

First Baptist Church of Pearl City – Our Vision

Our purpose as a New Testament church is to honor our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, by carrying out His command to make disciples of all the nations (Matthew 28:19 – 20). Specifically, we believe God has given us a vision of reaching the lost and the unchurched people living in our Jerusalem (the cities in which we live, work, and play), our Judea (the State of Hawaii), our Samaria (the mainland), and our world (Acts 1:8).

To some this may seem like an impossible task for First Baptist Church of Pearl City but with God all things are possible.

Mark 10:27, Looking at them, Jesus said, “With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.”

At First Baptist Church of Pearl City, it is our desire that you catch the vision God has given us; that you begin to visualize the invisible. It is also our desire that you clearly see the future of our ministry; what it can be and what it must be. But most importantly, we want you to capture the concept of our vision so that it will capture you and provide a foundation for your personal ministry with us at First Baptist Church of Pearl City.

Our Mission Statement

The objective of First Baptist Church Pearl City is to become increasingly aware of our relationship to God through Jesus Christ, to sustain a vital relationship with Him and to be used of God to bring all persons into this same relationship.

Our Vision Statement

The vision of First Baptist Church of Pearl City is to reach the lost and the unchurched people in our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and world by the planting of churches in areas where there currently are none and the revitalizing of churches already in existence thus fulfilling the mandate of Acts 1:8.

Our strategy for accomplishing this vision contains three key phases designated as the “3 – M’s of Victory”: Making Disciples; Maturing Believers; and Multiplying Ministries. These “3 – M’s of Victory” are essential for advancing the Kingdom of God through church planting and church revitalization.

I. Making Disciples

To make disciples we must first lead unbelievers to Christ, then lead them to worship, Bible study, and assimilation into the Body of Christ.

1. Worship

Worship is accomplished at First Baptist Church of Pearl City through the corporate worship services which are designed to guide believers into celebrating God's grace and mercy, to proclaim God's truth, and to evangelize the lost in an atmosphere of encountering the presence, holiness, and revelation of Almighty God. This is worship that transforms lives and is an effective tool in disciple-making. When worship is right, it is as if the Kingdom of God comes in a spiritual presence and reality that is unlike anything else on earth and is effective in leading people to Christ.

The Bible prescribes eight elements of worship that are characteristic of successful Acts 1:8 churches and are therefore characteristic of the worship services of First Baptist Church of Pearl City.

(1) Prayer

I Thessalonians 5:17 – 18, *“pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

Praying is communicating with God in a way that makes you aware of His presence and this is vitally important to any corporate worship service.

(2) Praise

Romans 15:9 – 11, *“and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, ‘Therefore I will give praise to You among the Gentiles, and I will sing to Your name.’ Again he says, ‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people.’ And again, ‘Praise the Lord all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise Him.’”*

Praise is a major element of worship in an Acts 1:8 church. The people praise the Lord for creating them and for redeeming them in Christ. Praise expresses our adoration and thanks to God for His character, His being, and His work.

(3) Confession and Repentance

II Chronicles 7:14, *“and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”*

God restores fellowship when people acknowledge that their sin is real and repent by turning from their sin to God. Confession is at the heart of worship. After we experience worship, we're never the same. We see our sins and shortcomings in stark relief, cry out in confession, and rejoice that the Lord will forgive and heal us.

(4) Profession of faith

Romans 10:9 – 10, *“that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a*

person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”

Profession of faith in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit gives worshipers the opportunity to acknowledge and respond to God’s Word and work. By confessing our faith in the Holy Trinity, we declare that God alone is our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, and that He alone is worthy of our glory, honor, and praise.

(5) Scripture reading and study

Luke 24:27, “Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.”

Luke 24:32, “They said to one another, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?’”

Luke 24:44 – 45, “Now He said to them, ‘These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.”

God transforms the church through His Word. Hearing, reading, and studying Scripture is essential to a healthy Christian life. It’s through the Scriptures that the Holy Spirit draws our attention to God and our fellowship with Him.

(6) Preaching

II Timothy 4:2, preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

God uses the preaching of the Word to teach, challenge, confront, convict, and exhort His congregation to obey. Preaching is central in worship services because it focuses on the Lord. Nothing can substitute for preaching, which speaks God’s truth to His people and prepares them to be His messengers.

When we worship God, we come before Him in prayer, confession, and praise to hear the preaching of the Word.

(7) Baptism and the Lord’s Supper

Matthew 3:16 – 17, After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”

Luke 22:19 – 20, *And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.”*

Jesus established the ordinances of baptism and the Lord’s Supper as dramatic and memorable symbols to make the congregation aware of His work on their behalf. They are two beautiful, moving acts of worship Jesus gave us to remember Him by.

(8) Tithes and Offerings

Malachi 3:8, *“Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings.*

Malachi 3:10, *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,” says the Lord of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.”*

A Christian’s giving of self, abilities, tithes, and offerings are responses of obedient stewardship, gratitude, and trust.

In worship we need to focus first and foremost on God. God is the only One who needs to be worshiped and satisfied with our worship. Worship must focus on the Lord alone and never, but never on any other person, believer or unbeliever.

The second focus of worship should be believers, in order to help them celebrate the presence and advance of the Kingdom of God in the world. Believers can be wonderfully transformed in worship, and we should do all we can as worship leaders to see that they are.

Third, we can focus on unbelievers who can see and feel the true worship of the one and only God.

2. Open Groups – Basic Christian Training

Open groups at First Baptist Church of Pearl City exist to lead people to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and to transform them into Christlikeness by engaging them in evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and worship. Open (Small) groups are small kingdom communities designed to bring believers and unbelievers together in an atmosphere of compassion to share the Gospel.

(1) Person-Centered

Open groups, are a Kingdom tool for reaching persons for Christ and bringing them into a transforming relationship with Him. They must focus on the person first and foremost; by that is meant are they or are they not a Christian.

Every individual is on a life path in his or her relationship to Christ. Those who do not know Him must be reached. Those who do must be disciplined and trained in Kingdom ministry. Small groups must focus on the spiritual life needs of people.

(2) Lay-Led

Open groups, are powerful tools for Kingdom-building churches and they are successful only when laypersons lead them.

(3) Bible-Based

The Bible must be the centerpiece for all that is done by the open groups for several reasons. First, only the Bible can meet the true spiritual needs of people anytime and all the time. Anything else is just an opinion, and one opinion is as good as another. The Bible is God's written revelation of Himself to us. There is no substitute.

Second, the Bible is a living document which, as a resource, is able to meet the needs of every person who comes to an open group.

Finally, Scripture reveals the disciple's needs and God's answer. It is not conjecture or opinion when the Word speaks to us, nor is it a suggestion when God provides an answer. The Bible is the Holy Spirit's tool to convict us of sin and to build us up into Christ.

3. Strategy for Open Groups

(1) Prospects

A. Prospects who are not believers

These are individuals we have discovered in various ways who have been identified as lost, unsaved. No matter what else we do for them such as inviting them to special church events, worship services, or other activities, the focus must be on evangelizing them and leading them to Christ. Lost persons are our responsibility and we cannot leave them alone to die in their sins. Through open groups lost people can come under the influence of believers as they experience love, ministry, and witness.

B. Prospects who are believers but are not in church

There are many people in our community who are believers but are unchurched. It is spiritually unhealthy, if not dangerous, for a believer to be unattached to a local church. Believers in relationship to one another are the heart and soul of an Acts 1:8 church. Any believer who is unchurched is not in God's will. Open groups (through ministry, fellowship, witness, and worship) are a way of drawing them into the church.

C. Prospects who are believers and in our church but not in open groups

We have many members who come to worship services and enjoy the music, preaching, and excitement, but are not part of an open. Open groups are foundational to a believer's continuing transformation into Christlikeness and effective Kingdom impact.

(2) Pupils

Once enrolled, prospects become pupils. These believers are then engaged in a Bible-based curriculum, which focuses on their life needs and begins a foundational ministry for their transformation. Participation is ongoing for believers in open groups because they are the foundational strategy for all that a church does.

Open groups fulfill the Great Commission by evangelizing the lost, discipling believers through Bible study, providing fellowship by building relationships with believers and unbelievers, engaging them in ministry to and with fellow class members. Open groups form a powerful alliance with worship services (large open groups) to build the kingdom of God effectively.

(3) Examples of Open Groups

- Sunday School Classes
- Discipleship Classes
- Wednesday Night Bible Study
- Home Groups

II. Maturing Believers (Discipleship Groups – Advanced Christian Skills Training)

Discipleship groups at First Baptist Church of Pearl City exist to build kingdom leaders and to equip believers to serve by engaging them in a way that moves them toward spiritual transformation through short-term, self-contained training in an atmosphere of accountability to God and to one another.

Open Groups

1. Exist to reach people and put them into relationships
2. Begin small and grow
3. Indefinite in length

Discipleship Groups

1. Equips people for Kingdom ministry
2. Begin large finish smaller
3. Last for a specific period of time

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Built to teach, evangelize, and assimilate 5. Reach unbelievers and believers alike 6. Crafted to make everyone feel welcome | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Designed to equip leaders for ministry 5. Focus on believers who need maturity for ministry 6. More intense, aimed at attaining a greater degree of biblical knowledge and familiarity with Christian concepts |
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There are six areas of concentration for the discipleship group process at First Baptist Church of Pearl City:

1. Abiding in Christ
2. Living by God's Word
3. Witnessing to the World
4. Ministering to Others
5. Praying in Faith
6. Building Godly Relationships

The discipleship groups will be designed for all levels of spiritual maturity: beginning, basic, advanced. *Being* (understanding who I am and who I am becoming in Christ), *knowing* (expanding my knowledge of biblical truth), and *doing* (applying daily what I learn) are our goals. In a way these three elements form a “discipleship equation” for our new life in Christ:

$$\textit{being} + \textit{knowing} + \textit{doing} = \text{Growth in Christlikeness}$$

To be like Christ we must grow in our understanding and application of each element of this equation and this is what the discipleship groups will be designed to do.

Some examples of Discipleship Groups are:

- Discipleship Classes
- Home Groups

III. Multiplying Ministries (Ministry Teams)

Our purpose at First Baptist Church of Pearl City is to see every person evangelized, every believer built up into Christ and engaged in Kingdom Ministry through Kingdom Ministry Teams.

Kingdom Ministry Teams exist to build up the body of Christ to accomplish the work of service within the church and to advance the Kingdom of God throughout the world.

The goals of Kingdom Ministry Teams are:

1. ***To filter out any activities that are incompatible with fulfilling the Great Commission and our church's Core Values.***

Great Commission:

Matthew 28:19 – 20, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

First Baptist Church of Pearl City Core Values:

1. We value communicating, with excellence, the unchanging message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 2. We value the Holy Scripture as the inspired Word of God and is our only source of instruction in living and direction into a personal, life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ.
 3. We value “Kingdom Growth” through evangelism and missions.
 4. We value worship through the corporate services and personal lifestyle.
 5. We value prayer as the means of offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to His will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of His mercies.
 6. We value every member serving through personal involvement in ministry.
 7. We value holistic ministry through the equipping of individuals and families for the Christian life.
 8. We value the development of Christlikeness through personal spiritual growth.
 9. We value Kingdom investment through tithes and offerings.
 10. We value cooperating with the Southern Baptist Churches of the Central-Leeward Oahu Baptist Association (CLOBA), Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention, and other Christian Ministries/Organizations of like faith and order in fulfilling the Great Commission.
2. ***To fulfill one or more of the five functions of a Kingdom focused church: evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and worship.***

Evangelism: the process of sharing the Gospel with the lost for the purpose of leading them to Christ, thereby enabling them to enter the Kingdom of God. It is asking them to repent of their sins, put their faith in Christ for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life, and to follow Him forever as their Lord. It is the good news spoken by believers and lived out in their lives.

Discipleship: a lifelong journey of obedience to Christ that transforms a person's values and behavior and results in ministry in one's home, church, and the world. Discipling is the process of teaching Christians to love, trust, and obey Jesus, and teaching them how to win and train others to do the same.

Fellowship: it is more than just a feeling of goodwill in a congregation. It is a result of the intimate spiritual relationship that Christians share with God and other believers through their relationship with Jesus Christ. Fellowship doesn't evolve naturally in a community of believers but comes only by the power of God working through and among them. Fellowship encourages churches to evangelize. The motivation to reach the lost is stimulated and heightened by a desire to bring them into fellowship with Christ and other Christians. Fellowship allows believers to experience the richness of human and divine relationships and points them to eternity when we will live together with Jesus forever. Fellowship enables us to experience God's family now and gives us a taste of what the family will be like in heaven.

Ministry: meeting another person's need in the name of Jesus, expressed as service to people inside the church family and expressed as missions to those outside the church with the resources God provides. This ministry grows out of a transformed and serving life.

Worship: any activity in which believers experience God in a meaningful, spiritually transforming way. It leads worshipers to a deeper appreciation for God, a better understanding of His ways, and a deeper commitment to Him. Worship brings us face-to-face with our Creator and draws us closer to His image.

Each Kingdom Ministry Team will be responsible for developing a Purpose Statement, Vision Statement, Ministry Strategy Objectives, and a statement as to how the ministry supports the Mission Statement of First Baptist Church of Pearl City and a listing of the Core Value Statements supported by the ministry.

3. To target specific Kingdom results: numerical growth, spiritual transformation, ministry expansion, and Kingdom advance.

Numerical Growth:

Acts 2:41 – 47, So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place

through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Numerical growth occurs when, through His churches, God gathers a harvest of souls that adds numbers to the Body of Christ through conversion and baptism. As believers grow spiritually, God gives the churches numerical increase.

To assist in the numerical growth, specific Ministry Teams will be developed for the purpose of Outreach and Evangelism. Outreach events (labeled as “O – Event”) will be developed for the primary purpose of introducing the non-Christian, as well as the unchurched, to First Baptist Church of Pearl City. There will be no evangelistic thrust at these events. The events will be opened and closed in prayer, and they may also, but not always, include a devotional of no more than three-minutes.

Evangelism events (labeled as “E – Event”) will be developed with an evangelistic intention. A Gospel presentation of about twenty-minutes (sometimes longer depending on the event, i.e., revival services, music concert, etc.) will be included at some point during the event.

Spiritual Transformation:

II Corinthians 3:18, But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Spiritual transformation is God’s work of changing a believer into the likeness of Jesus by creating a new identity in Christ and by empowering a lifelong relationship of love, trust, and obedience to glorify God. The Bible and Christian teaching give us four evidences of spiritual transformation:

(1) Our changing relationship with Christ

Fellowship and intimacy with the Lord are essential to spiritual transformation. Growth in Christ is not only an increase in knowledge and experience but in becoming like Jesus.

(2) Our changing relationship with believers

Growing churches grow believers in a deeper relationship with Christ and other believers. When we allow Christ to live His life through us and to express Himself through what we say, think, and do, we have no trouble being in fellowship with one another. Salvation is expressed in our love for Christ and the whole family of God.

(3) Our changing relationship with unbelievers

Jesus' followers have a passion to see unbelievers brought into a love relationship with Him. God's plan for world redemption is to use each of us to win others to Christ. Spiritual transformation in a church results in believers' learning their responsibility to witness to the lost.

(4) Our changing relationship towards Christian disciplines

The Christian life is built on decisions to pursue or ignore Bible reading, prayer, worship, witnessing, and faithful participation in the fellowship of believers. A believer who wants to mature spiritually will pursue these disciplines.

Ministry Expansion:

Acts 6:1 – 3, Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task."

Acts 13:1 – 3, Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

As we at First Baptist Church of Pearl City experience the power of God working to bring the unsaved to Christ, we will become more sensitive to the unmet needs and expand our ministries to address them. In a Kingdom-focused church, members naturally seek out new places to serve. All ministries at First Baptist Church of Pearl City must be focused on sharing the love of Jesus with the lost, otherwise they are no different from the hundreds of secular charitable and civic organizations.

Kingdom Advance – Special Operations

Acts 1:8, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

The measure of true growth for First Baptist Church of Pearl City is how effectively have we enlarged the kingdom. This is the Great Commission in its best and purest form, going out from our church under the Lord's direction and protection into the mission

field. Church members, gifted for ministry, serve the Lord as He directs, having moved from unbeliever, to believer, to kingdom multiplier.

Missions is the growth measure that puts every other component in its proper perspective. It is the crown of the ministry of First Baptist Church of Pearl City, proof that we, as the people of God, have embraced a biblical worldview. When we grow numerically, spiritually, and in ministry, we will become more sensitive to the need to extend the Gospel beyond our community to a world lost in sin. We will see the world more clearly, fields white unto harvest; and our desire to witness, win, disciple, and minister will be multiplied and enlarged.

Some at First Baptist Church of Pearl City will see opportunities within their families, neighborhoods, jobs, schools, while others will be called to witness far from home. Wherever the members of First Baptist Church of Pearl City go to advance the kingdom, their ministry will be a natural product of a kingdom-focused church, God's perfect plan for establishing His reign on earth.

A growing church can never rest until it reaches the world for Christ, beginning with its own neighborhood and moving steadily outward under the Holy Spirit's leadership and power. For First Baptist Church of Pearl City, Kingdom Advancement – Special Operations will be performed in two phases: church planting and church revitalization.

Church planting is the placing of churches in communities, areas of the world, where there is currently no Gospel witness. Church planting is not limited to a geographical or racial sector of society. God has demonstrated that He wants to plant churches among urban or rural, educated or illiterate people on any continent and from any religious background. The universal link in each of them is God reconciling the world to Himself through Christ Jesus. We at First Baptist Church of Pearl City want to be a part of this movement.

To accomplish the task of church planting in all areas of the world, First Baptist Church of Pearl City will develop strategic, short and long-range partnerships with missionaries from the International Mission Board, and the North American Mission Board. These partnerships will be guided by a covenant containing goals and objectives developed through a cooperative effort between the local missionary, and the First Baptist Church of Pearl City Missions Coordinator, Missions Committee, and area Mission Team.

An area Mission Team will be established for each location where a church plant is desired. The team will be comprised of members of First Baptist Church of Pearl City who desire to be a part of that particular church plant effort. Each member of the team will have to commit to completing the required training program for that team. A team leader for each area Mission Team will be selected by the pastor.

Church revitalization is the assisting of already established churches that are ineffective or inadequate in their Gospel witness. To accomplish this task, First Baptist Church of Pearl City will develop strategic, short and long-range partnerships with the pastors or, in

the case the church is pastorless, the lay-leaders of these churches. These partnerships will be guided by a covenant containing goals and objectives developed through a cooperative effort between the pastor of the partnership church and his partnership Joint Task Force Team, and the Missions Coordinator, Missions Committee, and Joint Task Force Team of First Baptist Church of Pearl City.