all things new
our journey so far

Week 2 Feedback

What are some defining traits/values/actions that makes GSB Unique?

Diversity of thought/OK to disagree/ Talk about tough stuff

Myk and Bekah
Ability to disagree and that's ok. In fact, value in divergent views

Agree:
Jacharie Sargent
Heather Ballantyne
"agree" is about on bible can agree to disagree Becu!

Bruce Rea
Jenny says taking on the difficult issues

John Spencer
Such a diverse group of people

Aukje Smith
Issues facing the church discussion, not afraid to talk about the controversial stuff

Amy Lockwood
Breadth and depth of age groups

Eurydice Foster
I appreciate that GSB is made up of such a variety of people. It's the first church I've been in with this level of diversity in terms of beliefs, which is nice.

Encouraging a tension of ideas in the dialog and thoughts around God and theology, while maintaining values to accept and engage constructively.

mick west
Welcoming and open minded

Myk And Bekah
Freedom: don't have to conform to behavioural norms/expectations. Freedom to express, opine, and emote.

Honesty/Vulnerability

Lyn Schumacher
Transparency inclusiveness great community not religious but feels real Dave Jean Lyn Tony

Heather Ballantyne
honest

Michelle Sargent
it's laid-back

embracing vulnerability

Talk and Listen together

passionate about doing/being different from "normal" church mold, willingness to listen to and value all opinions

Rowan Locke
Genuine Ask, Listen and apply feedback

John and Sylvia
open to feedback

welcoming/Community

Daniel Gibson
Welcoming, you don't feel like you've been lost in the crowd, worship

John Spencer
Very friendly

Vivienne Shorrock
friendly welcoming enthusiastic

Roger Clark
Relaxed and welcoming

Arthur Warner
Mane, who is watching with us says, 'friendliness'

Melanie Wilton
When we first came to GSB we found how friendly and welcoming everyone was.

Bruce Rea
friendlyness

welcoming, friendly, caring

Cam Martin
friendly welcoming

Kindness
Annie Walsh

Bruce Rea
Geoff says connect groups

John and Sylvia
Welcoming, inclusiveness, integration via connect groups,

Bruce Rea
amazing people

Arthur Warner
We try not to judge others, but show Jesus love to each other

Karen Reeve
inclusive, and relevant

Inclusiveness
Chris Walsh

Welcoming. People showing other people the "Connect Group" photos on the wall to show people how to connect not just on a Sunday.

Preaching/Theology/Depth

Amanda Appleton
digging deeper rather than just basic messages

Heather Ballantyne
Preaching that challenges deeper on topics we have heard preaching on for decades but you always bring a new perspective. I always go home with something to think about

Karen Reeve
good theology

John Spencer
Quality of preaching

Myk and Bekah
Solid theology that considers various perspectives

Vivienne Shorrock
solid bible teaching

Rowan Locke
Balanced good rich theology, but friendly and downtoearth in applying the scriptures to every day life

Melanie Wilton
I love that Colin isn't a 'shouty' pastor

John and Sylvia
good teaching

Miscellaneous

Rowan Locke
You also have the benefit of being near where I live - that's really useful

George Wieland
as a recent arrival i love that awareness of and prayer for the community and the world are part of worship

Annie Walsh
Colin's closing prayer for us

Heather Ballantyne
sense of fun and up to 'dateness', challenging the norms, biblical, love, a bit different

Paul Marina
discipleship

I don't see anything that makes Golden Sands unique. My key words on the traits were almost the opposite of everyone else online so I didn't want to put this in the chat...these are my key words: white, wealthy, homogenous. There are some great things about GSB but most of them, from my perspective, are embodied in the persons and aspirations of the pastoral leaders and I don't see those things as defining traits of the church yet.

Cam Martin
non traditional format

John and Sylvia
the mid service coffee break

Bruce Rea
maybe we could have surf boards on the walls of the new building

Vivienne Shorrock
gives opportunity for everyone to use their gifts

Reflecting on the Sermon audio from "The Conclusion" that was played on Sunday, what were some key values or attitudes that stuck out to you?

Scripture

Sandy Kerr
"Scripture cutting through all of the noise and helping us to hear the words of Jesus, again..."

"Scripture cutting through all of the noise and helping us to hear the words of Jesus, again".

Comfort

myk & Bekah
comfort/happiness not being the highest point of order - in both our personal and communal lives

Rowan Locke
The comfort of Babylon and its allure! So need to be palpable and tempting, our "Babylon" has to be comfortable, it's a challenge to resist that

Aukje Smith
Not be afraid of difficulty, and not just seeing comfort. Let us comfort others

Heather Ballantyne
uncomfortable, listening to God's voice, hearing the hard stuff

Serving/giving

Amy Lockwood
Being a willing vessel to step up

Aukje Smith
Looking not to our own needs, discern God's will and help others first- looking ouward, going outward

Heather Ballantyne
Biblical, loving our neighbour and being a human's thought-#1 listening to God's voice for this new ways. Stretching our faith ways. Hard ways.

myk & Bekah
A deep desire to "get my hands dirty", not pay someone else to do that on my behalf

Amy Lockwood
Giving, serving the community

being INTENTIONAL about not being pulled into the trap of Babylon the call to self-sacrifice and generosity in time and money

Sacrifice and Service. Place of belonging for everyone.

Honesty/Vulnerability

John Spencer
Being real without a churchy veneer

chris walsh
Being real, not just superficial

Karen Reeve
Babylon looks comfortable, but Jerusalem is real and transforming

Miscellaneous

Vivienne Shorrock
need to stay flexible to God changing us.

Bruce Rea
being known for our love

Brent Sergent
The new jerusalem, moving away from babylon

We don't want to be a bunch of "Sunday Christians".

Michelle Sargent
we all want it, how do we do it?

George Wieland
the culture of the community that we want our children and grandchildren to be living in, is 10-15 years time

George Wieland
sense of church not as a building we can call home but a wide that we journey on together

Community choice as an ongoing process of self reflection and evaluation about which direction we are moving in.

Bruce Reaa
people of power

Lyn Schumacher
Being transformed from inside out and having that culture fit with church which involves sacrifice and reaching out.

Eurydice Foster
Making sure our money and resources as a church are going outward to the community while also making sure we don't exclude the people working in the church in various capacities.

Time

Daniel Moses
How much time do you spend with God? I don't mean Christian activities but it's always a struggle to find enough time in the day but its something worth pursuing.

Vivienne Shorrock
am intermittent fasting food. Can I if TV to release more time?

John and Sylvia/Myk and Bekah
comfortable with how much time I spend watching TV - What could I do with that time?

Annie Walsh
Time. Time is limited for us. Time is a referent for God. Time is a gift God has bestowed me. Time is for God's kingdom with unlimited time.

OTHER COMMENTS

Teaching people, basic communication skills, and listening skills.

That's plenty enough from me except to say that I see the journey and I am inspired by the general direction but wonder how far the soft slow change approach will get - "all things new" requires radical change. I pray that God will lead GSB to have the courage to play a huge part in transforming Papamoa.

1. The new church building: I think we need to have a building of our own as a base but surely we could have one that is much simpler and costing far less? Is it too late to push pause on the progress made so far? I think if Jesus was in our congregation He would be advocating for functional simplicity.
2. Purposeful unity: I think as a church we need to identify one community need (eg youth/mental health) and identify how each one of us could get involved according to our own giftings/personalities.

We are unaware of the culture we operate within, and this means we are only likely to relate or reach out to people very similar in ideas, ethic identity, music preference, entertainment interests, style of dress etc etc that is very similar to what the powerful figures in the church already are. Without being aware of what culture is or how it works, we will be trapped to only ever relate to a small segment of the town we are in, and we already have cases of people who do not match that dominant 'Golden Sands Culture' leaving because they don't match a list of items that ultimately don't matter to Christ. We need to be aware of 'our' culture, other dominant cultures and sub cultures ('tribes' in marketing terms) in a post-modern society.

What are the spiritual strongholds or cultural idols in our church and/or society that hold us back from participating in the vision of God making all things new?

Honesty/Vulnerability/Conforming

Vivienne Shorrock
conforming to friends and family expectations

John Spencer
The comparison trap - don't want to be too different from those around us

Brent Sergent
Fear of standing as a people - we want the mask and keep our heads down

mick west
Shame and not being vulnerable stops deep and honest relationships

Heather Ballantyne
fear of being different, judging others, wanting to be liked

the importance of keeping up appearances (I'm doing Ok, as well as actual external things like houses, cars, clothes, physical appearance etc)

Aukje Smith
Me-first, selfishness, looking to my own needs and desires first. Not living Matthew 7:12

Time/busyness

Daniel Moses
we do need to be careful to serve within our capacity this otherwise we risk burn out. it's something that I'm finding out for myself and it's hard to find the balance.

Arthur Warner
The stronghold of a 7-day work ethic. If we returned to God's principle we would rest 1 day in every 7; not legalistically but as a guide

Myk and Bekah
Busyness, wrought by a) pride - "keeping up-ness" re work/activities that garner recognition and unspoken praise b) a loss of the value of Sabbath and knowing..whatvthat is And how to do i

Success/Comfort

Cam Martin
we get comfortable in church

George Wieland
"upward mobility"

Heather Ballantyne
economic security

... Evangelism, in that we over complicate the process of loving strangers to that we don't have to. A focus on self (personal and as a community) that holds us back from engaging in the pain and needs of the community around us.

being comfortable looking after our own health and well-being over and above others
the total focus on $$, both in making ends meet and also the pull towards consumerism

Mammon, individualism, self-centeredness, distraction culture. (I embody all these strongholds so this is not simply a criticism of GSB)

Myk and Bekah
b) the desire for comfort/accumulation

John Spencer
Fear we may have to give up something which is a big part of our life

Miscellaneous

Bruce Rea
a fear of what would happen in our church if the power of the Holy spirit was released

Michelle Sargent
I'm frustrated that it's two years later and it's the same conversation

Heather Ballantyne
amen

Annie Walsh
Trusting God will lead us through all the difficult situations rather ourselves trying to do

The need to succeed and fear of failure - cant be too radical so stuck with some religious traditions to ensure the mostly boomer church culture keeps the mostly boomer congregation feeling good about the church. Younger generations need church culture to be different - there is nothing attractive or relevant to them about boomer church culture.

Eurydice Foster
The importance of reviewing reevaluating our beliefs and theologies and looking at the values of the people who influences our beliefs.

Owning a house, BUT there is a tension here which can be difficult to navigate. I think Scripture talks about leaving an inheritance for our children - often a house is the inheritance children receive.

What countercultural attitudes or practices do we need embody in order to witness to God's upside-down kingdom?

Brent Sergent
In reading my comment im very aware that its not easy to live this way. Its easy stability to be those living slaves, to embrace the hard and be intentionally set against the 'norm'

Bruce Rea
acts2:42-47

Eurydice Foster
Standing with marginalized people in our town and community even when the church as a whole has relatively contributed to or that I might benefit.

myk & Bekah
Radical hospitality we are can be available to the people around us (our neighbors-Dwell-Sweat and figurative).

Vivienne Shorrock
What would Jesus display in my situation

John Spencer
Living out, breathing the fruit of the Spirit as attitudes so that it becomes natural to us

Cam Martin
I agree with Arthur. Acts 2: 42-47

John and Sylvia
To be content instead of wanting bigger and better

Jessica Locke
Valuing family relationships/friendships! church family/ties over making more money!

Heather Ballantyne
Thinking about who Jesus is and what he stands for (minimal, long run with and listen to as that. Who are they in our community)

Heather Ballantyne
making courtroom decisions based on love and forgiving and not judge or bring in into shame. Jesus is kind, long run with us - we are his bride

Annie Walsh
God's kingdom is here. Open your eyes my heart Lord

Sandy Kerr
The Kingdom of God is the focus of our kaitiakitanga

Aukje Smith
Taking more time to listen to God and ask "what is the Spirit saying to me?" - forgetting about self-ness

Karen Reeve
make time to "be still, and know that I am God". Let go of the busyness and let God begin with me (my life, in my family, in my community)

Daniel Moses
Stop pretending more of what the world tells us we need and be happy with what we do have. Seek other and Gods

Eurydice Foster
Holding the institution of church accountable to the society revolving with people who have been marginalized, and doing everything possible to present the representation of Jesus in this community.

chris walsh
It's not a counter culture. The world reaches out to our youth and I believe we are supposed to be to.

myk & Bekah
Invite people into our homes - to stay if necessary.

John Spencer/Agnes Aukje

We don't have the answer alone, even for our building - the transformation needs to be worked out with other churches and believers across Papamoa and further afield.

I think perhaps for GSB and much of our Pāpāmoa community these are counter cultural and represent God's upside-down kingdom:

1. Kaitiakitanga - The Kingdom of God is the focus of our kaitiakitanga - to be a community that understands what it means to carry stewardship for the Gospel as the one thing of supreme importance in life - the pearl of great price. We are off the treadmill that keeps everyone else busy and tired consuming, instead finding obvious joy in humbly serving God and others as an outworking of knowing what is of real value.

2. Whanaungatanga - becoming family. Everything we do shows our love for God and one another as the family of God and this is very attractive to those outside - they will know us by our love for each other. This means we are fundamentally whanau with all the other churches and believer in Papamoa too (no raruteru over our differences) ...and...

3. Manaakitanga - so much more than friendly and hospitable it encompasses the honouring of the inherent mana of each and every person (image dei), making them part of the extended whānau. Entering the church community would be like going onto a marae - the powhiri process making us all one whanau and then that sense that you fundamentally belong, everybody's needs are taken care of together (everyone serves and is served), everything stops to welcome someone

generosity in terms of time and money self-sacrifice to help others even when we don't feel like it

SIMPLICITY OF LIFESTYLE (material things), being far less concerned about external appearances
developing a 24/7 listening relationship with God
being willing to go beyond the surface level welcoming of those who are different from us (socially, ethnically, educationally etc)

Mainstream culture accepts loneliness as a consequence of not really knowing other people, because to know someone involves risk - that being known in turn comes with potential for rejection. If we are to be countercultural and truly know each other we would need to be willing to be shaped by the idea of John 13:35 - that our faith is made known by how we love each other. Knowing and being connected to each other, as a community, will hopefully transform us from an algae of unconnected cells that can't do much into a body that can.

Learning to be content, having a lot or not having a lot. Being authentic communicators - able to discuss difficult discussions in a healthy loving way. To know what we believe and be able to communicate it - but to respect others when they have a different belief.