

Making Vision Stick

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Thursday, 4-5 pm.

Kids' Stuff – Northpoint Church in Atlanta

Question: Are you willing to let it go? Are you willing to lay it down? Are you willing to sacrifice into order to become a leader?

No sacrifices that we've made can compare to the joy God gives us in living a life committed to Him and to the wonder of building the local church and seeing lives changed.

If the followers don't get it, is because the leader hasn't gotten it across.
What do I need to do to make sure it sticks with the people closest to me and then on down through the levels of leadership?

Where the vision is not clear there is no focus and then there is randomness and complexity.

You will ask the question: would I go here if I didn't work here?
When you are the senior pastor and you are driving in the car and your wife asks, "Would we go there if you weren't the pastor?" What has happened is your vision has leaked, there is randomness. There is sideways energy and you will wake up and not like the organization we started.

Successful – complexity is the enemy of vision.

Everybody is busy but you've lost

Failure – there is a temptation to confuse your plan and strategy fails people assume it was the wrong vision. Plans and strategies must always be changed. But visions are the same and have to be refined.

And everything in between.

Vision is about what could be and should be.

In light of what is now, no wonder vision doesn't stick. The legitimate needs of today take away vision.

The vision doesn't change.

I. There are three things you must do with vision to make it stick.

A. To make your vision stick:

1. Cast it strategically - Provides definition.

If it is a mist in the pulpit it is a fog in the pew.

Forces you to define.

2. Celebrate it systematically provides inspiration.

Regular ways to celebrate it.

3. Live it continuously

B. Each of the three provides a critical element

1. Casting a vision provides definition

2. Celebrating a vision provides inspiration

3. Living out a vision provides credibility.

When people understand that you are doing to do it anyway, this is part of who they are, all of a sudden you are leading from the point of influence.

II. Cast It

None of us cast it enough.

Why? We've already said that!

As a communicator I feel I have to say it differently.

We feel like we are repeating something.

For vision to stick it has to be cast over and over.

A. Be strategic about when you cast vision

Not Labor Day

Not tax day.

3 Sundays in January

Strategic service Sunday – in May

By newsletter

By email

Etc.

Once a year is not enough!

How do we drive this throughout the organization?

B. Be strategic about how you cast vision

All of us are vision casters – we are keepers of the vision.

Whenever you cast vision work through these three things...

If you do you will become compelling.

1. Define the problem!

What problem does my organization or my piece of the ministry designed to solve?

If we don't do what we do something won't be accomplished.

There is something that won't happen if you don't do what you do.

Why is it we exist?

2. Offer a solution!

Your vision is a solution to a problem.

The truth is that your vision is the solution to a problem.

When your vision solves a problem that people feel emotionally about you will capture people's hearts.

3. You have to present them with a reason to do it and to do it now!

Willow is the solution to a problem.

If you don't know what the problem is

And you can't state the solution

And you don't know why you must do it and do it now then you don't have vision.

If you can develop terminology and phraseology that do the three above then you are on your way to developing a compelling vision.

What is it that needs to be done and no one is doing anything about it?

Andy is going to do it with or without us.

When you can talk about it in this way people will come alive.

III. Celebrate it

A. Make celebration a part of your culture!

You celebrate the vision spontaneously!

You need to built into the system time to celebrate your vision.

Celebrating your vision puts skin on the vision!

If you don't do this vision becomes what anyone wants it to be.

Celebration let's everyone know what the bullseye looks like.

Advantage – email lets us communicate with each other.

B. Illustrations:

1. Story telling

Is there anything that happened this last weekend that

2. Baptism

The way we do baptism.

In our church you must, in addition to being a Christian, you must produce a 2-4 minute video of your story!

You have to built it into the schedule celebrating your vision.

Share these stories Sunday after Sunday.

IV. Live It

A. Your willingness to embody the vision of your organization will have a direct impact on your credibility as a leader.

Invest and invite strategy!

How do people know that it is a genuine value and passion of the pastor?

I'm doing the best I can to live this out.

The first people to leave will be the smartest people who know that you aren't doing what you say is your vision.

To lead as God has called you to lead, it must be a part of your life.

They would do it anyway.

B. The primary thing that will keep you from living the vision is *life*.

C. If you love your burden you lose your passion.

If you lose your passion who will lose sight of your vision.

V. Checking for leaks!

A. Keep an eye on programming.

Think steps, not programs!

We measure every addition to programming in reference to steps to accomplish your vision. Every program needs to take people somewhere. We don't add anything that doesn't get people into small groups.

B. Listen to three things

1. Prayer requests – it will tell you if people are locked into your vision.

Everybody is going to get sick and die. That gives us job security.

Woo! Is anybody burdened for a lost person.

Are sick people the only thing we are burdened for?

We have 12 sick people

Help them all get well or get sick and die and go on to be with you.

A huge indicator of vision.

2. Listen to great stories.

3. Listen to what people are complaining about.

Indicates what they are concerned about.

We are so committed to building relationships with unsaved people.

We are here to be an influence.

We are here to connect.

Life is brutal on vision.
And if we can't urge ourselves on through life to live vision

When you live it you have something to celebrate and then that will fuel our vision
casting. Then, it will stick!

Cast it
Celebrate it.
Live it.

Live it then you can
Celebrate it and then
You have something to cast.