

VISION SUNDAY

"TAKING GROUND"

Ps Don McDonell • 20 September 2026

Vision Sunday was a call to catch fresh vision—not only for Inspire Church, but for each person's life, spiritual journey, destiny and role in God's Kingdom.

1. GOD IS CALLING US TO FRESH VISION

Inspire Church has always sought to move forward rather than remain comfortable or restricted. The theme for this season is **"Taking Ground."** The challenge is to believe God for greater things and enlarge our capacity for what He wants to do.

"If you want to take ground, invest in God's kingdom first."

The sermon highlighted the church's investment in missions, including the Bible college in Vietnam and involvement in planting churches across Vietnam. Kingdom investment creates opportunities to reach people, equip leaders and extend the Gospel.

2. LIVE UNDER THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Ps Don challenged the church not to be shaped by limitation, fear, lack or small thinking, but to live under the **"canopy of the Kingdom of God"**—a Kingdom characterised by faith, hope, victory, healing, miracles, passion, generosity and expectation.

The church is called to help **change the spiritual climate**, beginning with what we speak, believe and live.

3. KINGDOM VALUES, KINGDOM VISION AND KINGDOM INVESTMENT

Kingdom Values: Establish God's values in everyday life. iGroups and being planted in the life of the church were highlighted.

Kingdom Vision: Practical vision that reaches beyond maintaining current ministry—including transport for young people, Christian homes for people coming out of addiction and difficult circumstances, and greater ministry capacity.

Kingdom Investment: Releasing our time, gifts, resources and finances into what God is doing.

Key question: *What are we prepared to release so that God's Kingdom can become bigger in our world?*

4. GENEROSITY IS ABOUT THE HEART

The Vision Builders offering was presented as an opportunity to participate in the church's Kingdom mission. Ps Don referred to firstfruits and the widow's offering, emphasising that generosity is about where our heart is and whether God is recognised as our source.

1. **Pressure giving** — giving because someone pushes you.
2. **Squeeze giving** — giving because something is extracted from you.
3. **Love giving** — giving because you love God and want to participate in His Kingdom.

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

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5. DON'T BECOME AN ORDINARY CHURCH

The church was challenged not to become comfortable, passive or ordinary, but to be part of a revival movement—the Church of the Living God. The Book of Acts was presented as a picture of people empowered by the Holy Spirit who went out to change their world.

The church should be **alive, active, Spirit-filled, evangelistic, generous, passionate, ready to serve and prepared to reach broken people.**

6. EVERY SEAT IS AN “EXIT ROW”

Passengers in an aeroplane's emergency exit row have greater responsibility and are expected to help others. Ps Don used this as a picture of church ownership.

“Don't just sit in the church — take responsibility for what God is doing through the church.”

Ownership means being willing to serve, give, reach people, use our gifts and help others get safely to their destination in Christ.

7. TAKING GROUND MEANS REACHING PEOPLE

The vision is ultimately about people: the broken, hurting and desperate; those struggling with addiction; young people; families; prodigals; and people far from God.

Greater ministry capacity—including pastoral and youth ministry, counselling, additional children's space and practical environments—was presented as a way to help more people encounter Jesus.

The building is a **tool for the mission**, not the mission itself.

8. THE VISION BUILDERS OFFERING

The offering was presented as a practical expression of the church's vision. Everyone was encouraged to pray and ask God what they should contribute rather than respond to manipulation or pressure.

Vision areas included expanding ministry capacity, more space for children and young people, reaching outside the church, support for people coming out of difficult circumstances, pastoral and youth ministry, reaching prodigals, revival and Gospel ministry, and extending the Kingdom beyond Inspire Church and New Zealand.

The specific offering target presented during the service was **\$500,000**.

9. THE GREATEST MIRACLE IS TRANSFORMATION

The service concluded by moving beyond the financial vision to salvation and transformed lives. People responded to Jesus, and Ps Don emphasised that this is ultimately why the church exists.

The picture of a guitar hanging on a wall illustrated the message: God does not want people merely sitting as spectators. He wants to “**restring**” them, restore what has been broken and use their lives as instruments.

THE CENTRAL MESSAGE

God is calling Inspire Church to take new ground—spiritually, relationally, practically and through Kingdom generosity.

Catch the vision → Establish Kingdom values → Invest in the Kingdom → Take ownership → Reach people → Live with faith → Become instruments of revival.

THREE QUESTIONS TO TAKE AWAY

- 1. What is God asking me to believe for?** Where does He want to enlarge my personal vision, faith and capacity?
- 2. What am I holding that God is asking me to release?** This includes time, gifts, resources, finances and willingness to serve.
- 3. What ground is God asking me to take?** Who is the person, family, young person, prodigal or broken individual God wants me to reach?

*Vision Sunday was not ultimately about a building or an offering. It was about **Kingdom purpose**—becoming people who take responsibility for the mission of the church and carry the light of Christ into a broken world.*

Prepared from the Vision Sunday sermon transcript • 20 September 2026