



dpc - a glance back & a look forward

Here at DPC we're unashamedly enthusiastic about knowing Jesus Christ. In fact we're so enthusiastic about Jesus that we want as many people as possible to know Him. At DPC we try to capture this goal in our church vision statement - Present Christ to everyone. Present everyone mature in Christ.

Our vision statement is not just empty words. We *really* do want everyone to know Jesus! We'd love every single man, woman, boy and girl living in Dubbo to be following the Lord Jesus Christ as their loving Saviour and King. For this reason, the session have been praying and thinking about what ministry structures DPC should *now* have, so as to best accommodate gospel growth in the *future*. For example, our 4 churches currently contain approximately 400-450 people (children included). But what happens when DPC reaches 800 people? 1000? 2000? More than 5000? Remember, we *really* do want *everyone* to know Jesus.

In planning for gospel growth, the session has arrived at two important, inter-related ministry strategies -

Ministry strategy 1 - it's best to grow big by staying small.

Rather than growing a single big church, at DPC we're committed to the planting of numerous smaller churches. This is because it's easier to know and serve one another in a smaller church, plus the very exercise of planting a new church tends to generate enthusiasm, diversity, freshness and greater outreach opportunities. Over the years, this commitment to growing new churches has resulted in the planting of evening church, morning church and more recently, tuesday church.

It is with the recent planting of tuesday church that a discussion was triggered within the session regarding future staffing within DPC. In particular the session is keen to ensure that our increasing number of churches are best served by the staff. This brings us to our 2nd ministry strategy.



Ministry strategy 2 - it's best to have a one-church-one pastor arrangement

The experience of evening church and morning church would suggest that a church family is best served when it has the exclusive attention of a full-time worker ie there is a specific pastor dedicated to serving each particular church. This ministry strategy would seem to be the most sustainable model for long term gospel growth, provided that staff increases are made at the right time.

With morning church, the church was planted approximately 2 years prior to any increase in full time staff. This proved a prudent financial action plan. This order was reversed when we went from 3 to 4 staff. Because of external financial support we added an extra staff member BEFORE the planting of a 4th church. So far this has proven to be a more formidable financial hurdle. *This suggests that church planting, as opposed to cross church activities, is the most sustainable form of growth.* For this reason the session is committed to a one-church-one-pastor strategy, provided that a new church is planted before appointing extra staff.

What this all means now

The adoption of a one-church-one-pastor model means that the logical next step for DPC is for Allan to become the sole pastor of early church and Bryson the sole pastor of tuesday church. This will allow each church to benefit from fresh energy and input as well as the undistracted care of a staff member.

An added benefit of Allan becoming the pastor of early church is that the combined church ministries of DPC (for which Allan was previously responsible) will now be distributed amongst the session. This will enable a greater level of specialisation amongst ministry tasks.

At DPC our vision statement provides us with a helpful way to divide our combined-church ministries. The following table reflects the way in which cross-church ministries will now be cared for by the session.

present Christ to everyone			present everyone mature in Christ		
ongoing ministries	occasional ministries	world mission support	youth	adult	ministry support
eg. playtime, scripture, KLAG, connect, PWA	eg. missions, kids clubs	eg. world mission awareness, and missionary support	eg. MOB	eg. Metro, Seechange, WOW	eg. Session clerk, child protection, Committee of Management
Bryson	Wayne, Greg	Kelvin	Allan	Paul	Ian

It's not that each of the session mentioned will DO all the ministries mentioned over their name. But it does mean they will have oversight over those ministries and through them the session will oversee the ministries. This model also allows us to recognise gaps in our ministries that need to be addressed.

What this all means for the future

As mentioned previously, the session is committed to a one-church-one-pastor strategy, provided that a church is planted before appointing extra staff. In concrete terms, this has led session to begin to plan *now* for the next church plant. The following **5 year strategy** is therefore presented for discussion amongst the church families.

2008	4 churches each with their own pastor	(P) (P) (P) (P)
2009	consolidation of the 4 churches	(P) (P) (P) (P)
2010	planting of a 5th church	(P) (P) (P) (P) ()
2011	consolidation of the 5 churches	(P) (P) (P) (P) ()
2012	appointment of 5th pastor	(P) (P) (P) (P) (P)



Of course, all such planning is done under the sovereignty of God. If God gives the growth we may plant a 5th church next year. Unless God gives the growth we may never plant a 5th church. What we are confident of though, is that God wants all people to repent and receive eternal life. And so until the day we die or the day when Jesus returns, we strive to *present Christ to everyone and present everyone mature in Christ*.