
Vision of A Biblical Functioning Community

Acts 2:42-47



CHURCH WHY BOTHER?



Repulsion on Church

Church is...

A flying buttress:

He supported it from the outside.

Winston Churchill

A Hypocrisy:

"I would believe in their salvation if they looked a little more like people who have been saved."

Friedrich Nietzsche



**"Christians
don't tell
lies, they
just go to
church and
sing them."**

A.W. Tozer



So Why I Bother With Church?

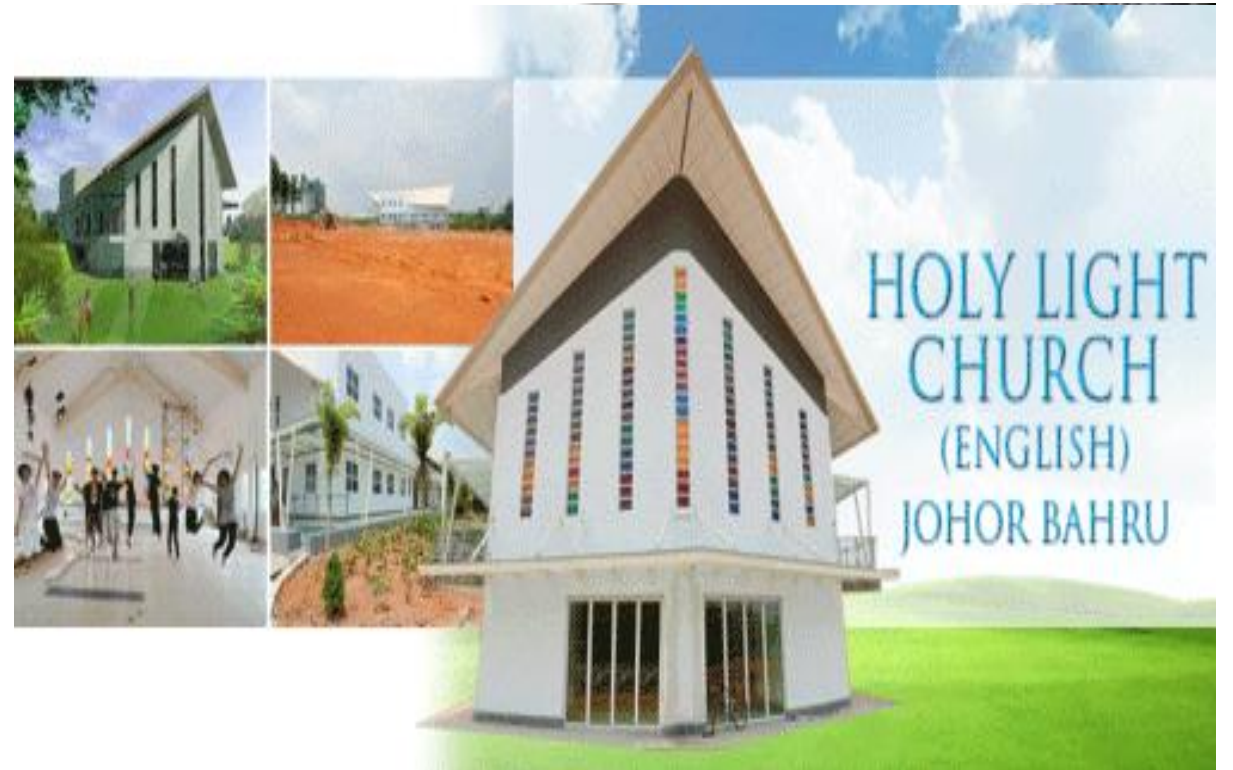
HLCE Crisis 1996

God works in a mysterious way

A Utopian Church Offered Hope

Acts 2:42-47

*Vision of A Biblical
Functioning Community*



Acts 2:42-47 A Biblical Functioning Community

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common.

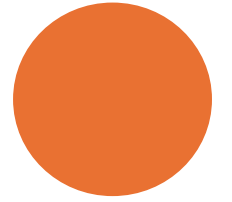
Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued together in the temple courts.

broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved”



Six Marks of A Biblical Functioning Church

- **Centrality of God's Word**
- **Worship and Prayer**
- **Fellowship and Sharing**
- **Gifts and Wonders**
- **Service with a Different**
- **Evangelism and Mission**



Centrality of the Word

“They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching”

Transformational Learning

Anointed Teaching and Preaching

The Word of God:

- *Anchors their faith and shapes their beliefs*
- *Corrects their lives and guides their decisions*



Worship and Prayer

“They devoted themselves to breaking of bread and prayer and praising God”

Connected to God

Lives centred on worship and dependence on God

Worship and Prayer became the conduit of blessing that brought energy and vitality to the church.



Fellowship and Sharing

*They devoted themselves to the fellowship...
Everyday they continued to meet together in the
temple courts. They broke bread in their homes...*

Met regularly

*In church and in the homes
In large and small groups*

Love of a different kind

*The Holy Spirit does not
only transform individuals
He forms a new family*



Real and Life Changing Fellowship

*ate together with glad and sincere hearts
praising God and enjoy the favour of all the people*

A Shared Life

Love of a different kind

Relationships marked by generosity and love

*Masks come off, conversation
runs deep, love and forgiveness
flow freely, weep and rejoice
with one another.*



Gifts and Wonders

“Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done...”

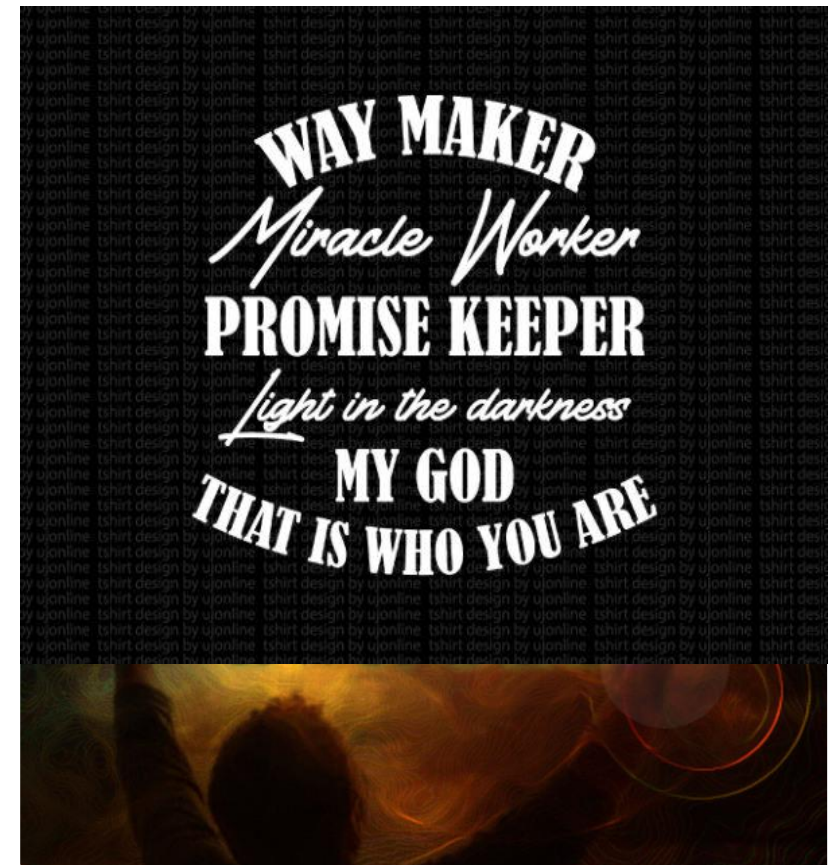
Power of God Manifested

God is their Greatest Healer

*Holy Spirit their greatest Teacher,
Advocate, Comforter, and Encourager.*

Unity in Diversity

*Using gifts and talents to serve God
and one another living in unity & love.*

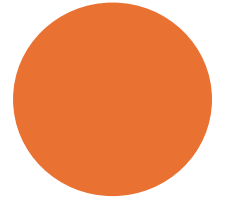


Service with a Different

*“Selling their possessions
and goods, they gave to
anyone as he had need”*

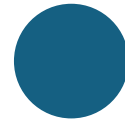
Selfless Service to Everyone

*Attentive and sensitive to the
suffering around them. Needs
are met, burden shared willingly.*



Evangelism and Mission

“The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”



God works

Evangelism flowed naturally from a Spirit-filled community

Growth happened because:

- Their lives reflected Christ
- Their community displayed love
- God’s presence evident among them



The early church was really being church

**Alive...Spirit-led...fresh,
energetic, creative and
relevant to people's lives**

- *Not about maintaining the status quo or just going through the motion.*
- *The Holy Spirit working personally and powerfully in the lives of his people.*



Vision of HLCE in *HisLand*



The disciples come together regularly in the homes and the church for study, fellowship, worship and prayer.

Everyone is filled with awe and experiences the wonders and miracles of the work of the Holy Spirit.

They live and grow together in love and unity exalting Christ, enjoying and glorifying God by sharing the blessing of God, caring and encouraging each other with glad and sincere hearts,

reaching out to the community in Johor Bahru and beyond, and the Lord added to them those who were being saved.

TOGETHER. WE SHALL BUILD HIS LAND

Vision of God in HisLand 2006



2012



2008



A place where we will build a beautiful and yet simple facilities which include a sanctuary for worship, prayer and retreat centre, facilities for training people, lay leaders, and education for the young ones, an aged care home set in a clean, peaceful environment with natural garden landscape for the holistic growth of the person to reach out to the community around us.

Vision of HLCE

Awesome Worship, Prayer, and Word

A place to know and exalt Christ

Transformational Teaching and Preaching

*A place where people grow in faith,
and develop their spiritual maturity
through small groups, Bible studies,
seminars, prayer meet and shared life.*



A Place of Real Life Changing Fellowship

Small groups CELLS
Fellowship Meetings

God's family is
Community of Grace

*Masks come off, hearts
are shared, vulnerability
and accountability invited,
sharing joy, burden, and pain*





Wonders & Miracles of the Holy Spirit

Prayer and Divine Holistic Healing

A place where the sick, the hurt, the lonely, the confused and despaired find healing, peace, comfort, love and acceptance, help, hope, and encouragement.

Service with a Different

EQUIP AND EMPOWERED

A place where people are encouraged and helped to discover and use their gifts and talents as they respond to God's calling for significant ministry.

Community Centre Ministry

- Hillville Aged care Home
- Hope Resource Ministry
- Love Project



Evangelism and Mission

A place where we reach out to the hundreds and thousands of residents in the vicinity of Johor Bahru and beyond with the good news.

BB, OA
Sarawak and
Cambodia
UK and Canada



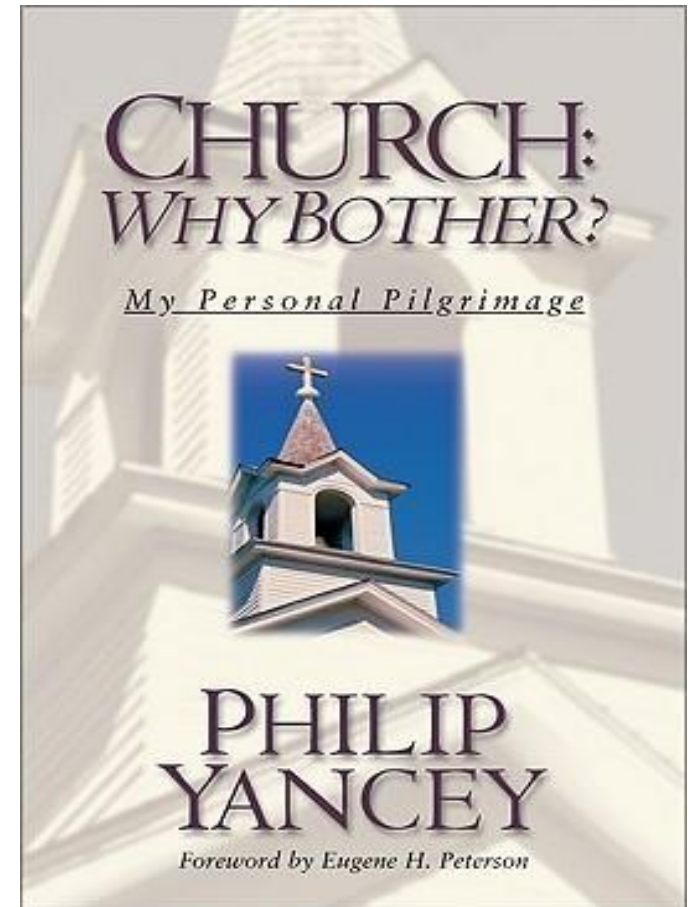
So Why Church?

The world needs the Lord!

The church offers real hope

“The church, I have learned, can indeed be a new sign radically dissimilar to the world’s own manner, and contradict it in a way which is full of promise. For this reason, church is worth the bother.”

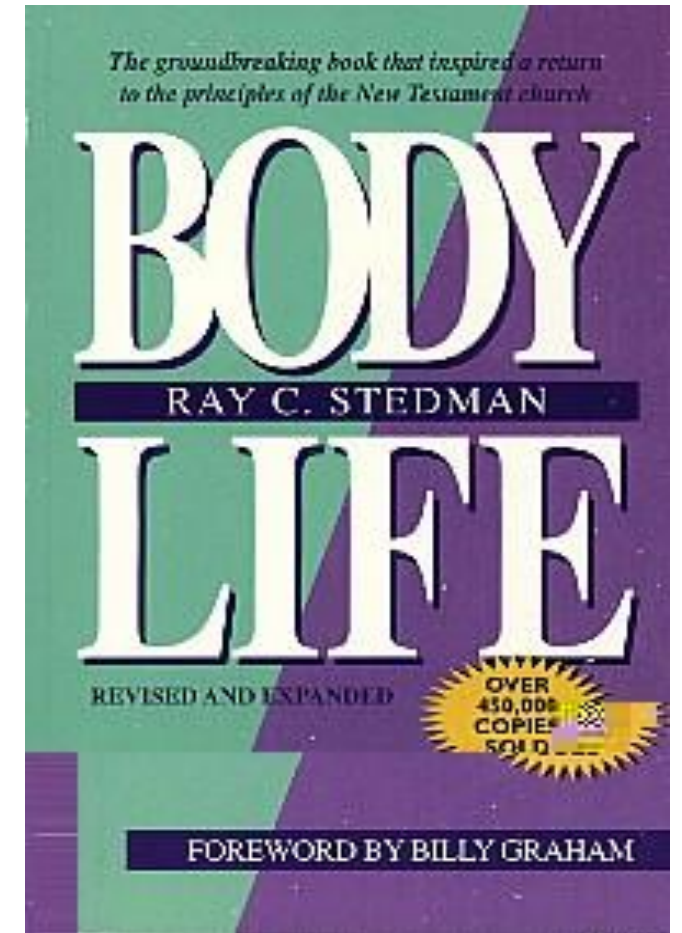
Philip Yancey



Ray Stedman in the ‘Body Life’

The church offers answer to the broken world

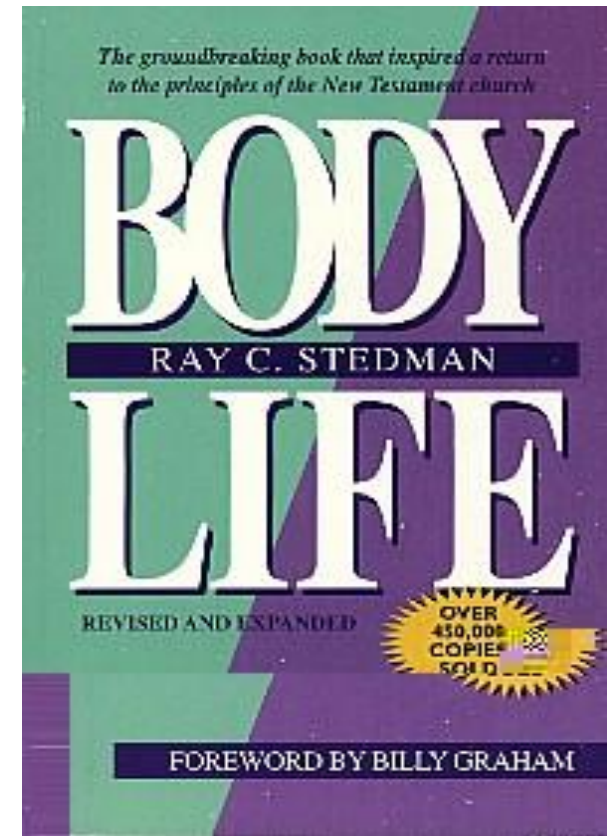
*“Despite all its obvious flaws,
weaknesses, hypocrisies, sins, and excesses,
the church has been the most powerful
force for good on the face of the earth,
century after century,
from the time of the apostles
right up to this present moment.”*



Follows God's Blueprint for the church

“Whenever the church has followed the biblical pattern and become more of what God designed it to be, righteous conditions have spread throughout the society.

When the church has abandoned this divine pattern, relying on worldly power, becoming proud, rich, and tyrannical, then it has become weak and despised – and the terrible forces of evil have unleashed in the world.





**A Biblical Functioning Community
is God's Ultimate Achievement**

*A community, a center of warm,
pulsating, effervescent, outreaching Christian love,
a place with all its components united in order
to become a force in this world instead of a farce.”*

Dr. Gilbert Bilezikian



**Do something with
three components:
*Meaningful, Enjoyment,
and Satisfaction.***

If so, sign up for the most compelling vision, something with far-reaching challenge, implication, enjoyable, and satisfying

HLCE A Biblical Functioning Community

Come! Be part of this great calling

