



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

Greetings, my valued friends around the globe! Another year has begun. If you are like me, you have a lot you want to accomplish. You have a vision and may be wondering, "How can I turn my vision into accomplishment?"

THE ROAD FROM VISION TO ACTION

I like talking about "vision" because it involves the future. I plan to live there. Each of us has a past; a present; and a future. We can learn from the past (where we've been) but cannot change it. It's settled! We are living in the present. We anticipate and envision the future. H. Dale Burke in *Less is More* commented, "When your memories are more exciting than your dreams, you've begun to die." John Maxwell in a leadership lesson entitled "The Laws of Lifetime Growth" said you will continue to grow if you always make your future bigger than your past.

My vision is a picture of my God-directed destination: where I'm heading and what I believe I will accomplish. H. Dale Burke mentions three questions to consider.

1. Destination Question: Where are we going?
2. Roadmap Question: How do we plan to get there?
3. Value versus Cost Question: What is the cost of making the trip? Why is it worth it?

Answering those three questions will help determine the vision to be pursued.

Vision is not for a day. I'm humored when I read "Vision 2007." Why? Because a God-given vision is bigger than I am and will last long after I'm off the scene. It will be passed on to those who follow after us. I find myself dreaming big dreams, discussing them with colleagues and then adding, "Perhaps, this will not happen in my lifetime." I'm not indispensable. I will not last (on earth) forever. My vision gives me the opportunity to see beyond my lifetime.

To accomplish vision there must be a plan of action. Vision must be lived out on a daily basis.

"Then the LORD said to me, "Write my answer in large, clear letters on a tablet, so that a runner can read it and tell everyone else. But these things I plan won't happen right away. Slowly, steadily, surely, the time approaches when the vision will be fulfilled. If it seems slow, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed" (Habakkuk 2:2-3, *NLT*).

There are several things I derive from this Scripture.

1. **Clarify the vision.** Write it down. Make it clear! Ever notice how writing things down brings clarity? It also helps you remember.

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Consider our vision statement: **To every tribe and nation: Jesus!** Send the message; train messengers; and produce self-supporting, self-propagating churches; establish fellowship in truth and holiness.

Here's one from a national church: United in purpose, and dedicated to growth we seek to *establish* strong local churches and *extend* to preaching points through *evangelism*; biblical *education* of members and ministers on every level; and *exalts* Jesus Christ through giving, praise, worship, fellowship, holiness, prayer, and fasting.

John Maxwell in *The Four Pillars of Leadership* asked, "When you look deep into your heart and soul for a vision, what do you see?"

2. **Communicate the vision.** Do not keep it to yourself. Share it. Find creative and new ways to articulate. People follow leaders with a vision. John Maxwell in *The 360 Degree Leader* explains that vision leaks. "It needs to be communicated clearly, creatively, and continually." He quotes Max DePree; "You have to act like a third-grade teacher. You have to repeat the vision over and over and over again until the people get it."
3. **Celebrate the vision.** It will happen. It may be slow but it will also be steadily and surely. As you experience victories; celebrate. Remember to show appreciation to those involved in bringing the vision to reality.
4. **Chart the vision.** God will give you a plan. Map a course of action. Got a vision? Run with it! Vision plus action equals success. You will only achieve by doing. Turn your resolutions into reality.

For example, we have charted the following target nations for this year:

First Quarter 2007

Region	Target Nations
Africa	Angola, Eritrea, Sudan, Congo (Brazzaville)
Asia	Afghanistan
Central America/Caribbean	Bermuda, Bonaire, Dominica
Europe/Middle East	Andorra, San Marino
Pacific	Brunei, East Timor and Cook Islands
South America	Easter Island

News Flash: Already East Timor is opened. Pastor Bernado, has seen the revelation of the plan of salvation, and has been baptized in Jesus' name.

Paul forgot the past. He reached for the future. He pressed toward the mark (Philippians 3:13-14). Everyone needs markers along the road of vision. Goals must be set. They are achievable steps. Set deadlines. Someone has said, "Right decisions done repeatedly over time compounds success." Effort in equals results out. Do something each day that brings you closer to realizing your dream. Bobby Knight said self-discipline is (1) doing what needs to be done; (2) doing it when it needs to be done; and (3) doing it the best it can be done.

5. **Continue the vision.** Don't give up. Someone has said that "perseverance" is not a long race. It is many short races run one after another. Keep pressing forward!

Throughout the Book of Proverbs the Wise Man pleads, "Get wisdom!" My message is: "Get vision!" It is an indispensable mark of leadership and imperative for church growth. It points us to the future as we deal with the daily demands of reality. Bill Allen as quoted in *Built to Last* said we should "always be reaching out to tomorrow. This can only be accomplished by people who live, breathe, eat and sleep what they are doing." Traveling along life's road? Get wisdom! Get vision! Get action!

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