



# Planning for 2012

## Gateway's Prophetic Mandate

God has called Gateway to:

- be a place of restoration and refuge. Isaiah 58:12.
- be a fluid, elastic, loose, open, responsive, evolving shape that is led by the Holy Spirit and is not constrained by structure.
- be a light that will dispel darkness over a wide area, locally and internationally.
- pray for the protection and salvation of future generations.
- have a point of difference from other Churches, particularly in how it supports the elderly and suffering
- support ministries through prayer and giving.
- be fruitful and produce something beautiful for the Lord.

## Goals for 2012

### 1. Be obedient to the Holy Spirit as we fulfil our calling to:

- **be a loving fellowship focused on building the Kingdom of God in Kapiti and beyond.**  
We will be a place of restoration, refuge and healing which can take in people for a time and release them blessed by the Lord. We will be externally focused by seeking to build the Kingdom of God in all that we do.
- **pray and intercede for people, situations, communities and nations.**  
We will have a strong prayer focus in our Sunday meetings and in home groups.  
We will encourage personal prayer through ministry times, deliverance sessions, the prayer chain, the newsletter, and through teaching on prayer.
- **be a help, support and comfort for those who are suffering or in need.**  
We will support those who are suffering or in need through our Sevenoaks, and singalong ministries, and through ministry times, deliverance sessions and the prayer chain. We will provide financial support to those who are suffering or in need.
- **support ministries within and outside of Gateway financially and in prayer.**  
We will pray for, give to, and provide support and encouragement for ministries of people within Gateway, in Kapiti, throughout New Zealand and beyond. eg. prison ministry, Sam Bayly's youth ministry, Blessed by the Lord Church in the Philippines.....
- **encourage natural growth, development and progression of the Church.**  
We will have creative, worshipful, prayerful Sunday and Home Group meetings.  
We will have quality Bible teaching from a range of internal and external speakers.  
We will have regular social and fellowship activities.  
We will be open, accepting, loving, non-judgmental, adaptable and creative in our relationships.  
We will have a consistent focus on Jesus and on doing God's will as revealed by the Holy Spirit.  
We will be spiritually natural and naturally spiritual.

### 2. Embrace the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and allow God to develop us in whatever ways He chooses.

We will consistently focus on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus, and encourage each other to live in this freedom.

We will be open to the Holy Spirit and let Him work among us and change us as He will.

We will have a teaching series on "Revival" exploring features of past revivals and principles for working with God as He revives His Church in the future.

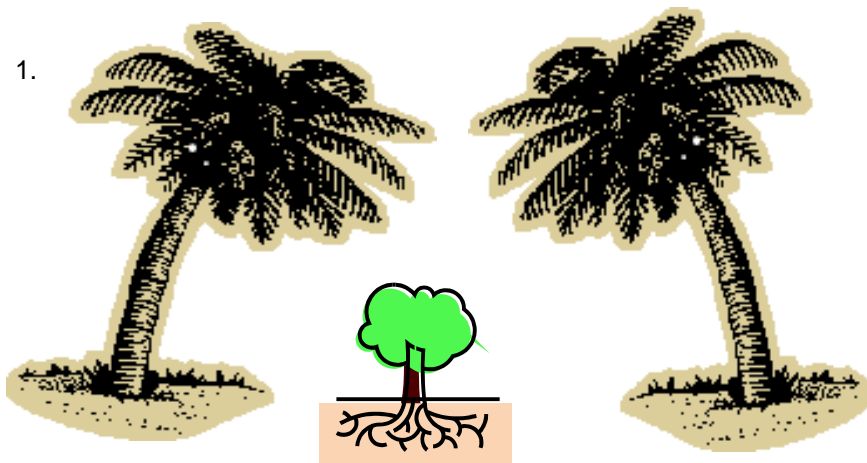
### 3. Explore how we can be authentic Christians in an increasingly anti-Christian world.

We will have a teaching series in which we will explore the forces that influence our Christianity and how we can live as authentic Christians. This will be based on Romans 12:2: *Do not be conformed to this world; but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

#### Background to Goals 2 and 3.

In 2011 we received two messages for the Church: one as a dream; the other as a prophecy.

1.



*Gateway is like a small tree with an extremely large root system and glossy, green healthy leaves. As yet, there is little fruit. We are surrounded by large, overpowering (or sheltering) trees with no apparent roots.*

*This shows Gateway as a healthy and functional Church wanting to outreach into its community and beyond.*

2. *God will surely come with a His manifestation and power, and will fill us to overflowing. Get used to walking with our spirit's full of His presence. Live in this and Kapiti will be a portal of life in NZ. We are at war and have a right to know what is going on. But we are like World War 1 soldiers (which were good for their time). God now needs us to re-equip and learn new ways and new weapons relevant for these times.*

From this we interpret that God wants us to impact our community and our world for Christ in new ways. The religious "Church organisation" approach is not working and churches are increasingly becoming small, irrelevant, persecuted sub-cultures in our society. The big trees are over-powering us.

Gateway is healthy and has a very strong and well developed foundation of Christian maturity and experience. God wants us to focus on being salt and light in the community, and not think of ourselves a separate sub-culture. If we are to really make a difference in Kapiti and in the world we must be real and demonstrate authentic Christianity. If we don't, we will be made to look even more foolish than we are at present. Genuine, real and authentic Christians are a powerful weapon that the Holy Spirit can (and will) use to evangelise the world, change society and bring in the Kingdom of God.

But just being authentic Christians is not enough because we can all only impact a limited number of people for Christ. As well, we need a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit where God moves in a sovereign way to change communities, cities and nations, with countless numbers of people won for Christ. This has come about in the past when there have been great revivals. We need God to come in another manifestation of His life and power. We need revival! That's how Kapiti can become a portal of life in New Zealand.

## Developments in 2012

### Freedom in Christ

We will continue to focus on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and will explore ways we can be set free from bondage to legalism or culture. We won't put pressure on each other or have expectations as to how the Church or its people should develop. We will let the Lord lead us in His ways and in His time.

### Bible teaching

- Gateway will continue to provide relevant Bible teaching using a range of internal and external speakers.
- Bernie Townsend will do a series on "Revival" looking at the features of revivals in the New Testament, Wales, Azusa Street and New Zealand. This will help us have a better idea of God's plans for His Church and help us be better prepared to work with God as He revives His Church.

- Ross Callaghan will lead an extensive series on “Authentic Christians in an anti-Christian world”. In this series we will explore underlying philosophies affecting us, the influence of culture and tradition, the Christian world view, the work of the Holy Spirit, and what it means to be authentic and real as a Christian.

### **Prophetic ministry**

Bernie Townsend is recognised among us as the ministry gift of a prophet. We will seek to develop this further by getting regular prophetic input from Bernie during our elders meetings.

### **Social activities**

We will seek to develop the social side of our life together by having regular fellowship activities. Gateway is not just about having nice Church “services”.

### **Finances**

We will continue to slowly grow our level of charitable giving to ministries and to those in need. We recognise that we are able to do this because we have a significant term deposit in the bank. This allows us to continue to give regardless of the economy, income and numbers in the Church.

### **Support for other ministries**

- Blessed by the Lord Church is in a growth phase. They have about 120 members and are looking to grow to 800, built around a large number of Bible Study groups. Our support for Blessed by the Lord will reflect the changes that are occurring in the Church. We will focus more on providing relevant resources that will help them as they grow.
- We have completed our contributions towards our Trustbank in the Philippines. There have been some problems with the Trustbank but they have been resolved and there was a 94% repayment rate in the first cycle. They are now on their second cycle with 17 members in the group. They meet weekly for Bible Study and worship. We will continue to pray for God’s blessings to be on all who are in the group.
- Our Sevenoaks ministry has changed somewhat from when we began two years ago, but we will be flexible and continue to provide support, interest, and comfort for residents there.
- Bernie Townsend will conduct a road tour between Wellington and Taranaki describing the influence of missionary Octavius Hadfield in the 1800s.

We pray that God would bless you richly through your involvement in Gateway Christian Fellowship. May you know more of Jesus in 2012 and may you be more effective in sharing Him with others.

*Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10.*

Neil Evans and Ross Callaghan. January 2012