

Be The Game Changer

A game changer is one who looks at what's happening and decides that unless something changes the game is going to die or he is going to die with it. It is someone who can see the bigger picture and make a change now. He looks at challenges as opportunities. In a game changers mind problems don't exist only opportunities and the challenges he faces he turns into opportunities for change.

How many of us have had to face such situations in life where we have had to change our tactics to achieve significant benefit.

Growth comes out of change. Through a process of metamorphosis a caterpillar that does not look that pretty turns into a beautiful butterfly.

Often in the church God takes us through processes of change so that His purposes can come to pass. Often for God to bring about the new the old has to die, the familiar has to become unfamiliar and the past has got to be left behind to embrace the future. The church is a living organism and every living organism changes and grows. We are the church and we are the living stones and therefore we also change and grow. Sometimes change and growth can come in small proportions and Sometimes in larger quantities. Nevertheless if we fail to embrace change we will never grow.

That is why as a church we are looking to change and grow.

Your position is not as important as where your direction in life is. Our position as a church is not as important as to where God is leading us.

As a church we have gone through some great times and not so great times over the last 7 years that I have been here. People have come and people have gone and I am thankful for all the experiences I have had whilst serving here because it has made me stronger and bolder and probably wiser and shaped my character

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I am thankful for those of you who have weathered the storm and stayed faithful to the church the body of Jesus gathered here.

So now we must venture into our new phase in this journey to birth what God has for us. So some may ask why do we need to change venues and be troubled with all the work that goes with it? We are quite comfortable here, everything looks nice and well.

So let me give you the **Why** behind the move.

We have been on a journey over the last few years and from time to time we have considered changing venues. We have been here 7 years now and I told the Lord that something has to shift in the 7th year. 3 years ago Ps Bruce Monk spoke into our lives and said a big change was required and I had a 6 month window of opportunity to make the change - I missed it then.

Pastor Prothero in 2017 said that we had to move for something significant to happen. I have been wrestling with these thoughts and even drew a plan of what I thought our building should look like

and it was sometime in September 2018 that I knew we had to move and I did communicate that to our leaders. So here we are now preparing for that move and everyone of us are involved and will have greater and better opportunities to serve and to grow.

- The vision we are carrying needs a bigger and better facility - our vision is people coming to faith and growing in faith and to be a positive influence in our community
- Our location currently isn't suitable for what we are carrying and wanting to do. This was the right place when it started many years ago but our environment has changed, people's behaviour has changed, people's needs and wants have changed as we have been shaped into a post modern era where people want to identify in something big and significant. We need a location more central to the city where people can see us and where we can be known, more pronounced, more visible. This facility is on the main road and very visible.
- On a Sunday our parking is very limited and again people today want easy access where they can drive in and park without the hassle of having to search for space. Years ago I remember walking to church and it was ok at that time. Now almost every family has a car and look for easy parking. The venue has 70 parking spaces
- Our facility looks dated and again it was fine in the by gone years but in this era we need something that is modern and a space that is big enough to accommodate more. Someone recently said that when they did a search for our church they thought our church looked like a scouts hut. The venue we are moving to is modern.
- If we don't try something new we will never know it's impact - to grow we have to change and this is always a challenge but challenges are stepping stones to greater opportunities. Life is never without its challenges and I am confident that we as a church have come together to be a community of people who love and care for one another and are now well positioned for transition. I believe this move will forge better relationships and create an excitement and a passion for the kingdom of God

Gal 6:9 and let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not loose heart (if we don't get discouraged)

Prov 29:18 (msg) If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed.

The question we got to ask ourselves is what is our purpose as people, as a church? Why do we exist as people as Gods called out ones? What is the bigger picture? If we do not focus on "why we do" and only concentrate on "what we do", it will kill us. Purpose is paramount as that is what will drive us to go places and keep our spirits alive.

Our purpose and our destiny is bigger than our position and status as a church. God has something bigger and better for us, which involves everyone working together to build the kingdom of God.

Eph 4:16 *He makes the whole body fit together and unites it through the support of every joint. As each and every part does its job, he makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.*

Sometimes we can get tired of doing good because it can be draining. The bible warns us and encourages us to be on our guard to not get weary or tired of doing good... because there is a season coming - to grow, to go deeper in God, to push the boat out, to experience Gods fullness. A season of fulfilment, of abundance, of reaping the harvest.

All this is promised and can be experienced if we do not loose heart or give up. So long as we are in the race we can win but as soon as we step out of the race we loose. So long as we stand up every time we fall we can win. So long as we have a purpose and a goal or focus we can win.

There is always a cost and often we get surprised by the cost. There's always a price to pay but when there is purpose the cost becomes irrelevant.

Let's come to a place where our purpose is greater than our problem. Let's not forget why we are here in this church?

Ask yourself, "What was it that brought me here?"

The temporary can become permanent with a game changer. Are you a game changer? Let's embrace change and keep on the race that God has mapped out for us. We keep looking to Jesus who has gone before us and has empowered us to take courage and be bold and reap that harvest. This is a great investment that will bring great results.

Here's a promise for you from *Zephaniah 3:17 (NLT)*: *For the Lord your God is living among you. He is a Mighty Saviour. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs."*

Let's connect with someone this week and encourage them to come. Can we do that? Can we invite somebody to come with us to church? Invite someone to coffee?

So where are we proposing moving to: Burlington Junior School on Burlington Road New Malden. **Here are some pictures of what that place looks like.** We have favour here. Prayer, commitment is needed. Wed - focus praying for this. Build teams of people.