

## **Sermon 18/01/2026**

### **PRAYER**

**So ... What does it look like to be an Acts 2 Church with an Acts 29**

**Mission?**

#### **1. Key Scripture**

The key scripture reading is from Acts 2:42-47 and we read from the NIV:

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

## **2. What's the engaging story?**

At the start of Acts, Luke our Author tells us ...

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples on multiple occasions.

And in Acts 1: 4-5 we read:

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Then in Acts 2: 1-4 we read:

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Many people witnessed this and after Peter spoke to them, they joined the movement, and church life and church growth started.

Then from our key scripture, we see in Acts 2: 42 ... life in the church was made up of four main elements:

- a. The believers devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles.  
They did this daily. In our world we are encouraged to read our Bible daily and to study devotions, many of which are available in paper form, on line or via apps on our phones.
  
- b. The believers devoted themselves to fellowship ... The gathering together of the followers ... Each day they met together in the temple courts and in their homes. They shared time and resources together.  
We are encouraged to do the same.
  
- c. The believers devoted themselves to the breaking of bread ... Sharing meals together ... They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. We do this every Sunday with the celebration of the communion meal. We are also encouraged to do this daily and with other believers. Jesus said whenever you eat and drink, do this in remembrance of me.

d. And the believers devoted themselves to prayer.

And we are encouraged to do this daily and multiple times each day.

Our prayers can be prayers praising God, seeking forgiveness, asking for something for yourself or someone else, acknowledging Jesus as our Lord and Saviour ... or a combination of any or all of these things.

And everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

All the believers were together and had everything in common.

They sold their property and possessions and gave to anyone who had need.

In the days and weeks after the Day of Pentecost things were seen to be happening in the church and their number grew daily.

This was the Acts 2 Church in action fuelled by the Holy Spirit.

That's what life was like in their context , in their world, starting around 2000 years ago ...

Allow your imagination to wander for a few moments and think about what life in the new and growing Church was like back then.

Then have a discussion at your tables about your thoughts.

## **PAUSE**

Since then, over the past 2,000 odd years, the Church has been through many changes, evolutions and resurgences in popularity.

Now what could it be like in our context, in our world today, and into the future?

Allow your imagination to wander again, this time into the future and think about what Church life could be like with a powerful mission and growth.

Ask yourself, how would it play out in my life?

Then have a discussion at your tables about your thoughts.

## **PAUSE**

And remember Jesus said, He will build His Church. That is His job.

Our job is to engage with new believers and all believers, to encourage them and to disciple them.

As a side note ... Andrew shared with me ... The Church of Christ calls itself a restoration church. It asks ... what did the early church look like and how do we replicate that? An interesting point worthy of our consideration as we look to the future!

### **3. Background**

So why am I preaching this?

When Andrew asked me to preach ... I was a bit surprised.

He had asked me once in the past and at the time my answer was a resounding no.

This time it was different, I said yes before I had time to think about it.

I knew, God willing, that I would work something out and here I am.

I met with Andrew a couple of weeks ago and we talked about the topic and some structure and then he left me to it ... thanks Andrew.

The concept of being an Acts 2 Church with an Acts 29 Mission is not new to me.

It's what we talked about and practiced when I was a part of Newlife Church on the Gold Coast. That is where I fellowshiped for over 7 years and worked for almost 6 years before moving to Hervey Bay.

Now in case you hadn't noticed ... there is no Acts 29 in the Bible.

Our Acts 29 narrative, will be the story we write, through our mission, as we journey on the path in our desire to serve God and our local community.

To me ... our Acts 29 ... the Acts 29 for the Hervey Bay Church of Christ, will reflect how we go about the mission that we are called to by God, in our local community.

And when we look at our local community there are so many different needs or mission opportunities including:

- Lack of Christian faith
- Domestic and family violence
- Poverty
- Unemployment
- Homelessness
- Alcohol and drug addiction

- Crime and not just youth crime ... all crime
- Broken families impacted by broken systems
- Single parent families
- And the list goes on ...

And there are many government departments, organisations, groups and individuals, mostly working independently, doing what they can to help overcome the challenges.

With a relatively small number of people and limited resources, we must ask ourselves and God ... as the Hervey Bay Church of Christ, what can we do?

## **PAUSE**

### **4. Application with Example**

As an example ...

In my experience on the Gold Coast, I was the Executive Officer of Newlife Care Inc. Newlife Care is the local charity and mission partner of Newlife Church, the largest Uniting Church in Australia.

At Newlife Care we had eight projects or programs running for the benefit of the local community:

- A Counselling and Psychology Service that was free or by donation, with some Medicare funding from referrals for the psychologists.
- An Emergency Food Service where people and families in need were interviewed in a pastoral setting and given free food and personal products for 2-3 days and referrals to other services.
- Crossroads, a social engagement and capacity building program for people living with a disability, their support workers, their families. The program ran most weeks with a small staff and a loyal band of 60-80 volunteers. Most Fridays we would have on average, 100 people with intellectual and physical disabilities plus their support workers and family members on site. We provided registration and welcome activities, morning tea, a church service aimed at the intellectually disabled, lunch and then live entertainment with solo, duo or group musicians playing music for dancing, fun and enjoyment. Friday was my favourite day of the week.

- An Op Shop that was a mission field in itself. Staffed by a full time Manager and a part time Supervisor and around 100 volunteers. Items were sold at low prices and essential items including clothes, linen, cooking utensils, crockery and cutlery were given away to those in need. Surplus or unwanted stock was given to another Christian organisation that shipped containers to Papua New Guinea and in times of natural disasters, other Pacific nations. The Op Shop profits provided funding for some of the other services.
- Princess for a Day. A monthly pampering program, run by volunteers, providing services for ladies escaping domestic violence and those in challenging life circumstances. The services included, haircuts, massages, facials, nails, free clothes, someone to talk with and morning tea.
- A follow-on ministry from Princess for a Day, led by volunteers, where the ladies were offered the opportunity of monthly classes of life skills, so that they could reengage with their children and the community.

- Caravan Park Ministry. Each month a volunteer team would visit a local caravan park and provide a cooked breakfast, extra food, clothing and household items and fellowship. The caravan park was full of long term residents in very low socio economic circumstances. It was a haven for drugs, alcohol and violence especially after Centrelink paydays. Prior to my finishing up with Newlife Care, this ministry ceased as the caravan park was sold, the place was cleaned up and the new owner provided low cost housing for older people.
- A Christmas Project where over 600 families were provided with a bag of Christmas groceries sufficient for a Christmas lunch or dinner. Plus every family member was given an age and gender appropriate gift. All hampers were funded by donations from the Newlife Church community and were packed by volunteers. The majority of the toys were donated by a motorcycle club, a car club and the Church community. The motorcycle club used to deliver the toys during a church service and we usually had 3 big motor bikes in the church with the delivery. We partnered with the Church and other community organisations to select the 600+ families to be supported.

During covid we partnered with other local church charities and the Gold Coast Entertainment Centre for the provision of free meals for families in need and essential workers. The entertainment centre had opened fairly recently and wanted to retain their kitchen team. They were able to provide the meals at \$3 per serve. Grant money and donations fully covered the full costs of the program.

All of these programs were established and grew over the last 30+ years. They came about from the ideas and passions of Church members, volunteers and staff.

What is possible for Hervey Bay Church of Christ in our local community?

## **PAUSE**

Now, quickly back to Acts 2 verse 45 ... They sold their property and possessions and gave to anyone who had need.

I'm not asking people to go out and sell their property and possessions and give the money away!

But, if that is something you believe you're being led to by God, then that's between you and God!

## **PAUSE**

So we are asking God and ourselves ... What does this look like in our context ... in our community?

I don't have all the answers and each of us individually doesn't have all the answers ... but with the grace, blessing and provision of God, collectively we do.

We have a working group comprising Andrew and Jackie, Dave and Janelle, Mike and Quesia, Sharon and myself. We are looking at what the future of Hervey Bay Church of Christ could look like as we move forward.

We don't have all the answers so if you have any passions or ideas please talk with one of us.

### **5. A Time for Reflection**

It's time to take a few minutes now for reflection ... as you're reflecting ask yourself ...

How is this relevant to me?

How does this apply to me?

How could this play out in my life?

How does this apply to Hervey Bay Church of Christ as we look to the future?

## **6. Prayer**

Pray

**Please join us for morning tea and a time of fellowship.**