



Baptist Churches  
of NSW & ACT

# **Ten Aspects Facing Healthy Churches Irrespective of Size!**

## **1. Vision**

- a. What is God's Future for us?
- b. Where are we going?

## **2. Change**

- a. Change is constant
- b. Loyalty is different these days
- c. Membership at almost every level is in decline

## **3. Outward Focus**

- a. Evangelism cannot be the poor relative any more
- b. Service to those outside the church family needs to be a vital aspect

## **4. Leadership**

- a. Role descriptions are vital
- b. Pastors are staying longer whilst lay leadership are serving for shorter periods
- c. The role of leaders differs greatly depending on church size. No size or model is right or wrong but it must be appropriate for the size & style of the church!

## **5. Reviews**

- a. Pastoral reviews / church ministry reviews / church health reviews should be regular (say every two years) and aimed at improving ministry not determining whether a person, or ministry is "let go".

## **6. Strategies**

- a. We need to reclaim strategic planning back from the business world
- b. Joseph's instructions to Pharaoh is a good example of a strategic approach .

## **7. Inclusion**

- a. Open & closed membership is a vital issue
- b. How can we value the opinion of non-members seeing that they now represent 50% or greater of church attenders?
- c. Having people feel included is the key issue here.

## **8. Small groups**

- a. Not Bible study groups but relationship-based gatherings that are wholistic in nature.

## **9. Biblical Reflection**

- a. Reflecting on how the Bible relates to real life situations, not just the learning of doctrinal truth.

## **10. Conflict**

- a. Is common, is normal even for healthy churches.
- b. Wise churches provide attenders with a known policy for dealing with conflict and then leadership model it for others.