**Developing A**

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**Church Vision Description**

"Then the Lord said, "Write the vision down and make it plain on tablets so that those who read it may run with it…if it lingers, wait for it. It will come…but the righteous will live by faith." **-- God (Habakkuk 2:2-4)**

"Vision describes what you believe God wants the new or refocused church to become."

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

**A Clear Vision From God….**

* Is a picture of what the new church or refocused church will look like in the future (3-5 years)
* Gives people a mental image and a visual picture that is highly motivating!
* Describes how persons from the ministry focus group will be reached

**How Do I Develop God's Vision?**

1. Begin by LISTENING to God. Ask Him for His specific vision and unique calling for this local church, at this time in history, to the ministry focus group you are called to reach.
2. Expose yourself to other churches and church leaders who have clear God-given visions. You cannot copy their vision, God must give you a personal one. But you can learn from them. Seek to understand how other people's vision has developed. Read other people's visions. Ask God to ignite clear vision in you as well.
3. Hang around with visionary people! Vision ignites vision, passion ignites passion.
4. Most of the time, vision does not come all at once. It's like a Polaroid photo. It will begin fuzzy but will become clearer and clearer as time goes on, as you perfect and adjust it. Over time, other people who are "like-minded" with you and share your heart, will add to your vision and will help to clarify it.
5. God reminds us, "Write it down…if it lingers…wait for it. IT WILL COME!…" Writing your vision down is critical! If you are seeking God's vision & it still seems vague to you, stay open to what God wants to teach you through the people He puts in your life.

**Listening To God -- For His Vision For The Church:**

Take the time to regularly get away to listen: 1/2 day a week and/or 1 day a month. Do you have programmed time to listen to God? To listen to Him for His vision for you?

**Exercise To Do In Describing Your Vision:**

**"Thoughts disentangle themselves when they pass both through your lips and your fingertips." -- J.B. Chapman**

**Write a diary entry, written by a new person who visits your church on the 5th anniversary of the new or refocused church and whose life is changed. They should be a demographic match to the unchurched, unsaved target group you are trying to reach. In the diary entry, answer the following 20 questions. [feel free to expand and talk about 6 months down the road in this person's life as well!]**

1. Is this a single person? A married couple? Are they alone or do they have children?
2. How did they hear about the church?
3. What do they see when they drive down the road toward the building?
4. What do they see when they pull into the parking lot?
5. What do they experience when they walk up the sidewalk to the front door?
6. What do they hear, see and feel when they step into the foyer area?
7. Who is there to greet them?
8. What do those people say?
9. What happens to their children?
10. What happens as the service begins?
11. What is this new person feeling as they go through the service?
12. How does this new person accept Christ?
13. What do they experience after the worship service is over?
14. What are their reactions to the impact your church has made on the community over the last 5 years?
15. What do their children (if they have kids) say as they are walking out and getting into the car to leave?
16. What do they say to each other?
17. Who contacts them from the church in the first 48 hours after they visit?
18. What do they tell their relatives and friends about the church?
19. What impact does the church have on their home after the first week?
20. What conversation do they have that makes them want to come back for week number two?

**How To Develop A 30 Second To 30 Minute Vision Description**

1. You must write out and practice a succinct summary of your vision and mission.
2. It should be a clear story of what is driving you to do what you are doing
3. It should include the divine call component of your plan and should communicate the deep passion you feel about what you are doing
4. It should include testimony to how God is already at work
5. You should know this vision description so well that you can give it to anyone, at any time, anywhere you have the opportunity and someone asks you about the church
6. You should know your vision so well that you are able to adjust what you say to fit into whatever time slot you have to share, from 30 seconds to 30 minutes.