



Vision 2008-2013

"A church without vision may perish
but a vision that no one connects with
and puts their hearts into is no vision at all!"

PREAMBLE

Seaford Baptist Church seeks to be a community of God's people who serve the community in which we live and who serve one another loving as Christ first loved us. We believe the church has the responsibility to prepare, train, teach and equip all its members to serve God in the world and in the church throughout their lives. We believe in the life transforming power of prayer and commit ourselves to pray in all situations to see God's love and glory revealed. We believe in the will of God to see the restoration of creation and the salvation of all mankind and in a church increasing in love and maturity as men and women young and old come to know Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

Progress in attaining this vision should be regularly reviewed by church organisations, the leadership and annually by the Church Meeting

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20

Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.

2 Corinthians 4:1

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10

Do not be afraid or discouraged for the Lord, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished.

1 Chronicles 28: 20

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Ephesians 6 v 18

KEY STATEMENTS

EVANGELISM AND WORLD MISSION

We are committed to being a Missionary
Congregation

MINISTRY

We are committed to enabling the church to fulfil its
calling

RESOURCING

We are committed to ensuring the ministry of the
church is efficiently organised and sufficiently
resourced

YOUTH AND CHILDREN

We are committed to all our youth and children, to
their future life and their eternal life

FACILITIES

We are committed to excellence and to the provision
of facilities that serve the community in which we live
and that serve the needs of the church

PRAYER

Prayer is at the heart of the Christian experience and
its beat should resonate through all that we do.

EVANGELISM

KEY STATEMENT

We are committed to being a Missionary Congregation, making Christ known to our whole community, and seeing men and women young and old coming to a living faith in Jesus Christ.

- Guided by His Word - Led by His Spirit - Sharing the Good News –

STRATEGY

- Training, Teaching and supporting the evangelistic ministry of the church
- Engaging with National and Local ecumenical and other initiatives
- Ensuring the Resources we need to implement this strategy are available
- Ensuring our evangelism ministry is covered by prayer
- Establish in our hearts and minds a whole church commitment to evangelism
- Developing an effective ministry for Social Concern and Justice
- To be aware of the weaknesses in our evangelistic ministry

SPECIFIC TARGETS

- See the church grow by 70 members to over 300 by 2013
- See the number of baptisms increase to around 20 a year
- Present the Gospel to every home in our community in quality format 3 times a year (magazine/DVD/invites to Christmas and Easter etc)
- See 10 or more people called into full time Christian service in evangelism and ministry nationally
- To hold regular, well publicised, special evangelistic events
- To see the development of an effective ministry to those aged 20-35
- To see the development of an effective ministry to 'prodigals'

WORLD MISSION

KEY STATEMENT

We are committed to being a Missionary Congregation and a globally focussed mission sending church, and a community of God's people who are committed to Jesus Christ.

- Guided by His Word - Led by His Spirit - Sharing the Good News –

STRATEGY

- To encourage individuals and groups to support one or more mission projects, agencies or workers at home or overseas
- To ensure the church has regular opportunities to be aware of overseas mission work through worship services, church and missionary publications, contact with missionaries and missionary organisations, especially those officially supported by the church
- To make the church aware and encourage participation in short and long term overseas mission projects, supporting those who undertake such missions

SPECIFIC TARGETS

- To see 4 people called to overseas mission supported by the church by 2013
- To see people annually engaged in short term overseas mission
- To meet an increasing mission budget annually
- To see church mission teams engaging in short term mission overseas annually. We are through this, seeking to raise 'one euro' per member to support attendance at the 2009 EBF Congress in Amsterdam celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the founding of the first Baptist Church in the world. We intend that a group from SBC will attend the Congress
- We seek to see the budget for Mission maintained at not less than 20% of the giving to the general fund

MINISTRY

KEY STATEMENT

We believe that the ministry of SBC should equip and enable all those that are called by God to minister in his Church and in His community to fulfil their calling and that SBC is a place where this is fulfilled through meaningful encounters through both worship and word.

STRATEGY

- Our strategy is based upon several elements all designed to at least achieve an element of the key statement consisting of:
- A continual review of the ministries undertaken by the church
- Identifying the strengths and weaknesses of our ministry activities
- Deepen the variety and extent of our worship activity
- Extend the vision of SBC as to what constitutes ministry
- The development of an effective Discipleship and Christian Leadership Programme
- A constant review of this strategy

SPECIFIC TARGETS

- To increase those in our care group system to a target of 80% of all those who are members of SBC or are in regular attendance at SBC
- To ensure all future ministry work within the church is met through encouraging 50% of all regular attendees to be actively involved in SBC ministry work
- To enable a further 20 people to lead worship / preach through the use of evening worship praise and preach sessions.
- To add other points with specific targets following the completion of the strategy by the end of June 2008 for discussion and agreement of the leadership

RESOURCING

KEY STATEMENT

The task of the Resources Team is to oil the wheels of the church by ensuring that the church is efficiently run and sufficiently resourced.

"Do not be afraid or discouraged for the Lord, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished"

1 Chronicles 28: 20

STRATEGY

- To provide a "Yes ...we can do this" environment
- To inspire a culture of excellence in all we do
- To provide for all aspects of church life the necessary organisational frameworks
- To be transparent and accountable in all that we do
- We aim to develop the skills of our members - to find the skills needed and mobilise them before the need arises - communicating the skills that we already have within SBC
- To ensure the church is properly administered
- To ensure proper financial management of the church's resources
- Provision of appropriate training for staff and members
- We aim to be efficient, not wasting resources.

SPECIFIC TARGETS

SHORT TERM TARGETS

- Evolve a communication and publicity strategy for the church
- Review current Health & Safety policies and ensure compliance
- Review all current church policies and commission new ones as needed
- Investigate establishment of 'Vision Fund' to enable new developments to take place. This will need to be led by a costed and timetabled 'Vision' document setting objectives and targets.
- Further promote advantages of giving under Gift Aid.

- Establish a "Vision blog"
- Conversion of Garage to storage to release up valuable internal space
- The 'people factor' should be pre-eminent in all we do; any proposed changes effecting staff or key volunteers should encompass discussion at the earliest possible stages.

MEDIUM TERM TARGETS

- Establishment of a well funded 'Crisis Fund' for pastoral needs
- Establishment of a 'Sinking Fund' for building refurbishment
- To investigate the possibilities of working with other external groups i.e. to learn from their experiences and to share resources, policies etc.
- Undertake review of Constitution
- Give consideration to ongoing office space needs as church grows
- Review Members meetings – purpose, frequency and content
- Investigate green energy alternative (solar panels, lighting etc)

LONG TERM TARGETS

- Undertake a comprehensive skills audit
- Assuming a larger building it was appreciated that further support (in addition to existing input) for the practical management and maintenance of the facilities would be needed.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN

KEY STATEMENT

We are committed to all our youth and children, to their future life and their eternal life.

STRATEGY

- The now evident changes in personnel in our Youth and Children's Ministry have led us to evolve the following three-fold strategy...
- To ensure that the current programme is properly staffed and resourced for the beginning of the autumn session in September 2008

- To resolve the valid questions being considered as to whether or not we seek to appoint a new full-time paid Youth Worker/Pastor
- To reform the Youth and Children's Vision Team to recommence the task of vision seeking that was halted by the changes in staffing that became apparent for the end of the summer 2008

SPECIFIC TARGETS

- To have all our current activities staffed and sustainable for September 2008
- To have any new staff recruited and in post for September 2008

FACILITIES

KEY STATEMENT

We are committed to excellence and to the provision of facilities that serve the community in which we live and that serve the needs of the church.

STRATEGY

The remit of the groups has now changed due to events relating to the failure of the church heating system and the impending church meeting on 17th March 2008 at which the Facilities Group will be given a much clearer and time limited remit to progress their work.

SPECIFIC TARGETS

- To secure motion at church meeting for the Team to take forward
- To report in full to the church meeting by the early summer 2008 recommendations on the future of the church facilities

PRAYER

KEY STATEMENT

Prayer is at the heart of the Christian experience and its beat should resonate through all that we do.

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”

Ephesians 6 v 18

STRATEGY

- Promote, encourage and extend the following existing areas:
- Prayer chain(s) & e-mail chain
- Prayer groups
- Worship leaders prayer times
- Leadership prayer meetings
- Prayer lists on weekly bulletin
- Monthly intercessory prayer leaflet
- Intercessions at all main worship services
- Prayer breakfasts:
- Men
- Women
- Intercessors group
- Prayer groups/letters/information board for specific areas:
- Waves
- Youth work
- BMS
- Home Mission
- FEBA
- Mike and Teija Greed
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide
- Sarah and Pola Chhin with SAO
- Tear Fund
- Israel
- Prayer triplets
- Prayer ministry team
- Prayer and healing available at the end of services as needed and as appropriate
- United prayer with other Churches
- House of prayer
- Week of prayer for Christian Unity
- Women’s World day of prayer
- Ensure sound understanding of prayer with sound teaching at least annually
- Sermon series

- Teaching day
- Prayer weekend
- Care group material
- Equip the church with opportunities to pray corporately
- Call the Church to pray at significant times in the churches calendar:
- Prayer nights
- Easter week prayer breakfasts
- Transformers
- Prayer walks
- Prayer events
- Intercessory prayer ministry

SPECIFIC TARGETS

- Establish the existence of prayer rooms in the church
- Youth room with easy access and prayer wall
- Quiet room (Chapel) for reflection and contemplation for about 12 people
- Prayer ministry room at back of Sanctuary available for all services
- Develop a concept in the church of Prayer Retreats available to all
- Retreat days
- Retreat weekends