



A PUBLICATION FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN MISSIONS, UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH INTERNATIONAL

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE—AN OVERVIEW

For years, I led the nation of El Salvador in Central America. The only year that our national church did not achieve marked growth was the year that we failed to establish goals.

Now, as a global leader I challenge our office ministry team and regional leaders to make calculated goals for reaching and impacting our world. We cannot afford to fail. God is helping us achieve the goals that we, as a team, project. He is pleased with goal-setting because it is faith. It takes faith to sit down, look at the future, chart progress, and strive to achieve goals. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1). Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). I want to be a man of faith! I believe in setting goals by faith, and working with God to see things happen. I am daring to dream great things. Yet, dreaming alone will never get the job done.

Here is my challenge to you: Ask each leader, department head, and staff member to set three to five measurable goals per year. Go over each goal with the staff member. Make sure the goals are measurable, realistic, sensible, and attainable. Have the staff member sign the list of goals, (and the leader should sign too). This becomes a ministry action plan. Evaluate progress after six months and then at the end of the year.

PLANNING FOR THE NEW YEAR

When planning your calendar this year, consider the following:

Plan to Work: Maintain a calendar or diary planning local and national church events for the week, month, quarter, and year.

Plan to Plan: Mark times in your calendar for personal planning and reflection. Organize a regular planning session with your church board and leadership team. At the beginning of the day, week, month, or year, plan the various activities.

Plan to Rest: Take time to rest, reflect, and to be refreshed. God has planned for us to take a day of rest. Mark it in your calendar.

Plan to Study: Schedule time for daily personal Bible study, reading other helpful books, and to attend seminars to improve your ministerial skills.

Plan for Family Time: If married, take time to be with your family and to have family devotions. Spend time with your spouse. He/she is an integral part of your ministry.

Plan to Pray and Fast: Determine daily prayer times. Fast each week. Take time out for extended prayer and fasting.

Plan to Preach and Teach: Take time to plan your preaching schedule, and topics for teaching.

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Plan to Mentor: Take time to pass on truth and skills to the next generation. This ensures that your influence is expanded, and extended long after you leave the scene.

Plan for Exercise: The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Take care of it. Walk, jog, or do other forms of exercise on a regular basis.

Based on, and expanded from the seven points mentioned in, *Going the Distance: How to Stay Fit for a Lifetime of Ministry* by Peter Brain, pages 181-183.

PLANNING FOR CHURCH GROWTH

All of us want our churches to grow—I hope. For growth to occur, we must plan for the future while attending diligently to the present. Growth does not happen by accident. Each of us must assume personal responsibility to prepare for and contribute to church growth.

Most local churches would be thrilled to win one hundred souls in a year. For this dream to become a realistic objective, a church must ask key questions:

How will the church effectively reach this many people? Develop strategies for intercessory prayer, effective outreach, and special evangelistic services.

What will the church do with people when they come? It must have an effective strategy for follow-up. An effective discipleship program is needed.

How will the church expand its structure and leadership as it grows? Find ways to train and develop leaders. Always be looking for potential helpers.

What kind of facilities will the church need as it grows? At every phase of growth, the pastor and other leaders should think about what the church will need for the next level. Formulate plans and specific steps that will help you reach

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goals in the desired time. When it comes to building, it is never too soon to begin dreaming, researching, praying, saving money, and working on building plans.

Planning is the foundation for future growth. However, many people have wonderful plans that never materialize. Translating plans into reality requires much hard work and persistence. (Adapted from an article by David Bernard, in *Vision* magazine)

PLANNING FOR PREACHING POINTS

The church in Antioch, despite hindrances, was the base for the missionary journeys of Paul and Barnabas. Preaching points were started that grew into strong churches (Acts 16:5). Most of these had humble beginnings. They started as ladies prayer meetings by the riverside, song services in the jailhouse, meetings in the market places, and chats along the roadside. They started without fine buildings, without trained clergymen or without a lot of finances (Richard Allmon). I strongly encourage every local church to establish (at least) one preaching point this year.

PLANNING FOR GLOBAL GROWTH

Global Council 2005 was productive and challenging. Delegates represented 110 nations and 171 languages. There were 175 attendees. Church growth reports showing remarkable progress; anointed preaching and teaching by delegates from Zambia, Indonesia, Netherlands, and Pakistan; outstanding news from the regional missionary program, and dedication to the *International Articles of Faith* position us for planning for massive global growth. Get involved. Cast a vision. Develop plans. Set goals. Grow! Grow! Grow!

Announcements: The next Executive Global Council will be in 2008 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Check out our new web site: <http://www.globalconnectionUPCI.com> .