

The following is an extract from a letter sent by Darren Blaney and Kay Macpherson to all members and friends of HBBC dated 28th February 2007.

After the Deacons' Away Day in January 2007 where the church leadership team spent the day seeking God's direction for the church, five key areas emerged as being particularly important.

1) The Need To Make Disciples

How can we as a church help people to grow and deepen in their faith, commitment and godliness? (And, what is a disciple exactly?)

2) Prayer

In a sense this is part of being a disciple, but it is such an important area that we felt that it should be marked out as a priority in its own right. How can we help people to become praying Christians in a praying church?

3) Improve The Friendship Centre

Although we do not know for sure what to do with the centre there are many possibilities. Suggestions have included a drop-in, a coffee shop, a counselling facility, & a youth and children's centre. We feel that it is right to do a major redecoration of the Centre, together with some other improvements, in order that it can be more widely used. As greater use is made of it, we believe God will open doors for us and make it clear what the way ahead is.

4) Develop An Evangelism Strategy

At the moment we do many outreach events. These include "Family Swims", special events linked to Crowning Years and Thursday Break, the occasional special guest service, etc. However, would it be better if we could link these different items together into a more coherent approach? Can we develop a strategy that enables us to make maximum impact for the gospel with the resources that we have? Should we be trying to reach every home in Herne Bay? Or should we be working through people's natural contacts of friends, family and work-mates?

5) Making The Most Of What We Already Have

We already have excellent work in terms of things like Thursday Break, GIGAWAC, Crowning Years, and Cell:Net. How can we make more of what we already do well? For instance, should we seek to recruit a retired minister into the area who might be willing to give a day or two a week to help with Crowning Years and other work amongst seniors? Should we be taking on a part-time Under 18's co-ordinator to help with all our children's and youth work, including Thursday Break?

Please pray continually on these items and together we can find the true place God wants us to be in Herne Bay over the coming years.