

Dreams and Visions
Matthew Ch 28 v 19-20

What is your vision for the MWA in the future? What is your vision for the Moravian Church in the future? What is your vision for your own congregation in the future? When you close your front door and go to church on a Sunday what do you expect to experience in the next hour or more? Hopefully we meet to listen and talk to God through prayers and personal reflection. We may sing hymns that give us a sense of joy, or peace, of strength and of comfort. We learn more about God through listening to Bible readings and the minister's address. We enjoy fellowship with friends and return home renewed and strengthened for the week ahead. A good morning!! Sadly, as we look around the Province, there are less and less people enjoying that experience as our congregations become smaller and less and less people enter our churches week by week. I am sure that at least part of our vision for the future would be to worship every Sunday in a full church. How do we make our vision become reality? That is the question. The two verses in Matthew that form the basis for this paper have come to be known as 'The Great Commission'. Jesus gave this command to the apostles shortly before he ascended into heaven and it is the same command that we try to follow today. A disciple is someone who receives instruction from another person, who believes in the teachings of Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection, who possesses the Holy Spirit and who, through their life style, tries to pass this on to others. How do we pass on Jesus' instructions in the 21st century? It doesn't just happen. We have to have a plan. The Mission Statement for the Moravian Church can be summed up simply in five 'T's' and a Vision Statement should grow out of this;

Tell the story of Jesus Christ,
Teach the faith of Jesus Christ,
Tend to the peoples of the world,
Transform the unjust structures of the world,
Treasure and safeguard the whole of God's creation.

Jesus Christ is at the centre of each of the above 'T's' and we in the Moravian Church have a head start on a visionary plan as we acknowledge Jesus Christ as the head of our Church. His love extends through every aspect of our lives.

A vision statement could be snappy and catchy like 'A place for everyone' but could extend to the whole of Matthew Ch 28 v 19-20. There is no one formula that is appropriate for every congregation but each plan hopefully will work to the same end. Our plan could include writing a vision and mission statement together with an action plan. Also an assessment of our buildings and the amount of community involvement could tell us a lot. The MWA is only one part of congregation life but did Sr Shaw imagine that the little organisation she started over 70 years ago would still play a significant role today? Our vision for the MWA in the future may help the overall plan. Maybe if we work hard enough and pray hard enough our dreams and visions will be realised and God will receive that glory he deserves from more of his modern day disciples.

For Discussion

1. What is your vision for the MWA of the future?
1. Where would you like to see your church/congregation in 2030 and beyond?