

MELVIN JOURNAL

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(week 4)

VISION AND PRAYER

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Vision means seeing something which is not yet here, visualizing something before it exists. If your church is to have a lay pastoral care ministry, there must be a person or group of persons who see the following:

1. That every member needs pastoral care;
2. That God mandates the pastoral care of his people;
3. That the present system of pastoral care is not working;
4. That laypeople can give effective pastoral care; and
5. That the Lay Pastors Ministry will provide adequate pastoral care for every household.

In brief, this vision is (1) seeing the need for the pastoral care of the members of your church, (2) picturing in your mind the ability of laypeople to give pastoral care, and (3) envisioning the benefits of a lay pastoral care ministry.

If the vision comes from God, passion for bringing it to reality will burn like a fire. This insatiable conviction will compel the person or group to conclude; "God wants this ministry in our church and we'll make it happen." Prayer will fuel this fire, give God the opening he needs to guide the planning, and move the person or group to action.

Usually the vision will start with one person, This vision has to be shared with others. If the pastor has the vision, it must be shared with associates, the board, and/or other leaders. If the one with vision is a lay person, he or she needs to share it with one or more close member-friends, then with the pastor (or vice versa). If the vision is from God and the time is right, the person sharing the vision will be surprised to find that God has given the same idea to others.●

from Startup Manual



Think of a vision which is what you want to, wish to complete in your lifetime, but don't stay there too long, move on to plan, then prepare. Make sure your church or organization has rigorous tests yardsticks to measure performance.
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