



Planning for 2013

Our mission is to honour and glorify God by actively pursuing His purposes in our lives, and to serve others through Jesus Christ, who is the Gateway to God.

1. **Style of church.**

We will continue the style of church that we have at present with a strong focus on:

- quality teaching using a variety of speakers
- great times of worship
- creative church services
- age-appropriate activities and outreaches
- seeking to be led by the Holy Spirit.

2. **Freedom in Christ.**

In recent years we have tried to resist the rules and control of a religious approach and embrace more of the freedom we have in Christ. This has brought great blessing to many and we will seek to continue growing in our freedom in Christ, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

3. **Growth.**

We are not concerned about numbers or interested in building an organisation for the sake of it. We will continue to focus on meeting the needs of older Christians and seek to bring significant blessing, meaning and purpose for those the Lord sends to us. This may or may not lead to growth in numbers but we recognise that there are many older Christians in Kapiti who would really value being part of Gateway.

4. **Leadership.**

Neil and Ingrid provide the glue which holds Gateway together. Neil has very demanding work and therefore little spare time or energy, but remains committed to the people of Gateway and to seeing the Lord's purposes for Gateway fulfilled.

Ross and Kathy have brought much creativity, direction, and spiritual leadership to Gateway over the last few years. They are struggling with motivation due to oversensitivity and weight of peoples' expectations, and also feel that their input is coming to the end of its natural life cycle. Ross has been in eldership for four years now and will commit to one more year only, at this stage.

Bernie has been invited to join the eldership. Bernie and Dawn will bring new perspectives for the future and their input will help spread the leadership load.

5. **Generous giving.**

We have significant cash reserves and will actively pursue more generous giving to a wider range of Christian missions and ministries to the poor.

6. **Future.**

Gateway remains at a critical mass as to whether it can continue to exist in its current form. We recognise that things cannot stay the same forever and that in the Lord there is a natural life cycle. We may grow through gaining of some older Christians or we may be getting close to fulfilling the purpose that God had in setting up Gateway 9 years ago. Either way we will continue to be open to the Holy Spirit and seek to do what He wants us to do.

We pray that God would bless you richly through your involvement in Gateway Christian Fellowship. May you know more of Jesus in 2013 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 2013