



# Annual General Meeting Report

Year Ending 31 December 2020

## *Senior Pastor's Report*

As we reflect on the year 2020, we must fall to our knees and give all thanks, glory and praise to our Lord for his love, provision, blessing and faithfulness. The year will forever be remembered as the year COVID-19 gripped the world. We shall ever remember it as a year the Lord confirmed his love and faithfulness.

### **Bringing the Family Home**

Bringing the Family Home were the words which we gathered around for most of the year. By March it was evident that 2020 would not be a year like any other we remember. Reports of a virus rapidly had resulted in restrictions on gathering across our society.

Honour is due to our board & church leaders who acted swiftly and decisively when news of these restrictions emerged. Within 24hrs, we had moved our church from being one gathering to being multiple gatherings across our city sharing a virtual worship experience. This for most of us was a foreign experience, yet the shared faith and fellowship was celebrated as we were Bringing the Family Home (into our homes).

### **Bringing the Family Home - online**

During the months of March and April the restrictions changed almost daily and as quickly as we moved from one gathering to many, the next week, we moved to hosting Online Church only. Whilst a new and potentially isolating experience, there were a number of things to be celebrated during this time:

- **Holy Spirit Ministry** – The Lord is not restricted by time & space. We were blessed each gathering as words of knowledge were spoken with many reports of healing and restoration as a result.
- **Pastoral Teams** – Connection was a key aspect of our church family strategy in thriving during COVID-19. Ps Natalie and a team of caring members of our family, kept our church connected, cared for, and prayed for.
- **Patrick Zahn** – A special mention to Patrick. We are grateful to the time, effort, care and passion that Patrick put into ensuring we could still virtually gather. Calvary Production Studios were a thing of beauty, constantly changing, multiple sets.
- **Worship Team** – When restrictions were announced our Worship team rapidly gathered to produce worship songs through which we were able to unite in praise during times of heavy restrictions.
- **Church online community** – Whilst we were meeting exclusively online there was a vibrance of community happening: The online chat each Sunday on church online, the faith and fun shared on facebook, messages of hope, Family Camp virtual edition. It was also during this time that the reach of our church extended. We had regular attendees from Melbourne to Townsville. Thank you to our church for prioritizing connection.
- **Youth & Children** – Who knew zoom meetings could share so much faith, fun and be so crazy.
- **Rhona the Rhino** – Our easter egg each service who became so close to our family he even shared a few words one Sunday.
- **Community connection** – During this time, many noted that friends, family and community were looking for and asking about how they can have hope, faith and security in a future.

### **Bringing the Family Home – Church regathering**

On July 12 we regathered in person as we were Bringing the Family Home (into one location). We adorned our entrance with a large Welcome Home, donned slippers and praised the Lord and celebrated together in His House (Psalm 84). Around this time the rest of our ministries and groups began to regather also, life groups, youth, young adults, seniors, children's church.

Over the rest of the year we met across two Sunday service times of 8am & 10am in addition to our other group gatherings. It was here we saw how strong and blessed we are as a church. The level of commitment, care, and servant heart of our volunteers during these months was outstanding with increased cleaning and reporting requirements in addition to many giving 5-6hrs each week. Church, this is a testament to your character and the Love of Jesus that is found in you.

What we did witness in 2020 is how flexible and agile we can be as a church and community. Whilst we had regathered, there were periods where we needed to quickly change attendance sizes, routines or gather online. The grace and effort shown during these transitions was a joy to behold.

### **Bringing the Family Home - Vision**

As we began 2020 we did not know what lay ahead, yet started with a fever in our hearts to represent our Lord well. We began the year with three (3) key pursuits, the ABC's, that is only through reflection could be summarized as Bringing the Family Home:

1. Always have an answer for the hope you profess.
2. Building authentic community.
3. Children, empowering the next generation.

Towards these goals we saw a number of initiatives including a number of people begin and engage with biblical studies through Vision College and new groups established. It is easy to see how community was fought for and extended during the year.

### **Bringing the Family Home - Youth Pastors**

During movement and gathering restrictions there was a particular concern for the mental health and wellbeing of young people. This was highlighted by not being able to gather in person and not being able to minister in schools where we typically would have a strong presence. This concern, when coupled with a growing number of children from our church families entering their teenage years led us to expand our leadership team.

In what is potentially the worst possible time to implement change – when we are not gathering and with uncertainty around what the next 6-24 months may bring, we welcomed James & Sallyann Foord as our youth pastors. With them having been saved in our church and spending some of their formative years at Calvary Family Church, it is a joy to Bring the Family Home and work together for the purposes of God in this generation. They bring a broad skill and experience set and have complimented our team well. This was evidenced when during the ever changing and uncertain times of 2020 they structured care and discipleship of our high schoolers.

### **Other points of significance**

A number of our scheduled events and programs did not run in 2020 due to restrictions on movement and gathering. Yet many instances of significance did still occur, here are a couple:

**Vanuatu** – My year began with a mission trip to Vanuatu with a look to partner with the Library Project in the coming years. This was one of the most purposeful mission experiences I have witnessed. With the ability for our entire church to be involved, through preparing libraries in Australia through to heading to Vanuatu to install libraries & minister in communities, there is a way for everyone to be involved. Additionally, the project is worthwhile and is having dramatic results with some schools going from never sending a student to secondary education to now sending every student who graduates. As restrictions lift we look forward to further involving ourselves as a church in this initiative.

**Christmas Carols** - we were able to gather with the community in December for a celebration of Christmas at our Christmas Carols. Whilst stripped back on previous years, over 500 were in attendance, we saw the desire for our community to build community, something which is impacting our efforts as we move forward into 2021.

**Prophetic School** – As we began to regather, we partnered with Faylen Sparks to run a School of the Prophets. This was a powerful time of equipping as we were empowered to hear and deliver the word of the Lord.

**Living with integrity** – During 2020 there were many and changing rules to interpret and follow. There were temptations to ignore or break the rules when it appeared many others were doing this and that it would benefit us. As a church however we chose to live DIFFERENT and do what was right even when it was not convenient. In doing this we displayed Jesus & believe we were blessed as result. As difficult and different as 2020 was, our church grew stronger, our tenancies filled up and we saw Jesus in each other.

**Calvary Family Church core values** – Emerging from the year that has been 2020, there are many opportunities and decisions to be made in following the Lord’s purposes for our church and community. The Lord has designed our church with a specific set of values and purposes. Many of these are commone between all of the Lord’s people. Within each community of believers there are elements of the Lord’s nature that are emphasized often specifically for the community in which they operate. During 2020 our Pastors and Elders set to seeking and allowing the Lord to speak to us about the core values of Calvary Family Church. (Calvary Family Church core values are included at the end of this report)

I’m sure you have some significant moments of your own you could add to that list. I do hope you share these and remember the Lord’s faithfulness. It would be easy to remember 2020 as “The Year the Pandemic Began” but it is easy to see it was: 2020 – the year of the Lord’s favour. I will be remembering 2020 as:

### **2020- The Year the Lord Brought His Family Home**

It has been a privilege and an honour to serve as your Senior Pastors, we are truly rich because of the wonderful church family we are a part of. We are sure you are stronger at the end of this year and pray as you reflect and remember this year, it will lead you to worship and thanks towards our Heavenly Father.

Blessings,

Scott & Suzie

## ***Calvary Family Church - Core Values***

### **Jesus Christ - We Are a Christian Church**

We exist because of Jesus Christ - the reason and motivation for all we do. He is the full expression of who we are and through Him we have relationship with God the Father and the Holy Spirit.

### **The Bible - We are a Bible-Based Church**

We are committed to the Bible as the Word of God and our final authority for rule and practice.

### **The Ministry of the Holy Spirit - We are a Spirit-filled and Spirit-led church**

We crave personal relationship with the Holy Spirit (our empowerment), pursuing the development of the fruit of the Spirit and seeking to use the presence of the Spirit for the benefit of others.

### **Discipleship - We are a growing church**

We are active and teachable in being shaped and shaping each-other into devoted image-bearers of Jesus, knowing who they are in the Lord and why they are on the Earth.

### **Prayer - We are a praying church**

We trust God is, has and will provide the answer. Prayer forms the foundation of our lives and every endeavour we undertake. We are a house of prayer for all Nations.

### **Worship - We are a worshipping church**

Worship is our lifestyle. We will express our devotion to the Lord in every aspect of life with joyful and intimate worship.

### **Authentic Relationships - We are a family**

We are not a church of families – our church is a family. Through being real, consistent and Christ-like, we will see every person loved and cared for in such a way that they feel accepted, valued and have a sense of belonging.

### **Generations - We are an every-generation church**

We will do life & ministry together with those of other generations. The Kingdom of God operates best when generations walk together in unity

### **Servanthood - We are a serving church**

Service isn't what we do, it's who we are. There is nothing more fun than serving the Lord and others together.

### **Go - We are an evangelistic church**

We will do all we can to reach lost people both near and far. This is the primary task of every believer.

### **Faith - We are a risk-taking church**

We will not insult God with small goals & ideas. We will dream big with our Lord through Whom all things are possible.

### **Diversity - We are a unified church**

We will bridge racial, cultural, socio-economic and theological gaps so as to create a community where all people can relate together in a spirit of love and unity.

### **Excellence - We are a quality church**

We do everything as if we were doing it for the Lord Himself, pursuing excellence in all aspects of church life in order to bring glory to God. We are contributors not consumers.

**Integrity - We are who we say we are**

Our yes is yes and our no is no. We will not let Jesus down by saying one thing and living another. We will honour Jesus by saying that we will follow him and living a lifestyle that reflects this.

**Community - We are a church for others**

We believe the Church exists for the world. We will be influencers and contributors bringing life to the communities we are involved with and connected to.