

*Defining the Direction*  
*of*  
  
*foothills* BIBLE CHURCH

## **Why We Exist – *Our Mission:***

### ***A Family...upward, inward and outward!***

To glorify God (Ephesians 3:21)  
by growing as a spiritual family (1 Timothy 3:15)  
    through evangelizing unbelievers (Acts 2:47)  
    and establishing all believers (Romans 1:11)  
    in the Holy Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16-17)  
    by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)  
in order that everyone in the FBC family will participate in  
    worshipping our God (Romans 12:1)  
    building up his church (Ephesians 4:11-16), and  
    reaching out to our local (Colossians 4:5-6) and  
    global community (Acts 13:1-3).

## **Where God is Leading Us – *Our Vision:***

### ***Qualitative Growth***

- **Strengthening/Establishing Believers**

Following the conversion of people through Paul's preaching, we see him consistently working to establish/strengthen these believers. The work involved him personally (Acts 14:21-22; 15:41; 16:5; 18:23), as well as him sending other workers in his place (1 Thes 3:1-3), writing letters (Rom 1:11), and praying for them (see Paul's various prayers contained in his letters).

- **Shepherding the Flock**

An important part of Paul's ministry toward these believers was to gather them together into communities of faith and appoint qualified leaders - elders - to shepherd or oversee these flocks (Acts 14:23; 20:28; Phil 1:1; 1 Tim 3:1f; Tit 1:5-9; see also Heb 13:17; James 4:14; 1 Pet 5:1-4).

- **Shaping/Developing Leaders**

To accomplish the ongoing work of both establishing/strengthening believers and shepherding the flocks, Paul also worked at developing leaders in the context of the ministry to assist him in this work. We see among those emerging as leaders during his

ministry people like *Timothy* (Acts 16:1-3; Rom 16:21; 1 Cor 4:17; 16:10; 2 Cor 1:1; Phil 3:19-22; 1 Thes 3:1-3, 6; 1 & 2 Tim), *Priscilla and Aquila* (Acts 18:1-3, 18, 24-27; Rom 16:3-5a; 1 Cor 16:19; 2 Tim 4:19), *Titus* (2 Cor 2:12-13; 7:6, 13-15; Titus) and *others* (Acts 20:4; Rom 16:1-16, 22-23; Phil 3:25-30; Col 1:7; 4:7-17; 2 Tim 4:9-21).

## **Quantitative Growth**

- ***Conversion of Non-Christians***  
The Southwest Denver/Littleton community is still unreached with the gospel. We have a biblical mandate collectively as a church as well as the individual households within our church family to reach out to those without Christ with the hope of seeing them come to faith in Him and become a part of our church family.
- ***Assimilation of Unchurched Christians***  
Today there are a large number of people who profess Christ who are spiritual orphans, or spiritually homeless. We are also aware that there are people who participate in some ministry of our church and identify with us as a church but they do not regularly participate in our all-church worship services. We believe every Christian should genuinely commit themselves to a local church.
- ***Incorporation of New Residents and Transferring Christians***  
In our mobile culture there are Christians moving into our community on an ongoing basis that need a church home. Under certain circumstances there are also some people who can be led to change churches. We believe that our church can be a place where they will be shepherded and strengthened in their faith.
- ***Retention of Present Attenders/Members***  
It is common today to have people leave churches for reasons legitimate or otherwise. Retention of our youth as they transition toward adulthood is an aspect of this concern in view of two-thirds of today's youth in Christian homes leaving the faith. It is our desire to identify and to the best of our ability close our "back door."

Given our commitment to shepherd and strengthen the people God has already brought to us, these four kinds of quantitative growth point to ***our need for more space***, given the fact that we are already experiencing the limitations of our present facility. There are relatively few options available to us as we look to the future:

- ***A fourth worship service***
- ***A new worship center***
- ***Multi-sites and/or church plants***
- ***Relocation***

We view the announced simulcast beginning on October 2<sup>nd</sup> as a short term answer to our present quantitative growth. In the months ahead we will need to evaluate its effectiveness as we consider our longer term options. While we are thankful for God's adding to our number and His work in our midst, we need God's continued clear direction as we move forward in our next steps. We as a church need to pray.