

## Being a Church with a Vision

A man came to a construction site, where stonemasons were working. The man said to one, "What are you doing?"

The stonemason said, "You can see, I'm chipping a stone."

The man walked over to another mason and said, "What are you doing?"

He answered, "I'm building a wall."

The man walked over to a third mason and said, "What are you doing?"

This mason answered, "I am building a cathedral." Ha! All three were doing the same thing, but what a difference perspective makes!

Gordon Johnson

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Where there is no vision, the people perish. Proverbs 29:18

If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what he reveals, they are most blessed. Proverbs 29:18 (The Message)

### 1) Why should a church have a vision?

- As we have just read in Proverbs – where there is no vision the people perish.
- When people don't know where they're going they wander about aimless as a people without purpose in life.
  - Vision is the world's most desperate need. There are no hopeless situations, only people who think hopelessly. Winifred Newman
- As Proverbs 29: 18 in "The Message" says that people stumble over themselves if they can't see what God is doing. We can add "if they can't see what God wants to do.
- A church without a vision doesn't go anywhere – it remains in maintenance or management mode.
- Rick Warren states that management mode consists of: Analysis, Problem solving, and Planning
- Problems do come with vision but we ought to start with vision and not trying to solve the problems that come with it until you get there
- We need to move from merely maintaining our lives and church and move into God's destiny for us – the reason that He put us here.
  - Give us clear vision that we may know where to stand and what to stand for, because unless we stand for something, we shall fall for anything.

Peter Marshall

- Vision and purpose is that into which we invest our lives.
- There are 2 types of purposes that church should have:
  - A general purpose – the reason for the existence of any church in the world
    - Glorifying God through worship, teaching the word of God, praying, acts of service, evangelism and mission
  - A specific purpose – what is the unique reason that we exist as a church.
    - Bellville Baptist Church helps foreign nationals re-establish their lives
    - Johannesburg Central Methodist Church provides shelter for homeless people – foreign nationals in particular
    - Pretoria Vineyard Church ministers to University Students
    - Biker Church focuses on reaching motorcyclists for Christ
- If we only have a general purpose we will function as a church, be a true expression of the body of Christ but we will not fulfil the destiny for which God had formed us.
  - All nations function as nations but Israel was formed for the purpose of being a blessing to the nations.

- If we only have a specific purpose we may have an imbalanced ministry neglecting certain aspects of what we ought to be doing
  - If a church that has a calling to help the poor and needy and does only that and neglects to teach the Word of God and do evangelism then vital aspects of the ministry of the church would be neglected.

## 2) Leaders with a vision

- Bible leaders
  - Noah – God gave him the vision to build an ark even when there wasn't any water yet
  - Moses – God gave him the vision to set the Israelites free from captivity in Egypt
  - Nehemiah – God gave him the vision to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem
  - Paul – God gave him a vision to take the Gospel to the Gentiles
  - Jesus – God gave him a vision to die on a cross
- Mission leaders
  - Loren Cunningham – God gave him a vision of waves of young people going out into the nations. YWAM was birthed and have over 25000 long term workers worldwide
  - George Verwer – God gave him a vision of taking Christian literature throughout the world and OM came into being
- Political leaders
  - J.F. Kennedy – Kennedy stood up one day and said, “We'll put a man on the moon by the end of the decade.” That's visionary leadership. It was clear, it was precise, it was something people could go to. When he said that back in the 60's, the technology had not even been invented yet to put a man on the moon. So what he said was absolutely impossible at the time. But today's impossibilities are tomorrow's miracles  
Rick Warren

## 3) How big is our God?

- We might complain that we are too small to do anything worthwhile.
  - Remember Gideon – God told him to “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?” (Judges 6: 14)
  - Gideon complained that his clan is the weakest in Manassah and he is the least in his family. (v. 15)
  - We might feel the same way about our church and ourselves.
  - 1 Cor. 1: 27 – 29 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him.
  - God's response to Gideon was: “ I will be with you”
- The issue isn't to look at our strength but to be obedient to fulfil God's purposes.
- It takes faith to fulfil the vision that God gives
  - Faith is spelt R.I.S.K
  - All the above mentioned Biblical and mission leaders reached for the vision God gave them and saw it happen because they all believed God
  - Hebrews 11: 1 “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see”
- Being a church with a vision means that we need to be a people of faith