

The Next Horizon:
God's Vision for Our Future
Pastor Kenton Rahn

Church Health Survey

At the beginning of the year, we formed a Vision Planning Team that included four pastors, four elders, Pastor Kenton, and Dave Gudgel – a consultant from Venture Church Network. We spent months praying, planning, dreaming, debating, discussing, and seeking God for wisdom and direction.

We began by conducting a church health survey: 114 people responded, representing both campuses. 77% were from the congregation, 23% from leadership. Half were male and half were female.

Greatest Strengths:

- *Wise administration & accountability.* Leaders are trustworthy people of integrity who make wise decisions and manage resources well.
- *Learning & growing in community.* We enjoy a sweet spirit of unity and fellowship. People genuinely love each other and get along. We have high levels of participation in groups, where people feel connected, supported and cared for.
- *Stability & steadiness.* 65% of respondents have been at Campus for 10 or more years.
- *Biblical, relevant preaching.* This was the #1 strength that people identified.

Greatest Weaknesses:

- *Assimilating into groups.* A significant number of people have difficulty connecting with existing groups where members have known each other for years. Groups can feel like cliques.
- *Congregation is gradually getting older.* Young people have a harder time fitting in. Singles feel we could do a better job recognizing and supporting their unique stage of life.
- *Lack of outward focus.* 65% of leaders identified this as our single-greatest need.

Fresno Demographic Study: 2 key problems caught our attention...

- Broken Families – there are more single parents than married couples with children.
- Division – “Fresno is a city of silos. We are divided by race, class, and geography...” (Andrew Feil)

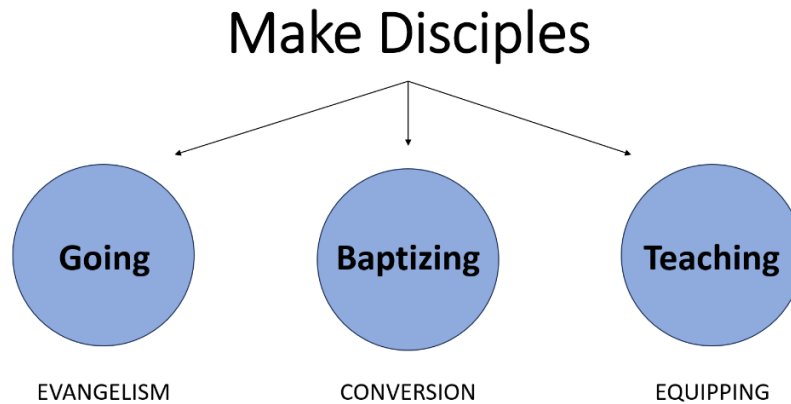
Key Verse: *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)*

Mission Statement

“Enjoying and Sharing the Abundant Life of Jesus.”

The mission of every local church is the Great Commission. But what that looks like is different for each congregation. A mission statement is a church's unique expression of how it will fulfill the Great Commission.

Matthew 28:18-20 – “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”



The only imperative command in these verses is “make disciples.” But Jesus uses three participles to explain what that means. If we don’t accomplish all three of these, we’re not actually fulfilling the Great Commission.

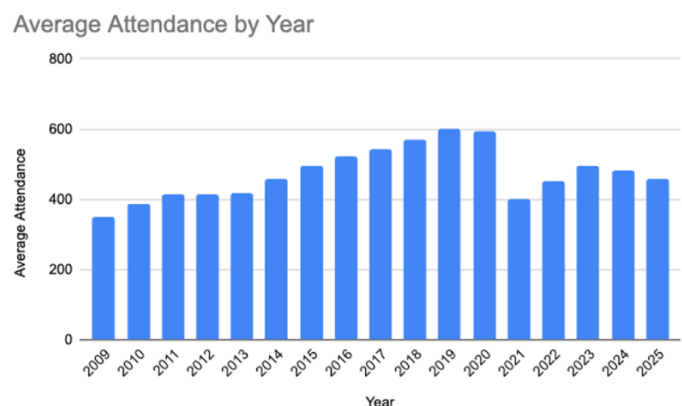
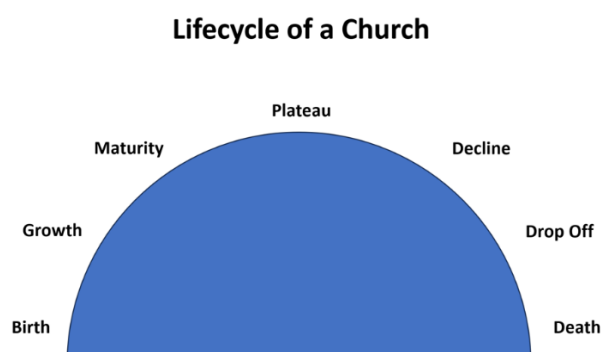
How are we doing personally?

When was the last time you led somebody to Christ? When was the last time you discipled someone and equipped them to become a mature, reproducing follower of Jesus?

Matthew 4:19 – “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

- Following involves fishing. If we’re not fishing, we’re not really following Jesus.
- God’s plan is to use each one of us to fulfill the Great Commission.

How are we doing as a church?



Currently, Campus is in a period of plateau or slight decline. We are strong at teaching. We need to do a better job *going* and *baptizing*.

Abundant Life:

Our mission statement is laser-focused on Jesus, because he is the heart of the gospel and the hope of humanity. He is the source of abundant life.

Two primary ways we experience the abundant life of Jesus:

1) *Enjoying it...*

First, we must enjoy it, because if we don't enjoy it, we won't share it. We can't give others what we haven't received ourselves.

John 15:5 – “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

The way we enjoy the abundant life of Jesus is by getting to know him, developing an ever-deepening relationship with him, and learning to abide in him. When we abide in Jesus, his life flows through us; it transforms us; and we can't keep it to ourselves.

2) *Sharing it...*

Luke 6:45 – “For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.”

The more we love Jesus, the more excited we are to tell people about him. The more we know him, the more we have to offer.

- Relational Evangelism: sharing the abundant life of Jesus with non-Christians.
- Relational Discipleship: sharing the abundant life of Jesus with believers.
- God is calling us to a deeper, more caring, relational approach to ministry.

We could summarize our vision for the future in four words:

“Be Disciples. Make Disciples.”

At Campus, our dream is for every member to be a disciple who makes disciples, sharing the gospel in word and deed by loving our neighbors where we live, work, learn and play.

Imagine what God might do in the next five years if we all commit to enjoying and sharing the abundant life of Jesus! Will you join us for this exciting adventure?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think it's important for a church to have a vision for the future?
2. What did you learn about the strengths and weaknesses of Campus Bible Church?
3. In your own words, explain the significance of our new mission statement.
4. How well are you fulfilling the Great Commission personally?
5. What do you think could happen in the next 5 year if everyone in our church committed to being disciples and making disciples?