



**We glorify Christ
by making disciples
of all nations.**

Sunday, November 18, 2007 • Dr. David Platt

CREATING THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH AT BROOK HILLS

OUR VISION...

- To know and become like **Christ** (Philippians 3:10).

OUR MISSION...

- To awaken a passion for the glory of God by **making disciples** of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20).

OUR GOAL...

- To impact the **world** (Psalm 67).

THE CHURCH AT BROOK HILLS

WE GLORIFY CHRIST BY MAKING DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS.

Philosophically...

(Vision)

(Mission)

(Goal)

Practically...

(Worship Gatherings) (Small Groups) (Short-Term Missions)

THE WIN

World-Impacting Disciple-Makers

“WE GLORIFY CHRIST...”

- Vision
 - ▶ Our vision affects everything we do; it describes who or what we are **becoming**.
 - ▶ If we substitute anything but Christ for this, we will lose the pursuit of Christ in our pursuit of church stuff and **waste** our lives away.
 - ▶ Following Christ and becoming like Him is the vision of every Christian and every church.
 - It is pre-written and not up for us to **negotiate**.
- Worship Gatherings
 - ▶ We know and become like Him through...
 - Surrendering our lives to His **worship**.
 - Spending our lives in His **Word**.
 - ▶ Worship is the **fuel** and goal of our mission.

“...BY MAKING DISCIPLES...”

■ Mission

- ▶ Disciple-making is identifying the people God has entrusted to us and intentionally...
 - **Showing** the Word with them.
 - Showing the Word to them.
 - **Teaching** the Word to them.
 - Serving the World alongside them.
- ▶ Disciple-making is a command for every believer, not a call to the elite few.
- ▶ We will always face the temptation to do everything except the one thing Jesus told us to do.
- ▶ The question we must constantly ask: How can we **most effectively** make disciples of all nations?

■ Small Groups

- ▶ The **primary** avenue for disciple-making to occur is through small groups.
- ▶ The precedent of Christ...
 - Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16; Acts 1:12-14.
- ▶ The practice of the early church...
 - Acts 2:46; 12:12; 20:8; 10:20; Rom. 16:4-5; 1 Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Philemon 2.
- ▶ The potential of the church today...
 - Small groups...
 - Approximately 8-12 believers sharing life together.
 - Growing **inward** by showing the Word and teaching the Word.
 - Growing **outward** by sharing the Word and serving the world.
- ▶ We want to see small groups of disciple-makers all over the **planet**.

“...OF ALL NATIONS.”

■ Goal

- ▶ Everything we do at Brook Hills, we do ultimately for the sake of God's glory in **all** nations.
- ▶ We no longer believe we have to choose between making disciples here **OR** there; we believe we can make disciples here **AND** there.
- ▶ Our strategy is not built on what will best reach people who live only 10 miles away from Brook Hills; our strategy is built on what will best reach people who live 10 miles and **10,000** miles away from Brook Hills.

- ▶ Our strategy is not built on just a heart for Birmingham; our strategy is built on a heart for the **world** (including Birmingham!).
- ▶ Our strategy is not built on having the best programs at Brook Hills; our strategy is built on developing the best **people** at Brook Hills.
- ▶ Our strategy is not built on bringing the most people to our present location; our strategy is built on **sending** the most people to locations around Birmingham and the world.
- Short-Term Missions
 - ▶ An army full of people giving 2% of their lives in other contexts around the world and transforming the other 98% of their lives here in the process.
 - ▶ We are investing in **national** disciple-makers and churches in other contexts equipping them to go into the world with us.
 - ▶ We join hands with faith families all around the world and together, through short-term missions, we are impacting the world!

THE WIN...

- WORLD-IMPACTING DISCIPLE-MAKERS
 - ▶ Men and women who are **multiplying** the Gospel by making disciples of all nations with their one life.
 - ▶ We are becoming a faith family full of world-impacting disciples who really believe that we can impact the world with each of our one lives.
 - And we really believe that a church of world-impacting disciples can **shake** the nations for His glory!

HOW DO WE PRODUCE THE WIN?

- Through a *process* that revolves around three *primary* components:
 - ▶ **Worship Gatherings** that glorify Christ.
 - ▶ **Small Groups** that are making disciples.
 - ▶ **Short Term Missions** that impacts the world.
- How does what we are currently doing fit (or not fit) into this process?
- The dangers we need to avoid...
 - ▶ Trying to fit **everything** we've always done or we're currently doing into this process.
 - ▶ Thinking that the more activities and programs and events we offer, the greater the **impact** we will have.
- The questions we need to ask...
 - ▶ How can we **align** all of our ministries around the same process?

- ▶ What are we giving time, money, and/or people to that is good (even great!) but not best?
- The focus we need...
 - ▶ A commitment to abandon everything that does not best fuel this process.
 - ▶ **Everything** needs to be on the altar...
- Why?
 - ▶ Because our present strategy is at best incremental, while the world population is constantly and exponentially **exploding**.
 - ▶ God has put us in this time at this place for a reason...
 - ▶ Therefore, we must consider strategies for incremental or nominal growth as **inadequate**, and we must re-examine our assumptions of how the Spirit of God desires to work through the church.
- For the sake of the world, we need to constantly evaluate everything.
 - ▶ Detach from our cultural and/or traditional assumptions related to **how** we should operate as the church.
 - ▶ Re-engage the **Word** with a fresh perspective.
 - ▶ Ask the question: How can we most effectively glorify Christ by making disciples of all nations?
- If we can strategically lead the mass called The Church at Brook Hills to accelerate behind this process, we will **change the world**.

SO WHAT'S THE STRATEGY?

Non-negotiables...

- **Biblical.**
 - ▶ We are not asking Him to bless our plans; we are aligning with His plan.
- **Simple.**
 - ▶ We will be tempted to lose focus based on our own opportunities and agendas.
- **Intentional.**
 - ▶ Across the church, how are we knowing and becoming like Christ?
- **Reproducible.**
 - ▶ Brook Hills is not a place of ministry; Brook Hills is a base of ministry.
- **Cross-Cultural.**
 - ▶ What are we doing here that we can do in any culture in the world?

Considering Small Groups...

- They are biblical.
 - ▶ Jesus' method for impacting the world was a small group of men.

- They are simple.
 - ▶ Small groups depend on people, not **programs**.
- They are intentional.
 - ▶ People sharing life and accomplishing a mission together.
- They are reproducible.
 - ▶ Small groups are **unlimited** in their ability to reproduce.
- They are cross-cultural.
 - ▶ From Greystone to Chinese House Churches.

So How Can We Multiply Small Groups of Disciple-Makers All Over The Planet?

- The Church at Brook Hills: A Global Disciple-Making **Hub**.
 - ▶ Creating and connecting Disciple-Making **bases** (campuses) all around the world together in the global mission of the church.
- Disciple-Making Bases: Scattered throughout metro Birmingham and around the world.
 - ▶ A Disciple-Making Base is a **headquarters** for mobilizing small groups in a particular geographic location united by the desire to glorify Christ by making disciples of all nations.
 - ▶ Connected through a Global Communications Center (GCC) at the Global Hub.
 - ▶ GCC able to distribute information to and support communication with disciple-making bases around the world in **multiple** languages.
- Base facilities...
 - ▶ Temporary Base facilities look different in different locations, i.e., homes, businesses, storefronts, schools, theaters, abandoned buildings, prisons, etc.
 - ▶ Any permanent facilities (which may not be necessary) would be designed primarily to **fuel** the ministry of small groups in that community.
- The possibilities are **endless**...

When Could This Happen And What Would It Look Like?

- We are organizing and implementing small groups throughout the Global Hub.
- The ground is **fertile** to begin Bases here and around the world.
 - ▶ In Birmingham...
 - Chelsea
 - Downtown
 - Hispanic Areas

- ▶ Around the World...
 - Latin America
 - Africa
 - Asia
 - Europe
- Possible timeline for implementation...
 - ▶ 2007
 - Launch Small Groups from the Global Hub.
 - Begin to consider a strategy for how we can most effectively make disciples of all nations.
 - ▶ 2008
 - Begin by launching 2-4 Disciple-Making Bases.
 - ▶ Continue pattern of the hub launching at least one new Base each year.
 - ▶ In addition, each new Base will take responsibility for launching another base within a specified period of time.
 - Example: A Base in Avondale or Latin America launched in 2008 could launch a new Base every two years (2010, 2012, and so on); each of these new Bases would then take responsibility for launching new Bases, as well.
 - ▶ Within five years, Brook Hills could have approximately 10-20 Bases around the world (including the Global Hub).
 - ▶ Within ten years, Brook Hills could have hundreds of Disciple-Making Bases around the world.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Important Dates
 - ▶ November 18 – Begin Praying Through This Strategy as a Church
 - ▶ November 25 – Publish Proposed 2008 Church Budget
 - ▶ November 28 – Churchwide Town Hall Meeting
6:30 to 8:00 p.m., Modular M17
 - ▶ December 2 – Churchwide Town Hall Meeting
4:00 to 5:30 p.m., Modular M17
 - ▶ December 9 – Church Vote on 2008 Budget
 - ▶ December – Going Global Offering for 2008

Please note that discussion of the Proposed 2008 Church Budget is also available during the Town Hall Meetings. Staff will be available to answer any questions regarding the Budget during these Town Halls, in addition to discussion of our future plans at Brook Hills.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

This morning's message is the result of many hours of prayerful discussion, time in the Word and planning by the Senior Pastor and other leaders of the church. Though this material has been condensed as much as possible, we realize it might be a bit of "information overload" (how often are you presented with an 8-page message outline?). Audio and video of this message, along with this complete outline, will be posted online at our website for you to download. Next week, you'll also be able to purchase a DVD version of this message from the Brookstore table in the lobby for \$5.

God has entrusted gifts, skills, passions all across this church to make this mission a reality. No one wants to go at this mission alone. So as you think of questions, concerns, or comments, we've created two avenues for you to express them to leadership:

Town Hall Meetings. Please attend one of our upcoming Town Hall Meetings, on Wednesday night, November 28, or Sunday afternoon, December 2. These will be open forums with the Senior Pastor where you can ask questions about what we've studied in the Word and how we are applying it to the future plans for our church.

Special Email Address. You may have some suggestions about how to best accomplish this mission. We've set up a special email address, **howbest@brookhills.org**, which goes directly to our Senior Pastor and the Senior Leadership Team, for you to share your thoughts and ideas. Though leaders cannot respond to all emails because of the volume we receive, we are committed to including every single one in the conversation as we continue to prayerfully align to and implement God's plan for His church.