

Begin Session 11 (Friday morning #1)
part 2

SECTION 9 continued

Clarifying your Church Planting Vision (pg
59-60)

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21 (New International Version)

Isaiah 46:9-10 NKJV Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning. And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure.'

Revelation 1:8 NKJV "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Habakkuk 2:2-3 NKJV Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. 3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.

Habakkuk 2:2-3 NLT Then the LORD said to me, "Write My answer plainly on tablets, so that a runner can carry the correct message to others. 3 This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed.

Habakkuk 2:2-3 MSG And then GOD answered: "Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. 3 This vision-message is a witness pointing to what's coming. It aches for the coming--it can hardly wait! And it doesn't lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It's on its way. It will come right on time.

What Characterizes Vision

True vision focuses on the present and the future.

True vision catches a glimpse of reality from God's perspective.

True vision recognizes God's desire to bless His people.

True vision flows out of God's redemptive purposes.

True vision seeks God's specific assignments.

How do you cultivate vision

1. Set aside extended time for reflection & prayer.
2. Ask God to prepare your heart.
3. Expose yourself to needs and opportunities.
4. Ask God for specific vision.
5. Dream with others who can help you sharpen your vision but know at first the initial vision will be birthed in your heart not in a committee gathering.

Keep in mind the PIH "FIRE" DNA as you seek vision and direction. Then what you end up with as your mission and vision will not be too different from what our PIH, family DNA, is, but will probably be suited to your locality. Your mission and vision statements will be the rallying cry for your congregation and define much of your overall direction for the future.

Don't get stuck on a slogan or catch phrase – those are good but are different from vision

Vision is something you SEE – your description of your vision would be a vision statement, but the vision needs to be visual in nature

You need to constantly communicate your vision in every conceivable way to everyone always, including yourself.

SECTION 14 (Pg 85 - 91)

Open for Business

Getting the word out that you are up and running is an important early step. Here are some suggestions.

1. Set up a good website. It needs to have a crisp look with plenty of pictures. Get good help with this from someone who knows what they are doing.

Information to be included on the website:

- a. Your Mission Statement
 - b. Info about pastor and his/her family, (remember pictures)
 - c. A welcoming statement: "Come as you are; you will be welcomed and loved.
 - d. Times of Worship
 - e. Info on nursery ministry, children's ministry
 - f. Pictures of ministry team
 - g. What they can expect to happen: ie. prayer for healing, brief core beliefs statement etc.
2. Open a bank account in the church's name and begin tithing into it.
- Accounting
 - Business ID through government
 - Powerchurch or similar program
3. Get a separate telephone number and answer that phone in the name of the church.
4. Canvass the immediate area with "door hanger" announcements.

Clearly give them a REASON TO ATTEND

You have about 5 seconds with a door hanger to get their attention

www.outreach.com is an excellent resource.

Do it yourself door hangers are cheap, but time expensive

- a. Showing picture of pastoral couple
 - b. Location (perhaps a street map)
 - c. Times of service
 - d. Your Welcome Statement
 - e. What they can expect to happen: worship, practical teaching, prayer ministry, prayer for the sick, etc.
5. Welcome wagons: many towns and communities have welcome wagons to welcome new people into the area. These are often sponsored by the chamber of commerce. The “greeters” knock on doors and present vendor coupons along with some information about the community to the new residents.
 6. People new to a community are prime targets and ideal prospects for new churches.
 7. Community parades. Many communities have annual parades with markets or fairs associated with them. Putting a praise team on a trailer or back of a pick-up truck as an entry in the parade with your people worshipping and praising is a great information dispersing opportunity coupled together with a booth at the end of the parade in the fairgrounds or park for prayer ministry for the sick. Make prophetic ministry available. *Look also at community days where you can do children's/family spots, puppet ministry, gospel magic, drama etc*
 - Be careful to communicate clearly who you are and what your vision is, without being "weird."
 - Speak in the communities language -- just as if you were a missionary
 8. Servant evangelism, serving the practical needs of the poor, old, hurting: ie. window washing, leaf raking, snow shovelling, free car washes, etc.
 9. Door to door prayer team offering free prayer in regards to needs in the home and family
 - This would never work in some communities, yet in others it would be fantastic

10. Put information on your church in the free newspaper advertising packets

11. Putting on conferences with potentially well know speakers, using larger public venues gives your church exposure.

12. Training and mobilizing your people in sharing with their friends, family and work associates about the new church plant, using a business card that has the basic information on it. Use and make available good gospel literature.

- One to one invitations are the best way to grow your church
- Encourage your team to Invest and Invite
 - Invest themselves into the lives of their neighbors, communities, friends and family
- Invite them to your church

13. Signs: make two or three appealing and portable signs marking your church location, especially if you are renting a building

- Any print shop can do it
- Outreach.com is excellent, but pricey, great place to get ideas

~~14. Develop door hanger fliers about your church that can be hung on door knobs. These need to include information about your time of meeting, what the church is about, map and location, interesting challenges. Covered in #4~~

15. Block parties with food, fun, introductions, and music bands

16. What not to use due to lack of results and high costs:

- a. Bulk mailings -- will work great for initial exposure but you need to spend a minimum of ten to 20 thousand dollars
- b. Radio Adverts - depeing upon the market
- c. Newspaper Adverts on religion page -- **a story about something you will do, or have done is GREAT EXPOSURE.** But ads rarely bring much results

SECTION 15

Where to Meet with Open Meetings

1. Schools (many school districts are open for churches to meet in their facilities on Saturdays or Sundays. The school facility needs to be clean, appealing and easy to find, not hidden on a back suburban street.)
2. YMCA's
3. Community Centers
4. Senior Citizen Centers - "I would avoid this unless you are targeting senior citizens."
5. Banquet Halls - often pricey
6. 7th Day Adventist Church Buildings - negative association with the community
7. Country Club Conference Rooms
8. Hotel Conference Rooms -- "screams temporary but is a viable option."

Note: If you start meeting in a house the longer that you meet there, the more you will stifle your church from growing and the more the church will develop a no growth mentality or pattern of interaction that makes anyone dropping in feel on the outside. When you are thinking about a location, think in terms of how hard or easy it is to find.

Try not to move locations often. You almost always lose people each time you change locations. Depends again, on the target people group and community

- In Kalamazoo people drive over an hour to attend our church.
- Very few are from the immediate neighborhood, and those who are, moved there after the church was built.

People will drive as far to go to church as they will to go to a shopping mall or Wal-mart. So that varies significantly depending upon your community.

Make sure the facility is nice, clean, and appealing. First impressions always say a lot about who your church is.

- Appearances communicates VALUE
- How you value the church
- How you value your guests
- How you value God

Make the best of what you have = excellence

What you want is to develop a culture of excellence.