

The Kingdom Focused Church in a Counter-Culture Society

How can we carry out the vision that God has given us?

We must understand three crucial elements if we are to be successful witnesses in today's culture.

1. The first step is to gain a solid understanding of the Kingdom.
 - a. The kingdom of God must be the fundamental life goal that everyone should seek and align with.
 - b. The kingdom of God, in its most basic form, is the authority of Jesus Christ as Lord and King in our life.
 - c. The kingdom is a personal encounter with God.
2. The second step is to recognize what the church is and is not.
 - a. A local church is a gathering of Christians in a specific location.
 - b. The church is one of God's most powerful and effective tools.
 - c. Our church exists exclusively to establish God's kingdom, His rule and reign, in the lives of those who live in the community in which we live.
 - d. Contrary to popular belief, the church does not exist just for the sake of the church.
3. The third step is to remain focused on the Kingdom agenda.
 - a. Stewardship and ministry are the two cornerstones of a kingdom-focused church.
 - b. Stewardship is vertical in the sense that a local church is subject to the Father's authority and will.
 - c. A church's ministry is horizontal in the sense that it focuses on people.
 - d. Jesus had a laser-like focus. The salvation of all humans who lived on Earth at any time was His primary priority.
 - e. Above everything, we must prioritize bringing individuals into the kingdom. We must be evangelists for Jesus Christ.
4. Our Mission and Vision statements are fundamental to God's vision for our church and our maintaining a kingdom focus.

a. MISSION STATEMENT Why New Horizons exists

To Attract and Disciple people, empowering them toward an authentic, life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 4:7-11; Matt. 28:18-20

b. VISION STATEMENT What we hope to achieve

We will be a family facing the crossroads of life together, dedicated to growth in our faith, knowledge and action, within and beyond the doors of our church."

Hebrew 10:23-25; Ecclesiastes 4:9-10; James 2:14-17; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Colossians 2:7; Proverbs 1:7; John 8:32; Luke 1:77