



WBC

*your local church*

VISION SUNDAY 2023



# 2024 : A YEAR TO BE BOLD & COURAGEOUS

As a church we have had a number of years of disruption and change, in particular the challenges of navigating COVID and associated lockdowns. However, 2023 has been a real year of refreshing, stabilization and strengthening. The words we have received from the congregation, visiting speakers and within the eldership and leadership team, have all had a common theme suggesting that God is calling us to step out in 2024 and to be more bold and courageous in all we do as 'Everyday people, loving God and Living it out' here in our community on the Whangaparaoa Peninsula.

This was also supported through the messages we had from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) in Term 2 and the Biblical words in "The Word - a word" in Term 2. Further discernment drew us to John 13-17 and has led us to proposing four focuses to guide us throughout 2024 and beyond;

- A bold and courageous Abiding people
- A bold and courageous Grafted people
- A bold and courageous Fruitful people
- A bold and courageous Overflowing people

The Gospel of John, chapters 13-17 resonated with and informed these focus areas. In the lead up to Vision Sunday, we have asked you to dwell in these passages, and we have had a series of messages to unpack what they could mean for us. 2024 looks like being an exciting year. We have a sense of anticipation for our participation in being the church that Jesus is building. We hope you can share in this excitement and be part of the journey.



# AN ABIDING PEOPLE: “A BOLD & COURAGEOUS ABIDING PEOPLE”

*John 15:1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.”*

Abiding in God, sometimes translated ‘remaining’ must be at the centre of our being and all we do. We must be a Praying people, a Worshipping people, and an Obedient people. As Richard Black said earlier this year, the question we must ask is “whose am I?” not “who am I?”. Our identity is in Christ. A Surrendered people, a Trusting people, a Rooted people, a Spirit filled people, a Word and Spirit people.

## **For 2024 this means;**

- Continuing to encourage, support, develop, and grow both our personal and corporate worship and prayer rhythms.
- Continuing to encourage, support, develop, and grow both our personal and corporate Bible study
- Continuing to encourage, support, develop, and grow both our personal and corporate sharing of Spirit led words, pictures, and revelation.

**Pray about this. What does it mean for you individually? What do you discern it means for us as WBC collectively? Let us know.**





# A GRAFTED PEOPLE: “A BOLD & COURAGEOUS GRAFTED PEOPLE”

*John 13:34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*

Like branches on a vine we are grafted to God and to each other, grafted to the past, interconnected now and into the future. In 2024 we will continue to grow as a Connected people, an Inter-connected people, a Humble people, a Safe people, a Consistent people, an Honouring people (to God, to each other, the past, the present and the future), an Everyday people (a priesthood of all believers, the body: eyes, ears, hands, feet, five-fold ministry), a Serving people, a United People, a Loving people and an Inter-cultural and Inter-generational people.

## **For 2024 this means;**

- Continuing to encourage, support, develop, and grow our corporate connection through events, shared food, trips, and home groups.
- Continuing to encourage, support, develop, and grow our organic personal connection at all times.

**Pray about this. What does it mean for you individually? What do you discern it means for us as WBC collectively? Let us know.**



# A FRUITFUL PEOPLE:

## “A BOLD & COURAGEOUS FRUITFUL PEOPLE”

*John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. 9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.”*

We can only come to be fruitful if we abide (remain) in God. We become fruitful by being a Word and Spirit-soaked people, a Mature people, a Discerning people, a Learning and Growing people, an Obedient people, a Teachable and a Teaching people, a Modelling people, a Replicating people Future Focused ‘Next-Generation’ people.

### **For 2024 this means;**

- Continuing to encourage, support, develop, and grow through courses and events, such as Café Chats, visiting speakers, and curating and sharing resources.

**Pray about this. What does it mean for you individually? What do you discern it means for us as WBC collectively? Let us know.**



# AN OVERFLOWING PEOPLE: “A BOLD & COURAGEOUS OVERFLOWING PEOPLE”

*John 15:26 “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. 27 And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.”*

*John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*1 John 4:16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.*

We can only overflow from our abiding, grafting, and fruitfulness. We can then overflow into the people and places in which we find ourselves 24/7. Locally in our community/neighbourhood, the Whangaparaoa peninsula, daily in our workplaces and social contexts, and globally through our connection with WBC missionaries and Joyya in Kolkata.

A word we had in 2023 from Kristen Williams was to be a ‘Shining’ people. We shine and overflow through our character, behaviours, and relationships and by giving our time, money, resources, and personal spiritual gifting, for the benefit of others. Everyday People, loving God and living it out... Overflowing wherever we are...

## **For 2024 this means;**

- Continuing to encourage, support, develop, and grow our community impact through events such as Community Service Day, our WBC Foodbank, and our Trusts - CYC, Coast Families, and Coast Kindy.
- Continuing to encourage, support, develop, and grow each of us in our sense of personal missional responsibility wherever we are 24/7.
- Continuing to encourage, support, develop, and grow our global impact through the missionaries we support and our partnership with Joyya in India.

**Pray about this. What does it mean for you individually? What do you discern it means for us as WBC collectively? Let us know.**

# A BOLD & COURAGEOUS PEOPLE “EVERYDAY PEOPLE, LOVING GOD AND LIVING IT OUT - BOLDLY & COURAGEOUSLY”

*John 15:18-19 18 “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.”*

*John 14:27 27 “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

*John 16:33 33 “...In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

*John 13:15 15 “I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”*

*John 14:6 6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

We live in challenging times. Our country has largely turned its back on Jesus and His people, the church. Now is the time to be bold and courageous, a ‘burning’ people as Kristin Williams encouraged us, a confident people in a challenging world. But this is not a call to war, it is a call to be humbly bold and courageous, to rely on Holy Spirit power, not our own.





There is no fear in love (1 John 4:18). We are not arrogant, not overbearing, not relying on human power, or using human weapons, but have the humble boldness and courage of the Holy Spirit. Bold and Courageous “Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control...against such things there is no law” (Galatians 5:22-23). Jesus came full of ‘Grace and Truth’ (John 1:14) and God is Love (1 John 4:16), so since Jesus is God, then Love is Grace and Truth, and we must wisely hold together Grace and Truth in a challenging world.

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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: Will there be any opportunities to discuss the Vision key focuses and ask questions?**

A: Yes, there will be a Vision Sunday Q+A space, November 26th at 11.15am in the church lounge.

**Q: What is the Core Leadership Group (CLG)?**

A: The Core Leadership Group or CLG is the group of Associate Pastors that collectively fulfil the traditional role of a Senior Pastor. We adopted this leadership approach in 2006. This allows us to not be reliant on one single person, and to have a wider range of gifting and experiences available, guided by the five-fold expression of prophets, apostles, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (Eph.4:12). The current CLG comprises Olga Oosthuizen, Adam Harris, Wendy Wakerley, and Mark Powell. All other ministry leaders in the church link with one of the CLG. Currently, the CLG's main responsibilities are divided as follows; Olga - Seniors, Pastoral Care, Part of Preaching & Teaching Team, Welcoming & Connection, Home/Life Groups, WBC Foodbank; Adam - NextGen, CYC Team Leader, Part of Preaching & Teaching Team; Wendy - Administration Support, Communications; Mark - Interim Team Leader, Team Coordination, Part of Preaching & Teaching Team, Finance, Community Trusts. This list is not exhaustive but gives a picture of where main responsibilities lie.

**Q: Who are the Elders of WBC?**

A: The current elders are Susan Williamson, Shaun Cooper, Ron Kyle, Piet van der Harst and Joanne Hall.

**Q: How do I become a church member?**

A: If you are interested, please speak with any of the CLG, Mark, Olga, Wendy, or Adam.

**Q: Where does the money come from to fund the church?**

A: We are an independent that is part of the Baptist Association of New Zealand. Most of our income is from the generous giving of our congregation. On top of this we have some income from commercial and residential property we own. But we are not part of a large institution which gets money from a national organisation. We are a local body of Christ, generously funded by that body to do His work in this place.







*Everyday people, loving God, living it out*





