VISION PRACTICUM

> *I define an organizational vision as a clear and challenging picture of the future of a ministry as you believe that it can and must be."*
>
> Aubrey Malphurs, <u>Developing Vision for Ministry in the 21st Century</u> (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2007), p. 32

THE VISION AUDIT[i]

1. **Is our vision _____: Do the people in our ministry understand it?**

   - The vision is clear when the people who are part of the ministry can articulate/share it with someone else.

   - This is what Moses saw. What do you see??

   "For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land—a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and hills; a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; a land where bread will not be scarce and where you will lack nothing…" Deut. 8:7-9

   - Where is this ministry going - what will it look like when it arrives?

     o What would you like to see this ministry accomplish? In five years? Ten years? 25?

2. **Is it _____: Does it move our people to action?**

   - If the leaders and the people are not challenged by the final product, there is no vision.

   - Good vision demands a LOT of time, PRAYER and energy

   - It is difficult for a group of people to develop a vision

     o Best for pioneering point leaders to begin the process

3. **Does it create a _____: Can they see it in their head?**

   - Can we see beyond the needs to the God-given, unique and existing opportunities those needs present?

1. Adapted from Aubrey Malphurs, <u>Developing Vision for Ministry in the 21st Century</u> (Grand Rapids: Baker 2007) pgs. 32-41

> *Vision is an act of seeing…and imaginative perception of things, combining insight and foresight…We see what it is – but do we see what it could be?"* *John Stott*

4. **Is it _____: Does it present a picture of the ministry's future?**

- Vision is always cast in terms of the future. Visionaries are always thinking and living in the future.
- How are you using the present as a platform to launch the ministry into the future?
- Do not be constrained by the past

"But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal." (Phil. 3:13-14)

5. **Do we believe that it _____: Is it feasible?**

- A good vision has potential because it is feasible.
- Problem #1: Vision is too small: this is why 85% of churches in America are plateaued or dying: they have little or no vision.
- Problem #2: Vision is too big—so vast it overwhelms and never gets a hearing

6. **Are we convinced that it _____: Are we passionate about it?**

- **Urgency:** Not only do we believe that the vision can be, we believe that it MUST be!
- **Conviction:** No question, God is in it and has laid it on our hearts!
- **Passion:** We feel strongly about this vision; it grabs hold and won't let go!

VISION PRACTICUM ANSWERS:
1. clear 2.challenging 3. picture 4. future-oriented 5. can be 6. must be

DEFINE YOUR VISION

As a team, you will use this time to define the Vision for your church. The exercise will take place in three segments:

1. **Brainstorming:**

- Address this QUESTION: "Ten years from now my church will become…"

    - Using short sentences, describe what your church will look like ten years from now. Don't edit your thoughts when brainstorming. Just work quickly to compile the list.

2. **Constructing a Vision Statement:**

- Condense these statements into a single sentence (or 2 – 3 sentences at most) that describe the future you are aiming to become together.

- *Hint:* Clarity of Focus is primary. Trying to put too much into the Vision Statement can cloud the focus. Pay close attention to verbs and to key phrases that paint your picture without excessive wordiness.

3. **Evaluate your Vision Statement**

- Is it right for the times, right for the church, and right for the people?

- Does it promote faith rather than fear?

- Does it motivate people to take action?

- Does it require risk-taking?

- Does it glorify God, not people?

Post-Script: Please do not be discouraged or overwhelmed! This is only a first draft and will be refined through interplay with your values and your context.