

# **Vision Statement of the Evangelical Free Church of Merced**

***Under the guidance*** of the Holy Spirit, we will develop ministries within our fellowship which will multiply and reach into our surrounding community to effectively draw the unchurched and unbelieving toward Jesus Christ.

***We will*** encourage and challenge each person in our fellowship to become accountable for personal, spiritual development, a growing understanding of their individual talents and spiritual gifts, and how these combine to reach and teach others through an active faith.

***We desire*** a steady spiritual growth that will move us toward an understanding of ministry that encourages compassion and a commitment to worship Jesus Christ by serving those He came to seek and to save in our community and around the world.

***We will*** encourage in our homes the development of Christian values in parents and children, the application of personal and family discipline that leads to discipleship, and the promotion of positive family traditions and experiences.

***In the areas*** of outreach, teaching, counseling, and leadership, the ongoing ministries of the church will reflect an emphasis on training and equipping the congregation for effective service. The staff will lead by example in ministry and service and will nurture and perpetuate ministry training for the congregation

***Our teaching*** on stewardship will encourage people to see their proper role as ministers of God's will in all areas of life. Biblical stewardship involves not only the use of financial resources, but also time, talents, possessions, gifts, relationships and responsibilities; replacing the worldly concept of personal ownership and selfishness.

***Our vision*** of church growth will be:

- To provide an adequate ministry center that will meet the needs of the congregation; and
- To plant new churches in surrounding communities.

***We will endeavor*** to maintain a focus on two important aspects of our purpose:

- To present God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit to the community in an understanding and challenging way.
- We will, as part of the Body of Christ in our community, encourage fellowship and communication with other congregations that hold the Bible as the standard for faith and practice, confessing Jesus Christ as God come in the flesh, the only means of salvation.