



# Renew

A VISION THAT REQUIRES ALL OF US

CENTRAL

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BAPTIST CHURCH

## LETTER FROM PASTOR BARTON PRIEBE

**AROUND 400 YEARS AGO**, the Pilgrims came across the Atlantic Ocean to settle in the newly discovered Americas. The voyage took incredible courage as the Pilgrims travelled thousands of kilometers over uncharted seas. In order to achieve their new life in a new world, they made great personal sacrifices in comfort and wealth. Despite the difficulties, they built an entire town and established a town council. Their once future vision had become a present reality. The story is told (perhaps fictitiously) that in the third year, the town council voted to build a road eight kilometers into the wilderness. In the fourth year, the entire council was almost impeached for this decision. It was considered to be a waste of money and effort. Content in their current achievements, the people lacked the vision to discover and explore the vast land and resources of North America.

The founders of Central Baptist Church had a vision to see a church established in the downtown core of Victoria. Through the grace of God and the sacrificial giving of people this vision became a reality in 1929. People gave of their time, talents, and financial resources. Central went further and helped to plant churches in Brentwood Bay (1930), Luxton (1933), Duncan (1938), Sooke (1976), Saanich (1977), and Golden (1991).



Our recent consultation celebrated this remarkable history. It also warned that we have become comfortable and have plateaued in almost every way. The report called us to step out in faith by creating a new vision that builds new roads of ministry into the future. **This RENEW booklet outlines our proposed vision and the key objectives we believe need to happen in order to see the vision start to become a reality over the next five years.**

This is an exciting time in the life of Central Baptist Church. As you read, we pray you will catch a vision for the next stage of what God has for us.

Together with you for the gospel,



Barton Priebe  
LEAD PASTOR

#### COLOSSIANS 1:6

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**“THE GOSPEL IS BEARING FRUIT AND GROWING THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE WORLD—JUST AS IT HAS BEEN DOING AMONG YOU SINCE THE DAY YOU HEARD IT AND TRULY UNDERSTOOD GOD’S GRACE.”**

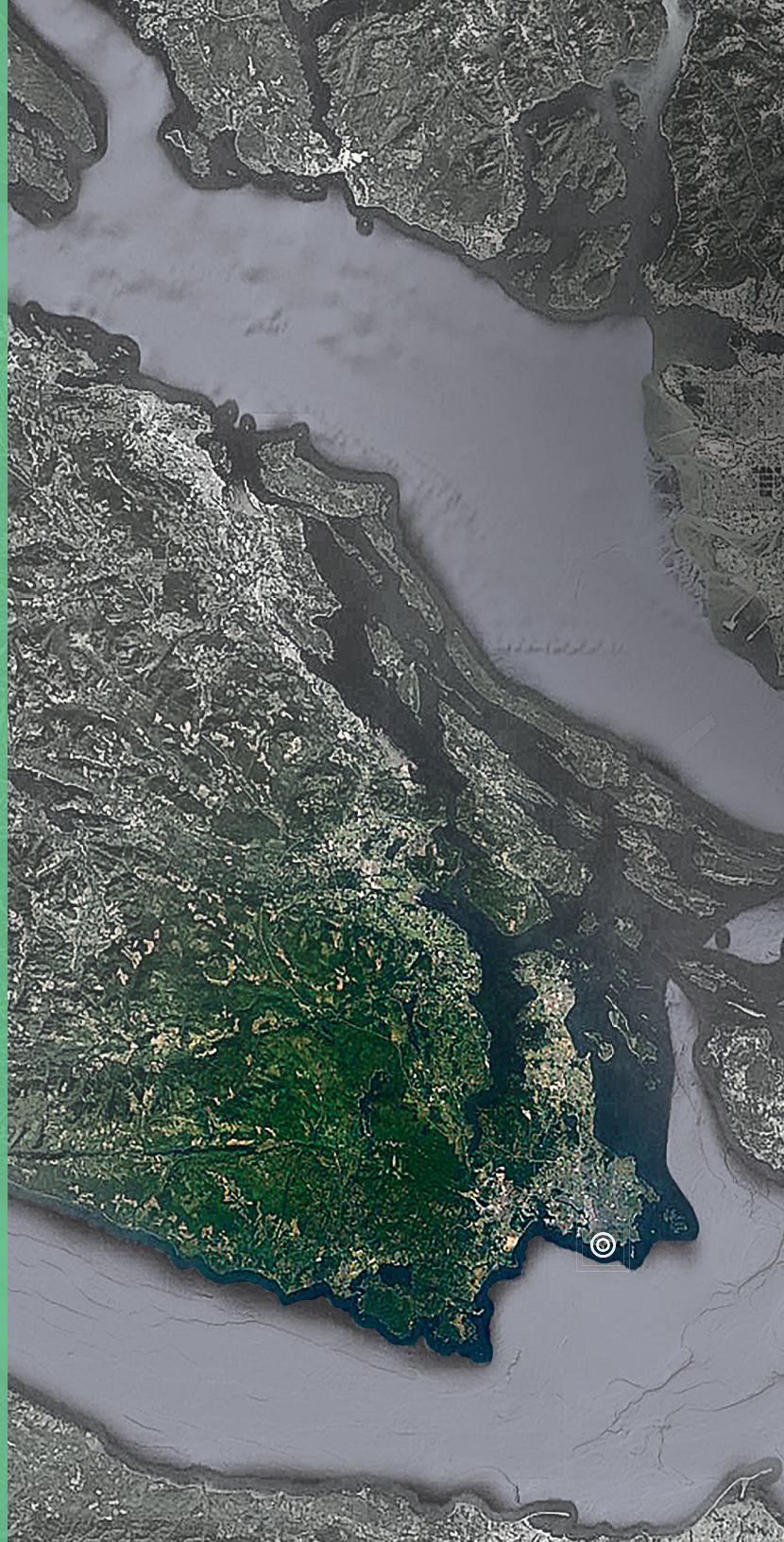


# Vision

## RENEWING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH THE GOSPEL

To renew something assumes that it was once good, has subsequently been ruined, but is in the process of being restored. This is the story of the Bible. Everything God made was good. Human sin brought ruin and devastation to every part of our existence. The gospel, or good news, is that God is working to renew and restore his fallen creation through Jesus Christ.

We believe that the gospel message is not merely a body of truth to be acknowledged but that it is the very power of God that transforms and renews everything it comes in contact with – personal lives, families, workplaces, and whole societies.







ROMANS 1:16

**I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE  
GOSPEL BECAUSE IT IS  
THE POWER OF GOD FOR  
THE SALVATION OF  
EVERYONE WHO  
BELIEVES**

This renewal begins when a person receives the gospel and their once broken relationship with God is restored.

The gospel then becomes the means and power for believers to be renewed in every area of their lives so they become more and more like Jesus Christ.

We envision a movement of the gospel that is bringing renewal to “our community,” which encompasses:

- **OURSELVES:** We need the gospel to renew how we relate to God, family, culture, sexuality, money, singleness, and every other area of our lives.
- **OUR CITY:** We envision gospel renewal throughout the CRD as we strive to introduce people to Jesus Christ, increase the number of gospel-centred congregations, engage in social justice and compassion, and discover how the gospel transforms the way we do our work.
- **OUR WORLD:** Through global missions and strategic partnerships, we envision Central bringing gospel renewal to those places around the world where we have influence.

**A PEOPLE REVITALIZED.**

**A CITY RENEWED.**

**A WORLD TRANSFORMED.**

**THE GOSPEL CHANGES EVERYTHING.**



# You

You are God's agent for  
gospel renewal.

It is no accident that you live, work, and  
enjoy recreation where you do. God has  
placed you there to bring the renewing  
power of the gospel to those within your  
sphere of influence.

**ROMANS 15:2-3**

**"EACH OF US SHOULD PLEASE OUR NEIGHBOURS FOR  
THEIR GOOD, TO BUILD THEM UP. FOR EVEN CHRIST DID  
NOT PLEASE HIMSELF."**





The RENEW vision is a call for  
all of us at Central to say,

*I'm in!*

I need to be continually changed  
by the gospel and I want to be a part of  
bringing the renewing power of the gospel  
to our community.



## STORIES OF GOSPEL RENEWAL AND VISION

Many at Central are already experiencing the renewing power of the gospel and are saying, **I'm in** to praying and working together to see the RENEW vision become a reality.

The Lord has given me a burden to engage with the poor, marginalized, and disenfranchised men and women on the streets around Central Baptist. I listen to their stories, pray with them, and direct them to the hope found in Christ. At Our Place, I am engaged in pastoral care ministry leading Bible studies and serving where needed, and in turn, I have been richly blessed by the people who use the services there. **I thank my Lord for giving me the opportunity to be a channel of his love and compassion** for each person.

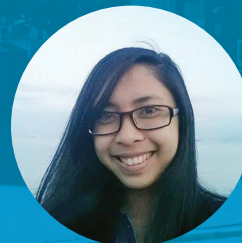


Ron Morgan





I feel blessed to live in a safe place with many opportunities and to be loved by the church. As a way of giving back to this city and demonstrating Christ's love, I pray for the helpless and widows, especially my friends and the youth of Victoria who do not know Him. I am living out the love of God in my community so that the lost who do not know Him yet will experience Christ's love through me. I will continue to love, listen, and help them overcome depression and loneliness through the power of Jesus.



*Faye Badayos*  
Faye Badayos



## STORIES OF GOSPEL RENEWAL AND VISION

I have a passion to ensure our children are equipped to thrive and share the light of Christ's love in our increasingly troubled and hurting world. As a Sunday School leader, I believe it is a great privilege to help them discover God's incredible love for them, and to build a foundation of Biblical knowledge to face the issues that come with growing up. As they discover and develop their identity in Christ, our children are making a difference in their schools and communities by showing God's love to those around them in practical ways. - Kirsten Wright



4LRIGHT.

Kirsten Wright





One of my passions is growing food and connecting with the community to grow healthy sustainable food for everyone. Since Christ served me in laying down his life, I have a desire to serve others. I work for the government downtown and my church is downtown. As I see the need around me, I see opportunity for renewal in the city through food groups and organizations working together to address these needs. I want to be an active participant in the renewal of my community and for me, it will happen through community engagement gardening together, sharing harvest, building relationships and making a difference in people's lives.



*Elisabeth*

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**Elisabeth Deom**

## OBJECTIVES

**THE FOLLOWING FIVE OBJECTIVES** outline what we believe we need to do in the next five years in order to see our vision of gospel renewal start to become a reality.

1

**We need a clear pathway for people to learn what the gospel is and how it works out in every area of life.**

**WHY?** Since the gospel is the very centre of the RENEW vision, Central must have clear steps for people to learn the gospel and grow in it.

**How?** Clear pathways will be implemented including a core four-week track for newcomers, a fresh re-visioning of our community groups with the majority of our people participating, and age-specific curriculum.

2

**We need to become known for seeking the common good of the city.**

**WHY?** The gospel compels us to “love our neighbour.” A gospel centered church must be known for its acts of service, compassion, and justice as these help authenticate the message it preaches.

**HOW?** We will pursue and establish local and global partnerships that inform our activity and create renewal in our city and beyond. We will also ensure that living out the gospel is never separated from the declaration of the gospel.

*Note: details for each of these five objectives are worked out in a five-year strategic plan document*





3

### **We need to utilize current technology to contextualize the gospel for our culture.**

**WHY?** Our multi-media capabilities need to be brought up to date so we can reach present and future generations.

**HOW?** Central will strive for a significant social media presence on popular platforms, increase the quality of multimedia in our worship services, and modernize all our brochures and hand-out materials. Technology will be better integrated into church life and ministry.



4

### **We need to grow our under 40 demographic while engaging and valuing our seniors.**

**WHY?** To ensure a strong and healthy church exists ten years from now, Central needs to focus on getting younger and yet do so in a way that appreciates and involves its senior population.

**HOW?** We will create a vibrant and relevant Sunday morning service that attracts younger people, update Children's and Youth Ministries, and multiply family ministries. Alongside this, we will seek to mobilize our seniors in prayer, volunteering, and sharing their lives with those who are younger.



5

### **We need to multiply gospel centred congregations.**

**WHY?** It will take more than Central Baptist to bring gospel renewal across the CRD. The most effective way to light up the darkness is not to place all the lamp posts on one corner but, rather, to spread them out over the city.

**HOW?** We will partner with West Village Church (a Fellowship Baptist church in Langford) in their present efforts to plant a church in the Tillicum-Gorge area and will consider multiplying our own congregation by launching a second service.





# pray engage give

**PRAY** - Spend regular time in prayer for gospel renewal in our church, our city, and those places in the world where Central has influence.

**ENGAGE** - This vision cannot be accomplished simply by Sunday attendance, but by all of us engaging ourselves in the gospel, in the Central community, and through serving in our own spheres of influence.

**GIVE** - Generosity is at the very heart of the gospel – “God so loved the world that he gave His only Son.” Since God has been so radically generous with us, we delight to give in order to see his work done.



SEEK THE PEACE  
AND PROSPERITY  
OF **THE CITY**...  
PRAY TO THE LORD  
FOR IT, BECAUSE IF IT  
PROSPERS, YOU TOO  
WILL PROSPER."

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JEREMIAH 29:7





# RENEWING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH THE GOSPEL

## RESOURCES



*Counterfeit Gospels: Rediscovering the Good News in a World of False Hope*  
by Trevin Wax (2011)



*Gospel: Recovering the Power that Made Christianity Revolutionary*  
by J.D. Greear (2013)



*Living the Cross Centered Life: Keeping the Gospel the Main Thing*  
by C.J. Mahaney (2009)

## CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

833 Pandora Ave. Victoria, BC, V8W 1P2  
250-385-7786 · [centralbaptistchurch.ca](http://centralbaptistchurch.ca)