



Summary of the Mission and Ministry Christ Centred Vision

Introduction

On 20th September, NTCG England and Wales will be 62 years old. In that time, we as a Church have achieved great strides. We have grown from humble beginnings to becoming one of the largest Black Majority Churches in this country. NTCG consists of 101 congregations and around 36 Cross Cultural branches; making a total of 137 churches.

Dr. Oliver A. Lyseight planted the first church in Wolverhampton on the 20th September 1953. Our legacy has been built by courageous men and women, led by Dr. Lyseight's visionary and dynamic leadership. These early pioneers such as Dr. Lyseight, Dr Sydney Uriah Thompson, Rev James Tomlin, Rev Marsh, Elder Swaby, Bishop Dr. Curtis Grey, Bishop Dr.. F.F Poyser and Dr Jeremiah McIntyre planted many churches. Over the years, the church has had 6 successive Administrative Bishops who have made their contributions to make the church what it is today: we have a membership of over 10,000 people with a following of over 30,000 and 335 credentialed ministers (including retired ministers) in England and Wales.

Though these are immense achievements, we are not satisfied. Today, there are very few missions taking place and our evangelism activities on the whole are minimal. We have a surplus of ministers but no churches to match them to.

Our membership has fluctuated up and down between 10,000 and 10,400 at least since 2009. No significant increase at all. Our Sunday morning worship services have consistently seen 30,000 in attendance each week.

In a membership of 10,400 we are seeing a relatively low number of new converts in our congregations. Between 2009 and 2013, when the last figures were taken, the average number of newly saved each year was just under 1,800 (17% of total membership), and of those 1,800 only an estimated 200 then took up membership. This is just 11% of those newly saved.

So, to put it in perspective: for a church of 100 members in any year for the last 4 years, there have only been 17 people saved at our altars for the entire 52 weeks and of those 17 people saved only 2 then go on to take up membership.

Something is therefore basically wrong with our focus. We clearly have a requirement for evangelism and discipleship.

In order for NTCG to last a further 62 years we identified the need to put strategies in place to achieve growth. We have been blessed by having the BIG MOVE which brought us to a point of stability and focus. It has been the launch pad for our next great endeavour which is to return the Church to mission and ministry. The vision that I am setting out has been shared with a working group of people who have provided significant insight and guidance, I would like to thank them for their contribution.

Bishop Brian Robinson, Bishop Derek Webley, Rev Nettie Williams, Rev Phyllis Thompson, Mr Louis Wright, Ms Grace Alalade and Mr Michael Bolt.

Under the ***Mission and Ministry Christ Centred Vision*** seven key principles have been defined to place the Church back into position for growth.

Evangelism and Church Planting

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen”.

- Matthew 28:19-20

From INACTION to ACTION

We have been chosen to introduce Christ to a generation who are desperately in need of salvation. This involves a serious consideration of our approach to diversity within our local churches as well as looking at how we resource and enable branches to embark on serious church planting strategies.

We are charged with addressing the whole arena of methodology of evangelism, recognising the value of the traditional approaches (such as ‘street witnessing’) as well as considering the effective use of modern social media channels to ultimately deliver the gospel of Jesus Christ. In ‘marketing language’ we need to align the “message, market and media match” in our strategies for evangelism.

This renewed emphasis on evangelism is extremely challenging as it will inevitably change the look of our local churches as we address the serious question of *‘what is our purpose in the community?’*

The spearhead of this endeavour will be at National level with support given to Regional and Local levels for consistent achievement of the Great Commission.

Church Planting will be back on the agenda. Out of the 335 credentialed ministers there are 159 ministers not appointed to churches. We have the resources but no churches to match them to.

It is the recommendation that the Church should seek to plant the equivalent of 3% of its total (i.e. 101 churches). Therefore for the next 4 years we want to plant 3 new churches every year (12 churches in total).

Communication

“...And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?...”

- Romans 10:14 (NLT)

From SILENCE to PRESENCE

Communication impacts how we share the gospel: The gospel message HAS TO BE COMMUNICATED – there is no other way to fulfil the Great Commission. We must move from silence (not having a voice) to speaking out loud. Kingdom living demands that we interact with others in order to communicate the truth of the gospel.

With our ‘voice’, we must seek to make a difference.

Communication impacts how we respond to society: The church has a responsibility to spread the gospel using whatever means are available. Modern technology gives us the opportunity to spread the good news to the community and provide consistent, relevant communication and Public Relations throughout the branch network.

At National level, we have implemented a number of changes to address PR and Communications at a strategic level: the appointments of Bishop Brian Robinson and Bishop Claion Grandison as the NTCG Communications Officers. These new appointees will be the face of NTCG both at National and local level and provide guidance for handling all media enquiries.

Communication impacts how we respond to each other: From the pulpit to the pews, as a Church we must reflect on how we speak to one another. As leaders, it is important to communicate the message in a clear and precise way so that the Christ-Centred message is not lost. Also brothers and sisters in Christ, it is our responsibility to speak to one another in love. (Ephesians 4:29; James 4:11)

Pastoral Responsibility

“For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give his life a ransom for many”.

- Mark 10:45

FROM HIRELING TO SHEPHERDS

Pastoral responsibility is a function that is to be performed at both National and Local levels. At National level, pastoral responsibility is about *Pastoring the pastor*. This is a key strategy for maintaining the focus of the Church.

It is imperative that a holistic approach is taken toward the welfare of the ministers of the church. Initiatives to care for the ministers will be put in place as well as the support mechanisms for consistent and relevant appraisal, development and discipline. This will include determining promotion in rank and appointments.

At Local level, there needs to be clarity and focus on what are the key responsibilities of a pastor. The bible makes it clear that:

Pastors Are Rescuers

“But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.” - Matthew 9:6

Pastors Are Equippers

“And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord.” - Jeremiah 23:4

Pastors Are Leaders

“Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;” - 1 Peter 5:2

Pastors Are Protectors

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.” - Acts 20:28

Pastors Are Comforters

“He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.” - Psalm 23:3

Social Responsibility

“But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?”

- Luke 10:29

FROM SELF TO SUPPORT

Mission is about community!

The partnerships developed at National level will have a far reaching impact on the community engagement of regional and local churches.

The National church has a voice on current issues of the day and will be expected to speak out unilaterally or as part of representative organisations such as the Evangelical Alliance, The Free Churches Council and the Churches Together in England

Part of our responsibility as a Church is to speak out against the injustices of this world, for example, the increase of poverty in this country, the imbalance of young black men in correctional institutions and mental facilities.

Support, training and benchmarking opportunities will allow churches to develop local initiatives to engage with the community and maximise existing resources such as buildings and land.

Discipleship

“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another”

- John 13:35

From BABES TO MATURITY

The majority of the local churches are very capable of the initial stages of engaging those that voluntarily come through our doors. The challenge is the next stage which is one of discipleship. It is the responsibility of local churches to ensure they have a strong discipleship programme in place to turn converts into disciples.

Continued emphasis on Christian disciplines within the local churches, supported by National strategy will see a spiritual growth among the church which is translated into evangelistic endeavours and numerical growth through genuine new relationships with Jesus Christ.

Part of the renewed emphasis will be on recognition and support for previously neglected ministries as the membership becomes equipped for service.

Organisational Development

“...on this rock I will build my church...”

- Matthew 16:18 (NIV)

FROM STATIC TO MOVEMENT

The positive unique characteristics of the Church of God will be strengthened through further acknowledgement and teaching on the key areas of organisational structure, governance, doctrine and faith.

The organisational structure will provide support to the leadership, branch network and church planting initiatives.

Education will be of paramount importance in reminding us who we are and what we believe.

Leadership Development

*“You will never be an effective leader until you
include those you lead in what you do.”*

C Gene Wilkes – ‘Jesus on Leadership’

FROM MEDIOCRITY TO EXCELLENCE

The leadership of the church is a critical component of the mission.

The focus will be on having effective leadership – this will be developed through the programmes of the Leadership Training Centre combined with relevant forums for ministers and leaders to interact and learn from each other. The leadership will also have the opportunity to undertake deeper theological studies with the Pentecostal Theological Seminary.

A new evaluation and appraisal system will be in place to support ministers’ personal development and to enable them to identify and assist in the growth of local churches and to implement effective succession planning.