

VISION SUNDAY

“TAKING GROUND”

Ps Don McDonell • 20 September 2026

Vision Builders Sunday was a call to catch fresh vision for our lives, our church, and God's Kingdom—and to move from being spectators to people who take responsibility for the mission God has placed before us.

1. GOD IS CALLING US TO FRESH VISION

Ps Don challenged the church to lift its eyes beyond the immediate and ask God for fresh vision for our spirit, destiny, families, church and community. The message was not simply about a building or a financial campaign; it was about what God wants to do through changed people who are willing to take ground.

2. LIVE UNDER THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The sermon returned to three Kingdom values that shape the life of Inspire Church:

- **Kingdom values** — establishing God's values in our everyday lives and relationships. iGroups and community were highlighted as practical places where those values are lived out.
- **Kingdom vision** — seeing practical ways to reach and care for people. Examples included transport for young people and people who struggle to get to church, as well as homes that can help people coming out of addiction or difficult circumstances.
- **Kingdom investment** — using what God has entrusted to us to advance His Kingdom and take ground.

3. A CHURCH THAT INVESTS BEYOND ITSELF

The church's history of missions investment was used as evidence of what can happen when a congregation chooses to invest beyond itself. The sermon referred to investment in a Bible college in Vietnam, involvement in planting churches in Vietnam, and a stated historical missions investment of approximately \$8 million.

Ps Don also spoke about reducing debt so that more resources can be released for ministry beyond the current building. The vision is not to be restricted by what the church currently has, but to remain open to what God may enable the church to do next.

4. GENEROSITY IS A MATTER OF THE HEART

Giving was presented as a response to God rather than something produced through manipulation. Ps Don described three kinds of giving:

- **Pressure giving** — giving because someone feels pressured.
- **Squeeze giving** — giving reluctantly or only because circumstances force it.
- **Love giving** — giving freely from love, faith and obedience to God.

KEY THOUGHT: Vision becomes meaningful when it moves from something we hear about to something we personally take responsibility for.

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE VISION

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5. DON'T BECOME AN ORDINARY CHURCH

The sermon challenged the church not to settle into passivity or simply become an ordinary church. The picture presented was of a Spirit-filled, active church that reflects the pattern of the Book of Acts—willing to believe God, serve people and participate in revival and breakthrough.

6. EVERY SEAT IS AN “EXIT ROW”

Using the illustration of an airplane, Ps Don explained that people seated in an exit row have a responsibility to help others in an emergency. The challenge was that church members should not merely sit as spectators. Each person has a part to play and is called to take ownership of the mission.

The question is not simply, “What is the church doing?” but also, “What part am I willing to take?”

7. TAKING GROUND MEANS REACHING PEOPLE

The vision described was deeply people-focused: reaching those who are broken, hurting or desperate; seeing prodigals return; investing in young people; helping people struggling with addiction; and strengthening pastoral care, youth ministry and counselling.

The need for larger and more effective children's and youth spaces was also highlighted. The purpose of growth is not simply to have more facilities, but to create greater capacity to welcome, disciple, care for and reach people.

8. THE VISION BUILDERS OFFERING

The Vision Builders offering was presented as a practical expression of the church's wider mission. A target of **\$500,000** was stated. The offering was framed within the larger call to invest in people, ministry, mission and the future of the church—not simply in a financial goal.

9. THE GREATEST MIRACLE IS TRANSFORMATION

The message ultimately moved beyond finances to salvation and transformed lives. People responded to Jesus, and the closing emphasis was that changed lives are the real purpose behind the vision.

The picture of a guitar that had hung on a wall for years illustrated this beautifully: an instrument can be restored, restrung and used again. In the same way, people who feel unused, broken or set aside can be restored by God and become instruments in His hands.

THE CENTRAL MESSAGE

God is inviting Inspire Church to see beyond its present circumstances, live by Kingdom values, invest in people and mission, and take personal responsibility for the part each person can play. The goal is not simply a bigger church—it is a church that sees lives changed and people reached.

THREE QUESTIONS TO TAKE AWAY

1. **What vision is God asking me to catch for my life and His Kingdom?**
2. **Where am I being called to take responsibility rather than remain a spectator?**
3. **How can I invest my time, gifts and resources into reaching people?**

“Taking ground” is ultimately about faith in action: seeing what God sees, responding with obedience, and making room for more people to encounter Jesus and experience transformation.

Prepared from the full sermon transcript • Vision Sunday, 20 September 2026