



STUDY 1

Pioneer Again

Isaiah 43:19, Acts 1:8

We live thankful, in the legacy of what God has done and look to something new God is doing. Like concentric circles spreading across the ends of the earth, we are a part of reaching people with the gospel, and together, we will pioneer again.

With our foundation the Word of the Lord, Jesus our centre, and the power of the Holy Spirit within us, we will take new territory, reach the unreached, and salt the earth by impacting pillars of influence: family, religion, business, arts, sports, education, media, entertainment and government.

As we pioneer again let us be open to the big things God has for us, putting our whole lives into what God is doing, turning our eyes to the church we now see – His Glorious Church.

THE CHURCH I NOW SEE

The church that I see is a global church. A large Christ-centred, bible-based church, that reaches and influences the world – changing mind-sets and empowering people to lead and impact in every sphere of life.

I see a global family: one house with many rooms, outworking a unified vision. I see a church apostolic in calling, and visionary in nature; committed to boldly impacting millions for Christ in significant cities and nations throughout the earth with the greatest of all causes- the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I see a church that champions the cause of local churches everywhere; encouraging them to be all that God has called them to be, a church that refuses to be content with the triumphs of the past, but is constantly looking towards the future – filled with a vision that inspires and influences many.

Positioned in the heart of culture, in great diverse urban centres, I see buildings that struggle to contain the increase of all that God is doing; occupying land and places that are miraculous in provision and impossible to ignore.

I see a church that is big enough to dream on a global scale, yet personal enough for everyone to find their place. I see a church that beckons 'welcome home' to every man, woman and child that walks through the doors.

The church that I see is a worshipping church whose songs reflect such a passion for Christ that others sense his magnificence and power. A distinct sound that emanates from a healthy church, contagious in Spirit – creating music that resounds from villages and tribes to great cities and nations.

I see a church that is constantly innovative: a church that leads the communication of a timeless message through media, film, and technology. A church with a message beamed to people around the globe through their television screens, bringing Jesus into homes, palaces and prisons alike.

I see a church with a world-class college that raises, equips, and empowers generations of young, anointed leaders from across the globe. Graduates who serve God in all walks of life, released to salt the earth with dynamic ministries and churches throughout the continents of the world.

I see a church graced with layers of 'once-in-a-generation' type leaders – who are naturally gifted, spiritually potent and genuinely humble, leaders who will pay the price and count the cost of impacting cities and nations with great, God-glorifying churches.

I see a church whose leadership is unified in their commitment to the authenticity, credibility and quality of its heart. Leaders who dare to be themselves, yet live secure in the knowledge that "what they are part of is bigger than the part they play."

I see a church committed to an innovative network that connects hundreds of thousands of pastors and leaders and equips them to flourish. A network committed to the apostolic anointing of leaders who are desperate to see the church of Jesus Christ rise up to live the un-lived life within her...His glorious church.

I see like-Spirited churches in cities of influence that exemplify faithfulness manifested in bricks and mortar. Churches with supernatural provision of buildings and properties standing as beacons of light that bring glory to god and hope to humanity.

I see a church that loves God, loves people and loves life. Youthful in Spirit; generous at heart; faith-filled in confession; loving in nature and inclusive in expression.

Yes, the church that I see is committed to bringing the love and hope of Christ to impossible situations through the preaching of the gospel and mandate that drives us to do all we can to bring help and solution to a needy world. Whose head is Jesus, help is the Holy Spirit and whose focus is the great commission.

HIGHLIGHTS COMING UP

- COLOUR YOUR WORLD CONFERENCE – Colour is at Capacity but we can pray as a group that everyone engages with the spirit of all that is happening!

More
over the
page





I LOVE MY CONNECT

CONNECTION AND ACTION

Use these questions to promote conversation and connection.

ICEBREAKER: Share a time you pioneered something in your own life.

- Q:** What comes to mind when you imagine a "pioneer?"
- Q:** What kind of things come with being a pioneer?
- Q:** How much of a pioneering spirit would you consider yourself to currently have and how can we cultivate it more?
- Q:** What areas in your life and ministry do you feel stirred to pioneer again?
- Q:** What "big things" would you like to see God do in your life and in our world?
- Q:** What parts of "The Church I Now See" stand out to you: Why?

BIBLE AND BELIEF

Use these questions and scriptures to help believers develop a biblical worldview.

ACTIVITY

In pairs, read:

Acts 6:1-7
Acts 8
Acts 21:8-9

As a group discuss the following questions:

- Q:** How does the life and example of Philip illustrate a pioneering spirit?
- Q:** What pioneering attitudes did Philip demonstrate through these passages?
- Q:** What obstacles and opportunities did Philip encounter in pioneering? What characteristics of a pioneer did he exemplify?
- Q:** How can you apply lessons from Philip's life to pioneering again in your own life?

GROWING LEADERSHIP

Use these questions to help people in your group grow as leaders.

- Q:** How can we lead others to "pioneer again"?
- Q:** Which sections from *The Church I Now See* particularly resonate with you?
- Q:** Brainstorm ways that you can encourage and empower your team to cultivate a pioneering spirit?
- Q:** Share one thing you're believing God to do in your life this year, and one thing you believing Him to do in the group, team or area you lead.

PRAY TOGETHER

- Colour Conference
- Nation Builders Faith Goal
- Decisions for Jesus in our services

PASTORAL CARE

- We have a pastoral care team at church to walk alongside people in your group who may be going through a tough time
- Please contact the church office Sydney 02 8853 5353, Melbourne 03 9720 2099, Brisbane 07 3422 8500 or Newcastle 02 4927 1888 to let us know of anybody in your group (with their permission) who have sickness, death of a loved one, marriage challenges, surgeries.

NATION BUILDERS – ON MISSION

One of the best ways you can be 'On Mission' is to regularly PRAY for the Nation Builders causes we support, and regularly inspire your group to receive your Nation Builders offering. Your giving makes a massive difference in helping us 'reach and influencing the world'. We have also uploaded three new video resources to play in your Connect Group – check them out on Myhillsong

Mark & Joyce Wilkinson, Berlin, Germany

Mark and Joyce are graduates of Hillsong College and pioneered a Church in Berlin. Berlin is a city of 3.5 million people. In a typical week, only 5000 people attend evangelical churches – 99.8% of the city do not attend church and there is not one church over 500 people. At the beginning of 2013 Berlin CLC moved to a new venue, a night club in central Berlin. They started with 1 service and are about to begin their 3rd service. Last weekend there were over 400 people in their church! Please pray for Mark and Joyce, for people to continue to come to Christ and for a new venue for 2014.

