

The Point Church

*Simply***Christians**

thepoint.org.au

**Getting Acquainted with
The Point Church 2021**

Becoming a church of God's dreams



Introducing the Point Church

Whether this is your first contact with the Point, or if you've visited with us before; whether you're a Christian, or not, or perhaps you're just not sure ... ***Welcome!***

Thank you for choosing to join with us today in honouring our heavenly Father and his Son, Jesus Christ, in Spirit and truth. We hope your time with us has been encouraging and edifying and that you will visit with us again soon.

We sincerely wish God's blessing upon you and would welcome any opportunity to assist you in your spiritual journey towards discovering more about God's love and His purpose for you. Who knows ... *maybe that is the reason God brought you to visit with us today?*

We care about you. That may sound surprising, even *sus*, coming from a bunch of strangers. But it is true. We care about you because God cares about you. Our only agenda is to *live* and *share* God's truth in love as disciples (followers or apprentices) of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

If you read on, you will learn a little more about us and opportunities for spiritual service and growth through the Point Church. You can also check out our website at www.thepoint.org.au for more information; or if you would like to talk with somebody personally, **Stephen Wilson** would welcome the opportunity to have a chat. Please don't hesitate to contact Steve on 0419 779 438 or email him at steve@thepoint.org.au

The Point Church Vision

Becoming a church of God's dreams

About two millennia ago something wonderful happened. It wasn't unexpected, though it turned out to be different to the expectations of many people. It certainly wasn't an accident. God had been working towards the event ever since he promised faithful Abraham that He would remedy humanity's sin-sickness and bless all people through his descendants, Israel (Genesis 12:1-3; cf. Galatians 3:6-29). The Old Testament Scriptures trace the unfolding of God's redemptive plan through Israel in anticipation of the promised Messiah. Then it happened. When the time was just right, God sent His Son (Jesus the Messiah) to live among us to show us the Father and to die on our behalf, demonstrating the extraordinary depth of God's love for us and making our reconciliation with God possible. If you're not familiar with this ***very good news*** (the gospel) regarding those things God has accomplished through His Son Jesus Christ, *please* let us know and allow us to tell you more.

During His extraordinary ministry on earth Jesus selected and trained certain men (apostles) who would be uniquely qualified and empowered to testify to the world as witnesses of Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension; and to call all people to become followers of Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20; cf. Acts 2:22-41). Those who believed the apostles' testimony, repented (changed their minds and allegiance), and were baptised (immersed in water) *into Christ*, became children of God and members of His church (Acts 2:36-47; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:26-27).

The message of the apostles was committed to writing and, even today, we have the record of their teaching and practices preserved in the *inspired* (i.e., originating from God) New Testament Scriptures (e.g., Ephesians 3:1-6; 2 Peter 1:12-15; 3:1-2). Because the apostles were directed by the Holy Spirit (e.g., John 14:25-26) to serve as Jesus' authoritative representatives, we understand that the church the apostles organised in the first century AD was the church as God planned it and intended it to be for all time and in all places (e.g., Ephesians 2:18-22; 1 Timothy 3:14-15; 1 Corinthians 11:1-2; 2 Thessalonians 2:15; Jude 3). Out of this commitment to Jesus and His apostles' teaching and practice recorded in the New Testament Scriptures, we seek to do Bible things in Bible ways. Our first consideration regarding any and every spiritual matter is, *what do the Scriptures teach?* We only endorse as *essential* to the Christian faith those spiritual teachings and practices pertaining to the new covenant that originate from the apostles and are properly derived from the Bible. These are the things upon which all believers can be united. We are not saying we are the only Christians. We are saying we endeavour to be Christians only. We are not saying we are perfect in our understanding and practice. We are saying that *New Testament Christianity* is what we humbly and prayerfully aim for.

So, ***becoming a church of God's dreams*** is to seek to be a community of God's people redeemed *in Christ* and modelling themselves exclusively upon the teaching and practices of Jesus and his apostles as revealed in the Bible. To become a church of *God's dreams* is to look beyond the extra-biblical and post-apostolic practices, theological systems and hierarchical structures that have accumulated over the past two millennia to divide Christianity into myriad denominations and sects, with a view to recovering the church of Christ in its original apostolic simplicity ... the *pre-denominational* church we can all read about in the New Testament Scriptures. We seek to be *simply Christians*. Nothing more and nothing less.

The Point Church Mission

OPEN BIBLES, OPEN HEARTS:

To be a family of God nurturing Christ likeness in our lives; glorifying God by upholding His truth in love and proclaiming His gospel to the world

Open Bibles, Open Hearts ...

"But ***speaking the truth in love***, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ" (Ephesians 4:15).

Family of God ...

Emphasises our relationship with God and one another in Christ. Family means working together, helping one another, comforting one another, and rejoicing with one another. Family also means responsibility and accountability towards one another. In a nutshell, family means loving God and loving one another (Matthew

22:23-40; John 13:34-35). These things are explained in more detail in our *Membership Ethos* which can be found on our website in the resources section.

Nurturing Christ likeness in our lives ...

Emphasises our commitment to encourage and equip one another to become more and more like His Son (Romans 8:29; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 4:11-16). We understand Christ likeness to be the fundamental goal of Christianity: sanctified by the Spirit to be restored to the image of God while we join with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in their work of redeeming all creation.

Glorifying God by upholding His truth in love and proclaiming His gospel to the world ...

Emphasises our commitment to the Bible as God's inspired revelation (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 2:19-21; 3:14-16) and our need to responsibly interpret, teach, and obey His word with humility and love. Because the central message of both the Old and New Testaments is Christ, He is the message we proclaim to the local community and beyond (Matthew 28:18-20) ... disciples of Christ seeking to mature in Christ while inviting the world to join us in following Him!



He is risen!
*Jesus is the way, the truth,
and the life!*

The Point Church Spiritual Life

Upon the first day of the week ...

We come together each Sunday morning as a church to honour our Creator God and to celebrate and strengthen our new life in Christ. Sunday (the first day of the week) is the day Jesus was resurrected (Luke 24). It is also the birthday of Jesus' church (Acts 2). The writer of Hebrews described Christian assemblies as opportunities to stir one another up to love and good works (Hebrews 10:23-25). The apostle Paul indicated that church meetings should serve to edify Christians, with everything being done in a seemly, intelligible, and orderly fashion (1 Corinthians 14:26, 40), so that even a non-Christian visitor might comprehend the wonders of God (1 Corinthians 14:18-25). Our Sunday assemblies are informal and friendly but thoughtfully and purposefully planned with a view to reverently praising and honouring God; as well as edifying, equipping, and encouraging believers. To achieve this, we engage in the same spiritual disciplines practiced by the apostolic churches from the beginning: Reading and teaching the Scriptures, praying together, and acapella singing (i.e., singing without instrumental accompaniment) of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Central to each Sunday assembly is our sharing together in the Lord's Supper (also called Communion or Eucharist). Although many Point members choose to contribute financially through direct debit to support the Point's budgeted expenses and ministries, we take up a collection publicly each Sunday in the context of honouring God as the giver of all good gifts. Whichever medium of giving is preferred, all

members have opportunity as stewards of God's gifts to share in the financial support of the Point's operational and ministry expenses. Visitors to the Point should not feel obliged to contribute financially – your presence is gift enough!

We meet every* Sunday commencing at 9.30am (till about midday) at:

**Thorneside Community Hall
188-192 Mooroondu Road, Thorneside**

** except on the Easter weekend when the church meets on Bribie Island for our annual retreat*

Nothing occurs in our assemblies that will intimidate or embarrass you. We typically begin with a Bible oriented lesson followed by time spent in small gender-based groups to discuss and apply the lesson, and to share concerns and blessings, and to pray together. This leads into a morning tea break which is followed with a time of news sharing and congregational singing which leads into our sharing the Lord's Supper together. Our Sunday assemblies conclude with a benediction led by one of our elders or deacons. It's all quite simple by (God's) design – a lot like family really. No showy performances or entertainment. No weird uncontrolled behaviour. No elaborate pomp and ceremony. Simply followers of Jesus worshipping God in Spirit and truth (John 4:23-24) while we seek to equip and encourage one another for our daily walk with the Lord.

Bible Studies and Spiritual Formation ...

The Capalaba Ministry House is located at 57 Finucane Road. Contact Steve Wilson for further details regarding times and locations. Meetings may be postponed or held via ZOOM where and when Covid19 restrictions apply.

In addition to our weekly Sunday morning assemblies at Thorneside Community Hall, the Point Church facilitates a variety of regular Bible studies and other spiritual formation activities, including:

- **Weekly Sunday evening small group Bible studies**
 - @ Capalaba Ministry House.
- **Weekly Monday evening prayer meetings hosted by the elders**
 - @ Capalaba Ministry House. Everybody is welcomed to join the elders in prayer.
- **Weekly Wednesday evening Bible classes (during school terms) for all age groups**
 - @ Capalaba Ministry House.
- **Weekly Friday evening youth group**
 - @ Capalaba Ministry House, for youth aged 13-18 years.
- **Weekly Thursday evening group informally exploring the Christian faith**
 - @ Thornlands location.
- **Fortnightly Thursday morning women's Bible studies (during school terms)**
 - @ Capalaba Ministry House.

- **Monthly Friday evening pancakes and singing gatherings**
 - @ Thorneside location.
- **Monthly Saturday morning HOGS men's breakfast and Bible study**
 - @ Capalaba Ministry House (first Saturday of each month, February to November), sharing breakfast, spiritual reflections, and studies on themes of special interest and relevance to males of all ages.
- **Bi-Monthly Saturday afternoon Sacred Rhythms gatherings**
 - @ Capalaba Ministry House (first Saturday of each month, February to November), focusing on contemplative practices including *lectio divina*, silent prayer and creative mediums of spiritual reflection, etc.
- **Annual church family retreat held over the four-day Easter weekend at Bribie Island**
 - Our 2021 guest teacher will be Jim Newman (Toowoomba) exploring themes from "*The Sermon on the Mount*."

This list is not exhaustive. The Point Church also facilitates special events (social and educational) and training to address a diversity of topics and needs. *Please contact Steve Wilson for more information.*

Disciples Making Disciples ...

A significant percentage of our budget is allocated to foreign missions through the financial support of works in Papua New Guinea and India, including the Shunammite Women Associates Nebula (SWAN) Ministry in Kakinada, India – a ministry designed to empower women through skill acquisition and self-employment to rise above poverty and become active financial supporters of their churches and local evangelists.

The best way to grow is to serve! Members from the Point Church volunteer as guest teachers on a regular rostered basis to edify and encourage several congregations of Christians located in Brisbane and throughout South East Queensland / Northern NSW (currently Wynnum, Gold Coast and Ballina). At home in Brisbane, every member is encouraged and equipped to be sharing the gospel – *in word and deed* – with everyone the Lord sends our way.

Doers of the Word ...

The best way to grow is to serve! It is our understanding and practice that church leaders serve all members of the congregation by equipping them for ministry (Ephesians 4:11-16) – *all our members are ministers!*

Theory (knowledge) is important, but it is the means to an end, not an end in and of itself (James 1:21-27). The truths of God's word must be translated into practice to become truly meaningful and effective. Imaging Christ and working with God to accomplish His redemptive mission in the world *here and now* is the objective of "the Way" which is Christianity (it's much bigger than just *going to heaven after we die*). Right doctrine must lead to right practice, just as right practice comes only from right doctrine (or Christianity is reduced to a stimulating but ineffectual head-game in the

first instance, or a subjective self-centred consumerism in the second instance – both of which serve our egos well but are not spiritually transformative because the focus remains on serving *self* rather than truly loving God and neighbour). Whether it is preparing and leading a Bible study for the church or a neighbour down the street, providing transport to someone needing a lift, cooking meals and visiting the sick, setting up a hall for church meetings, encouraging the struggling and downhearted, advocating for the weak and disadvantaged, or extending hospitality to strangers ... there are countless opportunities to minister daily as a member of God's family.

We're not big on formal church programs as such. Instead, the Point seeks to encourage a culture where every member sees every aspect of life as *incarnational* expressions of Christ ministering in and through each one of us as we live our life faith-fully (Galatians 2:20) as parents or students, plumbers or accountants, teachers or social workers. We are the body of Christ in *this* world! There is no secular/sacred divide in the life of Jesus' apprentices. All our life is to be offered to God through obedience and service to Him (Romans 12:1-2). All our life is to be lived with *gospel consciousness* (thankfulness for God's goodness and grace) and with *gospel intentionality* (commitment to a life reflecting and sharing Christ as the way, the truth, and the life).

We invite you to join us on the journey of discipleship to Christ:

This is Jesus' parting instruction to His apostles:
The Great Commission to make disciples of Christ

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 NRSV

And this is how Jesus' apostles understood and applied that commission: ***Becoming a disciple of Christ***

The **gospel is preached** resulting in some **believing**.
Faith is expressed in **repentance and baptism** resulting in the **forgiveness of sins and the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit**.
Ongoing faith and discipleship are expressed by continuing in the **apostles' teaching and fellowship, etc.**

Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified. ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" ³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him. ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation. ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added [to the church]. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers ...

Acts 2:36-42 NRSV

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20 NRSV



Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve".

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Notes
