

## **A Year of Grace, A Future of Mission**

*A Celebration of One Year Gathering as Hudson's Hope Chapel*

### ***Introduction: Expecting Great Things from God***

Over 200 years ago, a man named William Carey believed that God wanted people to share the gospel with all nations. Many people at that time did not think this was possible, but Carey trusted God. He said, **"Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God."** Even though he faced many difficulties, he never gave up. His work in India helped bring the gospel to thousands of people, even after he died. His story reminds us that we may be small, but God is big, and He is working in ways we cannot yet see.

### ***Looking Back: What God Has Done***

Today, we celebrate one year as a church. When we started, we trusted God, not knowing what the future would hold. Now, we can look back and see how He has led us. Just as the early church in **Acts 2:42-43** devoted themselves to God's Word, to fellowship, to prayer, and to seeing His power at work, we have also done the same in our first year.

#### **1. Devotion to the Word**

The early believers were hungry to learn God's truth. They gathered to hear the apostles teach about Jesus. From the beginning, our church has also been focused on learning the Bible. This year, we studied the Gospel of John and saw how Jesus is at the centre of everything. This commitment to the Bible has helped us grow, and it has opened doors for conversations about faith in our daily lives.

#### **2. Commitment to Fellowship**

The first Christians were not just people who met once a week; they were a family. They ate together, shared their lives, and supported each other. That is why our church gathers for meals, why we have coffee together, and why we create times to meet outside of Sunday services. The church is not just a building—it is people. This past year, God has brought us together as a true family.

### 3. A Life of Prayer

The early church prayed constantly because they knew they needed God's help. We have done the same. We have prayed for each other, for our community, and for God to grow this church. And we have seen Him answer prayers in amazing ways. Sometimes, His answers were unexpected, but we can see now how He has been leading us. Prayer must always be at the center of our church, because without it, we will forget that everything depends on Him.

### 4. The Awe of God's Presence

When the first believers saw God working, they were filled with awe. They knew that what was happening was not because of them, but because of God. This past year, we have had many moments where we have felt the same awe. We have seen people grow in faith, we have worshipped together, and we have witnessed how God is moving in ways we never expected. All of this reminds us that this is God's church, not ours, and He is not finished with us yet.

### *Looking Forward: Our Mission for the Future*

Now, we look ahead. Where is God leading us?

First, we want to continue to be **a church that reaches others**. The early church did not exist just for themselves—they wanted more people to know Jesus. In the same way, we need to keep growing, both spiritually and in number. That is why we are looking for a bigger place to worship, planning new ways to reach people, and welcoming a mission team this summer.

Second, we must **keep the gospel at the center of everything**. The early Christians shared their faith in every part of life. We need to do the same. Every conversation we have could be an opportunity for someone to meet Jesus.

Third, we must **be a church that equips people**. Church is not just about listening to sermons. It is about learning, growing, and preparing to share the gospel with others. We need to be active in teaching, mentoring, and serving.

Finally, we must **be a church that is available to all**. The early church did not wait for people to come to them—they went out to the community. We need to do the same. That means inviting others, sharing our faith, and making sure that when people do come, they feel welcome and hear the good news of Jesus.

### ***Conclusion: Trusting God for the Future***

As we look ahead, we must remember one thing: **God is the one leading us**. Philippians 1:6 says, "*He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion.*" God has started something here, and He will continue to guide us.

We do not need to be afraid. Instead, we must trust Him, walk by faith, and believe that He will do great things. As William Carey said, "**Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God.**"

So, as we enter this second year, let us trust God, serve Him with all our hearts, and step forward in faith. The best is yet to come.

**Amen!**