

## 2022 Beleidsplan / Vision & mission

We must constantly assess the health and effectiveness of what we do. Are we fulfilling the great commandment and great commission?

What is our mission, our vision and our values?

What are the prophetic words over us?

I hope to take you all along into a journey of change in the upcoming months. The way we are gathered here will change, the way responsibilities in the church are carried will change. The impact and influence Redeemer has on this region is changing.

The verse from Isaiah we will use as a base to move forward.

### ISAIAH 54

*54 "Sing, barren woman,  
you who never bore a child;  
burst into song, shout for joy,  
you who were never in labor;  
because more are the children of the desolate woman  
than of her who has a husband,"  
says the Lord.*

*2 "Enlarge the place of your tent,  
stretch your tent curtains wide,  
do not hold back;  
lengthen your cords,  
strengthen your stakes.*

*3 For you will spread out to the right and to the left;  
your descendants will dispossess nations  
and settle in their desolate cities.*

### THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

This prophecy of Isaiah speaks about the future church of Christ (which we are) and the Kingdom of the Messiah.

It speaks about The future glory of His church. It talks about a husband, the maker of the Church, Jesus.

We read in scripture that Jesus paid a price for this bride, He gave Himself up for her. And when the time is full He will come back to pick it up. Meanwhile, scripture tells us, he is preparing His bride, to present it spotless and blameless.

Jesus looks with love and compassion to His church even though we are a work in progress.

What does this prophecy tell us, but also promises us as His church?

*VERSE 1*

**SHOUT FOR JOY WHILST BEING IN A PLACE OF UNFRUITFUL SOIL**

The Spiritual unfruitfulness of this region is immense, the pain and hurt about the institute of church is real. A graveyard for churches, church plants and Christian ministries. Many have tried, many have failed and a few survived.

A couple of weeks ago I received a letter from the municipality of Maastricht addressing the deflation of the Church in this region, this is the reality for the world - THE CHURCH IS DEAD.

However, that does not reflect God's promises and the reality we face. I replied to the letter with a different message.

The church is not dead, but very much alive, come and take a look.

Jesus loves Maastricht and this region, I'm confident about that. He planted this church, us, here.

We see an increasingly wonderful bunch of people given to us.

So what to do with it? How do we move forward? We are indeed in a region that is known for its Spiritual unfruitfulness of the last decades. Even over this last year I keep on hearing stories of churches and ministries stopping their activities in Maastricht.

Where do we focus on? Everything that might go wrong? The reality of this city? Or do we have faith? Do we trust in God's promises?

*VERSE 2*

**ENLARGE AND DO NOT HOLD BACK**

A famous Dutch saying is; stagnation means decline

I do believe that it won't be good to stay where we were for the last few years. Not in the way we do things, but certainly not in the measure of faith we have. This upcoming season requires a different level of faith, commitment and trust.

**ENLARGE AND DO NOT HOLD BACK**

What does that mean to us, what does that mean to you?

It talks about taking risks, taking ground, making steps forward. Being open to embrace what God has prepared for us. People, places.

Without faith, commitment, perseverance and the empowering work of the Holy Spirit this is going to be very hard to pull off.

Healthy churches honor the past and build on it, but have no desire to repeat or live in it. Our focus should be on what God is doing now and wants to do next.

Some of us might not like change that much, let's keep things the way it was in the old days, sometimes out of fear or previous disappointments or a lack of faith.

Jesus talks about new and old wineskins in Matthew 9 verse 16-17  
*"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse.  
17 Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined.  
No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."*

I do believe God is doing something new in Maastricht, let's embrace this newness, this freshness.

Are we there yet? No, there are still many things ahead.  
Do we know how everything will look like? No, there are many unknowns.  
Jesus promised his faithfulness to us, gave us His Spirit, His word, we are equipped by Him for good works.

So how are we going to enter into the next 5 years?

Verse 3

### **STRENGTHEN YOUR STAKES**

A stake is a strong wooden pole into the ground to support a plant  
How do we strengthen our stakes? Which poles do we need to put into the ground to support this plan?

#### LEADERSHIP

Faithful, devoted, Spirit Filled brothers and sisters in Christ that feel called to carry the weight of this church plant. This is not for everyone to carry. My prayer is that by the end of this year we have more clarity on elders and deacons. It also means we need to make space for new people to come on board. This setting will change, more people will join. Let's keep our hearts open.

#### DISCIPLESHIP

We have an amazing bunch of people serving diligently in Redeemer which we want to disciple. As followers of Jesus we have the commandment to make disciples, how are we doing? Who do

you take along? Not found in programs per se, but through friendship, life groups and day to day relationships.

Discipleship comes with a cost. It's putting yourself aside for the sake of another. Discipleship comes with pain and joy, however I don't believe it's optional. It's key for the church to grow in discipling others, taking them along, showing them how to live their lives with Jesus.

### DOCTRINE

We live in a messed up world, with a very distorted view on life. Lost it way, there is so much desperation going on, who is giving an answer to all the pain and delusion? I believe God uses His church to tell another story, the story of creation, the story of salvation, a story of living as God fearing, righteous people.

Matthew 24:35 ESV

*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.*

Isaiah 40:8 ESV

*The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.*

1 Peter 1:25 ESV

*But the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.*

Let's faithfully continue to preach the word of God, also the parts that are difficult, confronting. Bring truth in love. If we do not preach the truth, the wonderful design and plans of God for humanity, how does that show love? We love people by preaching the Good news and the truth of God's word.

### MISSION

How do we reach Maastricht and this region for Christ?  
What kind of message are we sending out to the people who are lost?  
Are we just a nice, fancy, hip church that gathers on Sunday morning?  
Or is there more for us? How will this city hear about Jesus? How will the good news spread?

We are a receiving and sending church. Many will come in, many will go out. Redeemer is not about Maastricht only, we are called for more

*verse 3*

### **FOR YOU WILL SPREAD OUT**

A healthy church is not about numbers or gathering loads of people, no it's about multiplication. It's always been God's heart and purpose for us to multiply. The same for His church. We read many examples about this in regards to the early church in the book of acts, they kept multiplying.

The reality is that Redeemer has people coming from Belgium, Germany and the middle and north of this province.  
The reality is that they come to Redeemer because there is just nothing like us close to their home.

I also believe in the local church, a place to gather close to home for everyone. Why did the gospel spread so quickly as we read of in the book of acts? Because they multiplied.

What did Jesus promise his disciples in Acts 1 verse 8?  
*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

Redeemer will multiply, maybe first through starting more life groups in this region this year. And maybe plant out new churches in the future, God willing.

I'm very passionate and full of faith about the future of Redeemer. I believe God has great things for us in store and He is revealing it bit by bit to us. I also know we can't move forward in a healthy way without strengthening our stakes. Also we can't move forward in a healthy way without an increasing work of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

This church has always been God's plan, if it was for me...I don't know if it existed. Clearly His hand is upon us, clearly He is faithful and trustworthy. He is on our side and we have nothing to fear. Let's be bold and full of faith. With Him anything is possible.

Recently Lise brought the word about singing a new song.  
In verse 1 we read about bursting into song, shout for joy  
Let's start singing joyfully over His church, His plans, His goodness.

AMEN

## **WHAT IS THE PLAN?**

Equip, appoint, release elders and deacons

Equip and release team coordinators  
(practical and ministries) / expand wider team setting  
(summer 2023 -> december 2023)

### Doctrine

Clarify and communicate our values and beliefs.  
Preaching series autumn - City on a Hill

### Discipleship

More emphasis on discipleship and the importance and outworkings.  
Alpha, Beta, Membership, Study courses etc.

### Membership

Clarify Biblical church membership, what do we expect of our members?  
How do you become and stay a member of Redeemer?

### Multiply life groups

1 or 2 in Maastricht region  
1 in Belgium -> Sint-Truiden/Hasselt/Leuven region  
1 in Germany - Aachen/Heinsberg region

### Youth leaders

(12-17) Equip and release youth leaders  
1 couple and 1 or 2 assistants.

### Continue search for own venue

A home for Redeemer in the city centre

### Staff support

(grow with the church demands)  
Backoffice employee

### Social Justice

Investigate and set-up local social justice work  
(the poor, lonely & refugees)

Outreach & events

More emphasis on special occasions (mission), Baptism/Easter/Christmas