

Feb 19th 2006: Purpose Statement: Final Message: Acts 2:42-47

In your Participaper.....Church Purpose Statement

**Craigie Baptist Church exists to KNOW the Lord and to make Him known,
to SHOW the Lord through our ministries and our lives,
and, with the Lord, to GROW His Kingdom.**

When I first introduced.....I based it upon the Bible reading....Acts 2:42-47

For it is in the community of believers as described there

That we see.....this Knowing.....Showing.....and Growing →Ultimate way

This was the beginning of the church.....and it sets the standard.....

that Xtians eversince.....have aimed for

Within it we see believers as a community.....brothers and sisters

- Devoted to learning together
- Filled with the fruit.....
- Committed to caring for one another
- And Experiencing→God empowered...enabled...Growth of His Kingdom

To be a strong community in Christ.....Brothers and Sisters in the Lord.....

Is vital for such Kingdom growth

And it begins....with a passionate love.....for Jesus...because of the forgiveness & life

→We can have a purpose....and follow...rigidly

Be very busy about many things

But unless we are a community.....built around our love for Jesus and one another

....we will not achieve what God wants

The Xtian community referred to in our reading.....was obviously.....founded on

..a love for Jesus.....and this spilt over into a rich love and concern for.....

So it comes as no surprise to read in v47.....

Of course God would send→He knew ..would be taught...loved...cared for..welcomed

*(Let me read you a story.....that illustrates what a loving community in Christ can do
From Phil Yancey's Stories For The Soul page 54 BELONGING)*

I trust that we will be.....A Community of Christ-ones..... into which God will delight..
To send those who are being saved....**because He** knows that here they will find
Love.....Acceptance.....Caring

They definitely found all that...in the community in Acts 2

They also discovered believers who truly desired
To KNOW the Lord and make Him known.
V42.....

They really wanted to know more about the Lord.....and did so thro Apostles teaching
But also thro fellowship & sharing.....Communion feast.....and thro prayer
And from the rest of Acts.....its obvious.....wanted to make Him known to....

We too have many opportunities...to know.....and make Him known ...here at Craigie
Haven't got the Apostles.....but we have God's Word.....and teachers gifted

The challenge is:-

Are we serious about growing in Knowledge...and helping others to know ?

They also showed the Lord at work...in their midst...in their lives

Miracles.....answered prayers;;;;;

;A **giving in** order that all would have evrything they needed

It showed in a glad fellowshiping together

...such Evidence of Christ living in them...that even the outsiders thought highly of them

That's the Showing that we too are aiming for.....In our Caring ministries
In our individual Christ centred lives

All this meant that they enjoyed Kingdom Growth
Kingdom Growth that God was pleased to bring about
Because they were working with God to grow His kingdom

*Recently.....interviewing Aussie girls for Miss World.....What difference ???
Realise that many....would like to make a diff...Make their lives count...Don't have op*

As believers...part of a Christian Community....
where we have so many wonderful opp...
To make a difference:
Locally
World wide

But esp.....to make an eternal Diff
Through **KNOWING** the Lordand **SHOWING** the Lord

Lets commit ourselves anew.....To doing so