as appropriate. Worship / Song Leaders as appropriate. Works in conjunction with Music Coordinator.
102. **Responsibilities.** Organise rosters (if required) and integrate with main roster, organise practice times, organise songs for Sunday in conjunction with worship / music leaders, attend yearly TWIST conference, help organise other gifted members to attend. Identify and encourage other suitably gifted people. Train and mentor Assistant Coordinator. Prepare and submit update for C&C Meeting regards progress, needs and prayer points. Help with Worship Value Week.

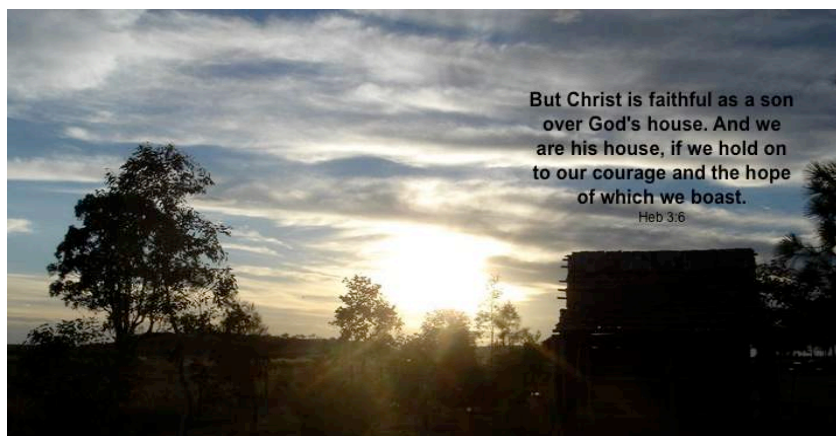
Eastgate Core Value: Discipleship that equips and is Intergenerational

'Know'

103. We value discipleship as a God-ordained means for the growth in grace of all those who consider themselves followers of Jesus Christ. A key element of the Great Commission was that those who follow Christ must "Go and make disciples." Jesus elaborated on what this means by telling his followers that those who belong to Him must be baptised in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Baptism is a sign of one's being brought into a relationship of grace with our Triune God through the working of the Holy Spirit bringing the individual to repentance of sin and saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

104. Jesus also instructed that those who claim to be His followers by the sign of baptism were to be taught to obey all things that He himself had taught and commanded them⁸⁴. This instruction is to be both an equipping work and a multiplying work. This means that Eastgate Bible Church is committed to discipleship that enables the Lord's people to not only *know* His Word, but also to *live* His Word and therefore to *proclaim* His Word with grace hued words *and* lives.

105. We believe the Scriptures teach that this kind of discipleship must be intergenerational. The primary area of ministry for believers is the older to the younger and of course the parental responsibility to their children. Parents are to teach their children in the ways of the Lord⁸⁵. Older men are to teach the younger men⁸⁶. Older women are to teach younger women⁸⁷.



⁸⁴ Matt. 28:19-20

⁸⁵ Dt.6:4-9; Ps.78:1-7; Eph.6:4

⁸⁶ 2 Tim 2:2

⁸⁷ Titus 2:3-5

106. Discipleship involves teaching by both precept and example. We believe the essential elements of discipleship includes learning, practicing and increasing in the following:

Distinctives of Discipleship

Obedience to the lordship of Christ in daily practice.

Consistent intake of the Scriptures as a daily habit.

Purity and Holiness of life as a firm commitment.

Regularity in church attendance and involvement.

Consistent Christian fellowship with other believers.

Service to others.

Eager learning.

Eagerly desiring Spiritual gifts as a means of pursuing love and building up other Christians⁸⁸

Bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit visibly.

Generous giving

Participating in the Great Commission

Imitating Jesus Christ.

107. Effective discipleship flows out of relationship. It is our desire to develop rich God-honouring relationships within the church. Eastgate Bible Church will seek to promote this kind of discipleship and atmosphere for relationship through the following ministries:

⁸⁸ 1 Cor 14:1, 1 Cor 12:31

‘Live and Proclaim’ Discipleship

R4J Vision: *Discipleship that values the very old and the very young and everyone in between. A community where the older teach the younger and the younger share authentically. A community where each follows Jesus in loving obedience and each encourages the other in following Jesus. A community of faith-full disciples at the return.*

Community Groups

108. **What.** Worship, teaching, prayer, pastoral care, fellowship times for small groups meeting weekly or fortnightly or monthly.
109. **When.** Ongoing
110. **Who.** CG Coordinator plus one other. CG Leaders suitably mature, gifted, called and tested.
111. **Responsibilities.** Organise teaching in conjunction with Sunday preaching. Conduct and encourage pastoral care within home group. Facilitate small group worship and prayer in conjunction with Worship coordinator where appropriate. CG Coord Train and mentor Assistant Coordinator. CG Leader prepare and submit update for C&C Meeting regards progress, needs and prayer points, CG Leaders train and mentor Assistant leader. Organise Discipleship training where appropriate. Organise specific activities for Discipleship Value Focus Week.

Church Leadership / Membership / Commitment

112. **What.** Church elders and deacons as well as office bearers (secretary, treasurer – see Generosity Value)
113. **When.** As required.
114. **Who.** Elders as called, Deacons as called, Secretary and Treasurer as called. Members as called. See also Chapter 4 for the Church Constitution.
115. **Responsibilities.** Elders lead Eastgate in submission to the head of Eastgate: the Lord Jesus. ‘Shepherd the sheep’ through pastoral care and oversight of Home Groups. Organise preaching, teaching and training. Organise updates to church about leadership, compile yearly update about ministry progression and needs. Train and mentor where required. Prepare and submit update for C&C Meeting regards progress, needs and prayer points.

Sonrise Kids / Kids Packs Ministries

116. **What.** Organise Sunday School program run concurrently with church service and/or kids packs for kids not involved in Sunday school.
117. **When.** Weekly as a part of church service.
118. **Who.** Two Coordinators plus church members as required (1 leader per 10 kids?).
119. **Responsibilities of Coordinators.** Organise roster, programs, teaching materials, safe places issues in conjunction with safe places coordinator. Organise updates to church about ministry, compile yearly update about ministry progression and needs. Train and mentor Assistant Coordinator. Prepare and submit update for the C&C Meeting regards progress, needs and prayer points. Monitor and amend Safe Places Risk Management Plans. (See also Eastgate Safe Places Policy and Risk Management Documents).

Eastgate Crèche

120. **What.** Organise Crèche program run concurrently with church service and/or kids packs for kids not involved in Sunday school.
121. **When.** Weekly as a part of church service.
122. **Who.** Two Coordinators plus church members as required (1 leader per 10 kids?).
123. **Responsibilities of Coordinators.** Organise roster, programs, teaching materials, safe places issues in conjunction with safe places coordinator. Organise updates to church about ministry, compile yearly update about ministry progression and needs. Train and mentor Assistant Coordinator. Prepare and submit update for C&C Meeting regards progress, needs and prayer points. Monitor and amend Safe Places Risk Management Plans. (See also Eastgate Safe Places Policy and Risk Management Documents)

Safe Places

124. **What.** Organise safe places procedures for Eastgate Children's (under 18's) Ministries
125. **When.** Weekly as a part of church service.
126. **Who.** Two Coordinators plus church members where required.
127. **Responsibilities of Coordinators.** Organise roster, teaching materials, safe places in conjunction with safe places coordinator. Organise updates to church about ministry, compile yearly update about ministry progression and needs, organise welcome letter from pastor and appropriate updates, organise welcome packs and guest book. Train and

mentor Assistant Coordinator. Prepare and submit update for C&C Meeting regards progress, needs and prayer points.

128. **Status:** Active but need coordinator

Women of Worth

129. **What.** Women's and Mum's get together.

130. **When.** As required but informal and monthly

131. **Who.** One Coordinator plus church members where required.

132. **Responsibilities of Coordinators.** Organise activities as required, org another coordinator if required. Conduct discipleship training where appropriate.

Women's KYB

133. **What.** KYB program for women at Eastgate.

134. **When.** Weekly

135. **Who.** Two Coordinators plus church members where required.

136. **Responsibilities of Coordinators.** Organise roster, teaching materials. Organise updates to church about ministry, compile yearly update about ministry progression and needs, Train and mentor Assistant Coordinator to help or start another group as required.. Prepare and submit update for C&C Meeting regards progress, needs and prayer points. Conduct discipleship training where appropriate.

Men's Group - 'A Few Good Men'

137. **What.** Men's bible teaching, fellowship, worship, prayer time at an informal time and location. Includes A Few Good Men four-monthly prayer meeting and Men's boot camp – every third prayer meeting overnight away. Men's specialist service to community and church – lawn mowing, garden care, projects etc

138. **When.** As required.

139. **Who.** Two Coordinators plus church members where required.

140. **Responsibilities of Coordinators.** Organise roster, teaching materials, org boot camp away within one hour of Toowoomba, Organise updates to church about ministry, compile yearly update about ministry progression and needs. Train and mentor Assistant Coordinator. Prepare and submit update for C&C Meeting regards progress, needs and prayer points. Conduct discipleship training where appropriate.

Youth Groups - Mighty Men in the Making and Girls of Grace

141. **What.** Teen teaching, fellowship, worship, prayer times
142. **When.** Fortnightly for Girls of Grace, Fortnightly for MMM
143. **Who.** Two Coordinators for each plus church members where required.
144. **Responsibilities of Coordinators.** Organise programs, teaching materials, Organise updates to church about ministry, compile yearly update about ministry progression and needs. Train and mentor Assistant Coordinator. Prepare and submit update for C&C Meeting regards progress, needs and prayer points. Conduct discipleship training where appropriate.

Young Adults

145. **What.** YA bible teaching, fellowship, worship, prayer time at Findo's Café and elsewhere
146. **When.** Ad Hoc, informal
147. **Who.** Two Coordinators plus church members where required.
148. **Responsibilities of Coordinators.** Organise programs, teaching materials, fellowship activities, Organise updates to church about ministry, compile yearly update about ministry progression and needs. Train and mentor Assistant Coordinator. Prepare and submit update for C&C Meeting regards progress, needs and prayer points. Conduct discipleship training where appropriate.

Church Camp

149. **What.** Yearly Camp for fellowship, teaching, prayer, visioning at Lake Leslie
150. **When.** Yearly – February/March
151. **Who.** Two Coordinators plus church members where required.
152. **Responsibilities of Coordinators.** Organise programs, teaching materials, admin details, fellowship activities, Organise updates to church about ministry, compile yearly update about ministry progression and needs. Train and mentor Assistant Coordinator. Prepare and submit update for C&C Meeting regards progress, needs and prayer points.

Soccer and Sports Ministry

153. **What.** Soccer ministry as a part of Toowoomba Church Soccer League. Sports ministry using impromptu events such as Bushwalking, Mt



Bike Riding, Ladies Fitness Training (sometimes concurrent with soccer?)

154. **When.** Year Round

155. **Who.** Two Coordinators plus church members where required.

156. **Responsibilities of Coordinators.** Organise programs, materials, admin details, fellowship activities around soccer and other sports. Organise updates to church about ministry, compile yearly update about ministry progression and needs. Train and mentor Assistant Coordinator. Prepare and submit update for C&C Meeting regards progress, needs and prayer points.

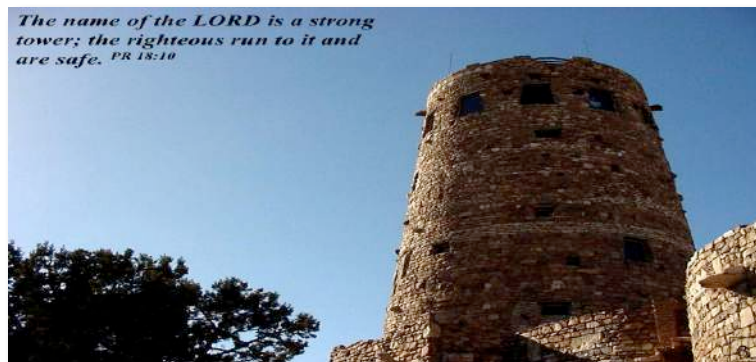
Transitions Ministry⁸⁹ – Support to Short Term / Mobile Members

157. **What.** Focussed support to members time restricted in their stay at Eastgate e.g. Military members, university members, interns etc.

158. **When.** Ongoing

159. **Who.** Two Coordinators plus church members where required.

160. **Responsibilities of Coordinators.** Organise dedicated teaching prgs where required, focussed discipleship where required, practical support (e.g. lawnmowing etc for in the case of absent spouses etc), prayer coord, visits etc. Organise updates to church about ministry, compile yearly update about ministry progression and needs. Train and mentor Assistant Coordinator. Prepare and submit update for C&C Meeting regards progress, needs and prayer points.

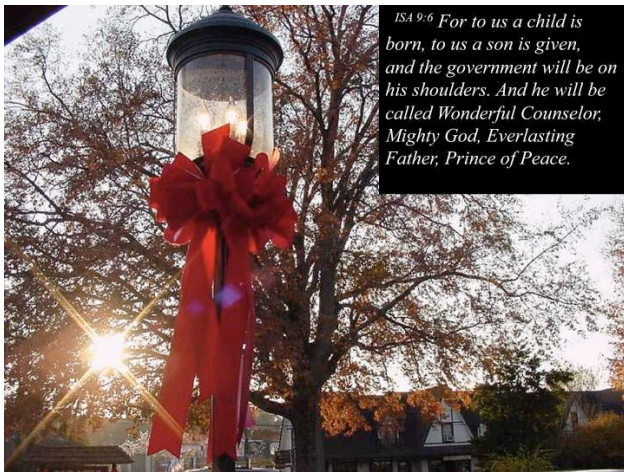


⁸⁹ Ex 23:9

Eastgate Core Value: Generosity in service and stewardship

'Know'

161. Eastgate Bible Church is spiritually orientated eastwards because it is eastwards that Jesus determined that he would do his Father's will in the garden of the olive press. It was there that he sweated blood, it was there that he resolved he would go to Calvary, to Golgotha. It was there that Jesus held nothing back but gave His all for us with an



infinite and startling generosity. We therefore value generous service and stewardship. We value generous and joyful giving⁹⁰.

162. The God that we worship is by virtue of His very being the God of all grace. Everything that we have from Him is a gracious gift to us⁹¹. If we are to be a godly people then we like our God, should

be *gracious* in our giving. Grace is undeserved favour.

163. Our giving should never be seen as a payment to God or to His Church, or to others. We should give willingly and freely as does our God⁹². We should give as we have decided in our heart to give. The source of our giving is not our purse, but our heart. We are not to give reluctantly or under compulsion⁹³ which is which is one reason we do not 'pass the bag' at Eastgate but rather have a box at the entrance. If we are to be a godly people then we like our God, should be *generous* in our giving⁹⁴ because God gives us everything including the giving of His only Son. Jesus himself teaches us to be prepared to give our all⁹⁵. Jesus commended the widow who gave her all. God's promise is that those who "sow generously will also reap generously"⁹⁶.

164. If we are to be a godly people then we like our God should be *purposeful and proportional* in our giving. All that God does is according to His purpose and plan. He likewise tells us that we should give purposefully, "each man should give as he has decided [considered attentively] in his heart to give"⁹⁷. We should therefore give prayerfully, purposefully and proportionally⁹⁸ in obedience to the Holy Spirit. We are to

⁹⁰ 2 Co 9:6-7

⁹¹ Jas 1:17

⁹² 2 Co 9:8

⁹³ 2 Co 9:7

⁹⁴ Ro 8:32

⁹⁵ Ro 12:1-2

⁹⁶ 2 Co 9:6

⁹⁷ 2 Co 9:7

⁹⁸ 1 Co 16:2

give of our resources in the form of money, service and in the use of our spiritual gifts to the Lord's work and kingdom.

Live and Proclaim... Generosity of Heart

R4J Vision: *Generosity that regularly blows the socks off people. Generosity collectively and individually of time, effort and money. A people found giving extravagantly at the return.*

Ongoing Giving

- 165. **What.** Regular giving and coordination of funds through wise stewardship (A Treasurer)
- 166. **When.** Ongoing
- 167. **Who.** One Treasurer plus Assistant
- 168. **Responsibilities.** Organise yearly budget, coordinate weekly giving, acquit giving and other financial dealings. Prepare and submit update for C&C Meeting regards progress, needs and prayer points, Train and mentor Assistant treasurer for absences and or succession. Organise financial training where appropriate. Organise specific activities for Generosity Value Focus Week.

Missions Fund (see also Evangelism Value)

- 169. **What.** Sponsorship of Christians being converted out of John Fromme Cargo Cult. Sponsorship of New Tribes Missionaries. Overseas Mission Trips
- 170. **When.** Ongoing
- 171. **Who.** Treasurer, Church Members.
- 172. **Responsibilities.** Organise payments to overseas missions.

Ongoing Giving so that None would be in Need – the Eastgate Philippian’s Fund

- 173. **What.** Regular giving and coordination of funds for members in financial duress
- 174. **When.** Ongoing
- 175. **Who.** Coordinator in conjunction with Treasurer.
- 176. **Responsibilities.** Organise payments as required plus assistance in financial training, advice where required / appropriate.

Service / Stewardship of Skills / Gifts

- 177. **What.** TBC? Mobile Mission, Community based?

Eastgate Core Value: Evangelism that is Missional.

‘Know’

178. We, as a body of Christians trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ, are called Eastgate Bible Church because, like the OT temple, we are orientated outwards towards a dying world that needs living water. Eastgate Bible Church is spiritually orientated eastwards because it is eastwards that the waters flowed in another of Ezekiel’s many visions:



Then he brought me back to the door of the temple, and behold, water was issuing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east)⁹⁹.

179. As water is many times used to symbolise the person and work of the third person of the trinity so to here water symbolises the work of the Holy Spirit. We long to be a Spirit led church. We believe that as the waters of the temple started small and ended up big so too we must each be faithful with small things in order to be involved with big things.

180. God’s kingdom is cumulative. Each thought won, each moment won and each life won cumulatively advances His Kingdom. As the waters advanced irresistibly in Ezekiel’s vision so to God’s kingdom will inexorably advance. We freely acknowledge that if God does not, in his grace, use this Church he will use another. But, having said that, we are desperate to be a part of the out-flowing work of His spirit and His kingdom.

181. In order to do that we must each be faithful with what we have been given. We must be faithful with little streams so that mighty rivers might flow. We must flow with his Spirit because we can do nothing except ‘flow’ with him as he moves – apart from Him we can do nothing¹⁰⁰. At the same time we recognise that *in him* ‘we can do all things’¹⁰¹. We believe that as the waters of the temple flowed into the dead sea and brought it to life so to we, as the NT church filled with springs and rivers of living water¹⁰² bring life to a dead world . We are not an insular church, we are a church being poured out into the world to bring life. As Hebrew Poetry tell us:

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a

⁹⁹ Ezek 47:1

¹⁰⁰ Jn 15:5

¹⁰¹ Ph 4:13

¹⁰² (Jn 4:10, 7:37 - another picture of the indwelling Holy Spirit),

*place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion.*¹⁰³

182. We see collective evangelism and individual witness as the primary means by which life comes to people and therefore the primary way by which the kingdom progresses. We desire earnestly that each member of Eastgate to be ‘naturally’ missional. Life comes through our lives when our whole lives are a sermon and our lives are only a sermon when we are abiding in Jesus.

183. It may surprise some to hear that we believe that one of the chief aims of evangelism and missions is not only salvation, but also to see the name of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – glorified. All outreach is done to see God glorified and feared and so that He would receive the praise and adoration that He alone deserves¹⁰⁴. We believe that to love God is to obey His commandments¹⁰⁵, and as all four gospels contain a commission to preach the gospel¹⁰⁶, all Christians out of love should spread the good news of Jesus Christ, in one form or another.

184. We believe that we are called to love our neighbour as ourselves¹⁰⁷ and that in light of the imminent return and judgement of Jesus, we are to warn them of this event¹⁰⁸. To never speak of this is unloving to the extreme. We believe that as we submit ourselves to the lordship of Jesus Christ, and are obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit, Christ will make us fishers of men¹⁰⁹. We are also to pray for boldness in proclaiming the gospel¹¹⁰, that through us as a church the Word of the Lord may run swiftly¹¹¹. We are also to pray that God would raise up labourers for the harvest.¹¹² We believe that to be the salt and the light of the world the word of God must be proclaimed to the lost as well as lived in front of them so that they may hear, and then believe in it¹¹³.

185. We believe that it is the role of the local church to send and support missionaries to all areas of the globe¹¹⁴, both locally and abroad¹¹⁵. To this end Eastgate Bible Church will be a church-*planting* church locally as well as a church-*assisting* church nationally and internationally. This is because we believe that it is through the local church that God primarily achieves his kingdom building purposes¹¹⁶. This means building up the local church of Eastgate as it stands in a way which sees maturity in our local membership so that foundationally this can then be the impetus for new churches locally. As a part of this

¹⁰³ Ps 84: 5-7

¹⁰⁴ 1Cor 10:31

¹⁰⁵ 1John 5:2

¹⁰⁶ Matt 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-20, Luke 24:46-49, John 20:21

¹⁰⁷ Mark 12:31

¹⁰⁸ 2Tim 4:1-2

¹⁰⁹ Matt 4:19

¹¹⁰ Eph 6:19

¹¹¹ 2Thes 3:1

¹¹² Matt 9:37-38

¹¹³ Rom 10:14, 17

¹¹⁴ Rom 10:15

¹¹⁵ Acts 1:8

¹¹⁶ Mt 16:18, Ac 9:31, Ac 15:41, 2 Cor 8:23

call we also have a heart to support rural churches wherever we can through training, teaching, worship and/or fellowship.

Live and Proclaim... Missional Evangelism

R4J Vision: *Evangelism that makes mini-ministers of us all – in word, attitude and deed. A people found with the gospel on their lips as well as in their hearts at the return.*

Local Evangelism

186. **What.** Regular training and encouragement in one on one sharing as well as collective training through programs such as ‘way of the master’.

187. **When.** Ongoing

188. **Who.** One coordinator plus Assistant

189. **Responsibilities.** Organise training events, coordinate outreach events (integrated where appropriate with Sunday night unplugged), Update Church regularly, Update via yearly update for AGM, Train and mentor Assistant.

Workplace Evangelism and Service – Mini Ministers Course

190. **What.** Regular encouragement, prayer, fellowship for members in work / school / uni. Maintain prayer log / journal of prayer needs. Coord the Mini-Ministers Course.

191. **When.** Ongoing

192. **Who.** One coordinator plus Assistant plus ALL.

193. **Responsibilities.** Liaise with members for prayer needs, for areas of encouragement, training / visits where appropriate. Coordinate outreach events (integrated where appropriate with Sunday night unplugged), Update Church regularly, Update via yearly update for AGM, Train and mentor Assistant.

International

194. **What.** Sponsorship of Christians being converted out of John Fromme Cargo Cult. Sponsorship of New Tribes Missionaries. Overseas Mission Trips
195. **When.** Ongoing
196. **Who.** Missions Coordinator plus Church Members.
197. **Responsibilities.** Organise assistance to overseas missions, organise one on one sponsorship with overseas local church in Vanuatu and PNG Rabaul, Network and find opportunities for evangelistic service. Train and Mentor Assistant. Look for and encourage suitable gifted and called people for short and long term missions that Eastgate as a Church can sponsor. Regularly update Church. Provide update for AGM. Coordinate activities for Mission Focus Week.

Church Plant

198. **What.** Visioning, prep and coord of Eastgate Church plant.
199. **When.** As called and as required
200. **Who.** Church Plant Coordinator (will be elder/teacher in next Church), Worship Coordinator, core group members. (Total of five). May combine roles with Church Reformer?
201. **Responsibilities.** In conjunction with Eastgate leadership team, Organise events, programs, training, visioning required for Church Plant. Draw from and assist in School of Preachers, School of Teachers and School of Worship. Utilise local and external resources. Train Assistant mentor. Identify and network with local inactive pastors for encouragement and possible re-entry to formal pastoral ministry.

Church Reform / Revival Program

202. **What.** Connect and support flagging, struggling rural / local churches.
203. **When.** As required and as called
204. **Who.** Coordinator plus one
205. **Responsibilities.** In conjunction with Eastgate leadership team, Network with rural churches through extant contacts. Organise events, programs, training, visioning required for Church support in rural areas. Draw from and assist in School of Preachers, School of Teachers and School of Worship. Utilise local and external resources. Train Assistant mentor. Identify and network with local inactive pastors for encouragement and possible re-entry to formal pastoral ministry.