

Relationships Matter

GOD'S DESIRE FOR A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

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Discipleship Stream

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SCF: A missional church family.

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Introduction.

R e l a t i o n s h i p s M a t t e r

GOD'S DESIRE FOR A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

Summary:

- God has granted us much - He has a specific purpose for us;
- It's not a choice AND it's for all of us;
- Pro-active unconditional love and care for a world in need;
- Authentic care; by,
- Allowing The Holy Spirit to work through us; and
- Using what He has given us.

We are a “*Five Talent*” church let's be “*good and faithful servants*”.
cf Matthew 25: 14-30

R e l a t i o n s h i p s M a t t e r
G O D ' S D E S I R E F O R A C O M M U N I T Y O F B E L I E V E R S

God's vision for SCF:

- **members of SCF will grow (stronger and deeper) as disciples of Christ:**
members of SCF will grow as disciples, and their relationship with God will deepen; they will have a **passion to be ever more Christ centred**. As members of the church family go about their daily lives they will **exert Christ's influence**. **SCF will be a missional family...** Every aspect of our plans and purposes will be founded on our **deep desire to be in God's will and to do His calling; everything will continue to start with, and to be covered by, prayer.**
- **people will see Christ-in-us transform lives:**
- **The Bridge is to be a light in the community (Isaiah 60:1):** the people of SCF are being called to develop **resources that reach people physically, socially and spiritually;**
- **everyone will know about The Bridge and SCF:**
- **government and community agencies will come to us for help.**

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G O D ' S D E S I R E F O R A C O M M U N I T Y O F B E L I E V E R S

Why do it?

.... **Because we don't have a choice:**

We are called to:

- *"loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke"; and*
- be Christ's hands feet and voice for those in need *"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."*

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Why do it?

We are also called to:

- be salt and light.
- share the Gospel of Jesus Christ;

plus

- we are commanded to make disciples;

and

- “*..From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.*”

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Safe Spaces:

A network of spaces - including our **homes** and **work places** - with **The Bridge** as the hub.

Safe spaces:

**Accessible to everyone
where needs are met
with real love and care
for the whole person
including all those who they care about**



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Safe Spaces:

**Where everyone is empowered to make a difference
in their own lives
and in the lives of those around them**

**A community
where people can “be” without having to “believe” or even
to “belong”
where they experience Christ and
learn to trust through relationship**



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Safe Spaces:

**A pathway
for Christ to walk upon
where the Gospel is lived out
leading to a place where the Gospel is preached and
people can discover Christ for themselves**

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The Bridge:

*“An attractive & accessible multi purpose environment that welcomes people of all ages and backgrounds (race, culture, abilities) ... **that will help the church to contribute to the spiritual, moral, social & physical well being of the community.***

Through providing a meeting place for worship, friendship, prayer training and practical help.”

(The Bridge Design Workshops 27 February 2004)



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Impacting our neighbours:

- Being congruent in our words and deeds;
- Being in-step with God's heart - in tune with The Holy Spirit;
- Understanding and respect - respect is an essential element in building trust;
- Respecting someone is not the same as agreeing with their views or their lifestyle;
- Just the right sized helping of truth in love - at the right time.

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Using God's gifts:

- God has granted that the majority of us in SCF have homes;
- Having the heart of Christ for our neighbours;
- Care for the Family's "Kitchen Table Project";
- Our places of work or study;
- The Bridge as a "hub".

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The Bridge - Extending the tent:

- Needs in the community are an opportunity to extend God's use of The Bridge;
- Opportunities to build new relationships;
- Examples: Bereavement - Breast Feeding - Community & Lively Hearts Lunches;
- Different badges but ALL compatible with God's vision for SCF.

“The Bridge is to be a light in the community (Isaiah 60:1): the people of SCF are being called to develop resources that reach people physically, socially and spiritually.”

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The need is huge...

...but we don't have to do it all ourselves (cf. John Lewis).

Needs:

- Building Community;
- Specific needs.

“government and community agencies will come to us for help: as SCF’s influence grows in the community, agencies and community groups will come to us for help and support.”



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Summary:

- God has granted us much - He has a specific purpose for us;
- **It's not a choice - it's for all of us;**
- Pro-active unconditional love & care for people;
- Authentic care: allow The Holy Spirit to work through us;
- Our homes, workplaces & The Bridge are gifts from God: let's use them with inspiration & courage and in God's grace.

We are a “*Five Talent*” church let's be “*good and faithful servants*”.

cf Matthew 25:14-30

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What Next:

“After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”. Acts4:31

We need to come together as the whole SCF Church Family & PRAY -

**that we will have God’s desire - His love, His passion - deep within us, to help transform our community;
Our Father, your Kingdom come...**

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Bible references:

1. *'Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?...' Isa68:6-12*
2. *"And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward." Matthew 10:42*
3. *"... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matt25:34-40*
4. *"... From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." Luke12:48*
5. *"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36*
6. *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." Gal5:22-25*
7. *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Ephs6:12*

Coffee Table Questions:

1. Who is your neighbour?
2. How comfortable are you about building authentic relationships with your neighbours? What stops you from getting to know them more?
3. How equipped do you feel? What would help you to be more confident?



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SCF: A missional church family:

Recap: David Wort 6Jan19:

Pointing people to JESUS:

- **At home;**
- **At work;**
- **At The Bridge;**
- **The church is the people not the building;**
- **Kitchen table church mission based homes and lives.**



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