

Mission Vision Values Intro!

Misc Text

Today we roll out our new Mission, Vision & Values statements. We began working on them last March and I naively believed we would be rolling this out last September as the ministry year began.

Those on the team can testify that when I recruited them to the team that it would be a few meetings for a few hours. Maybe a little optimistic there.

We had 4 or 5 weekends when we met with Dan Moose from the district on a Friday evening through Saturday morning. Between these meetings we would have several evening meetings on our own as a team.

For 9 months we had giant post it notes all over the conference room walls. It was intense, it was exhilarating, and time after time we saw how the Holy Spirit confirmed the direction we were being led in.

Now, one thing I think is important to say is that just because we are reviewing and refreshing our Mission

and Vision statements doesn't mean that God hasn't been at work in the church. Just the opposite is true, God has been working for years and through many people including most of you.

The reason we review a Mission and Vision statement now is so that we can continue to focus on what God has started in our church.

When we were meeting and pushing against each other we would stop and pray that the Holy Spirit would lead us, and we would come to unanimous consensus on whatever point we were wrestling with. And as we began to see the direction, we feel the Lord leading we also saw people in the church stepping up feeling called to start a small group or some other element of ministry which were in alignment with where the Holy Spirit was leading us in the Mission Vision. This movement of our people was assuring and provided confirmation that the Holy Spirit was bringing us into alignment.

Now, I must also confess that for decades I avoided Senior Pastorate ministry because I didn't know or understand how I would get a vision for ministry.

God gave me a vision for the church when I was ultimately called to this role. You see, God gives the vision, and I simply didn't understand that until I had the role and then God had a reason to give me that vision.

Now, as we as a church look at these new Mission and Vision statements, we will all need to rely on the Lord through the work of the Holy Spirit to find our alignment with it.

I encourage each of you to pray over the Mission Vision and Values we will lay out today and how you will find your part in it. This is where it gets exciting for you!

Just before we unveil these statements, let me warn you. Nothing you are about to hear and see is earth shaking. As a matter of fact, they look a lot like any other church Mission and Vision Statements. It will take time with it for the Holy Spirit to illuminate your role within it for it to come to mean something deep for you.

It may actually take you to see how it gets played out in our church life for you to get excited for it. But you know what, that's ok.

The subtlety of these statements will ultimately make an impact on what we do as a church and how we do things.

I. Start with the end in mind! The Marks

We began the process dreaming of what a Log Church member would look like. We also knew that Scripture would lay out a big part of what that looks like.

For example, the 2 foundational passages we have are:

Matthew 28:19-20, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The Great Commission and:

Matthew 22:36-40, "'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?'"

37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest

commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

The Great Commandments!

With this foundation we came up with our target, the marks of what we hope a Log Church member would look like. Here is what we came up with:

Someone who:

Delights in the Word of God

This would be a person who has a biblical world view and is obedient to what the Word of God says.

Delights in Holy Living

This reflects humility and a tenderness toward God which motivate them to repentance and pursuing a sin free lifestyle.

Delights in Healthy Relationships

This person is faithful in the church body, being generous with time and resources. Cultivates healthy relationships within their family and the church.

Delights in the Great Commission

This person has a servant's heart which cares for the lost.

Delights in the Holy Spirit

By this we mean that the person would exhibit the fruit of the Spirit in their life. Living a life yielded to the Holy Spirit.

So, with this being the goal we began working on the values that reflect this goal and help us grow towards these marks.

II. Values

Over the next several weeks we will be sharing the 5 values we have locked into. Again, these are not earth rocking values. Most Bible believing churches will have some version of these values, but God is also giving The Log Church a unique fingerprint within the details of these values.

Our first value is:

1. Vibrant Worship & Prayer

Psalm 63:1-4, "You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. 2 I

have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. 3 Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. 4 I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.”

It is this whole-hearted pursuit of God we value. Just to be in His presence will change us. More on this next week.

2. Rooted in the Word of God

Psalm 1:1-3, “Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, 2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. 3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.”

Is your delight in God’s Word? Do you engage with God through His word daily?

3. Walking in step with the Holy Spirit

Proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your

ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

When we follow our own path we walk in the ways of the world, but when we give up control of our direction and lean on the guidance of the Holy Spirit then we enjoy the benefits of obedient living.

This value will teach us how to avoid quenching or grieving the Holy Spirit in our lives.

4. Loving People through Authentic Relationships

1 Peter 4:8, “Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”

We are commanded to love one another, to carry one another’s burdens, to forgive one another, to honor and serve one another. You can’t do that alone at home.

It is in community that we can know others and can be known by others. This is the place where we can realize our worth and be accepted and loved.

5. Reaching our Community with the Gospel of Christ

We already read you the Great Commission, now how about this:

2 Corinthians 5:20, “We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.”

If we love people, we can’t help but tell them the Great News of the gospel! Jesus paid it all, all to Him we owe! In no other name is there salvation!

So, these are the values we claim for The Log Church. Not too different from the previous values, but we look forward to how God defines them for us in this era of our church history.

So, once we had the values established, we began working on one line, one statement that would capture these values for us. This is what we came up with:

Our Mission statement:

Joyfully inviting every person to experience a transformed life in Christ.

If we are transformed, we are going to be a people of joy! And with that joy we are going to invite every

person to grow one step closer, one step at a time until each one of us experiences the transformation we can only receive by living our lives in union with Jesus.

There it is:

Joyfully inviting every person to experience a transformed life in Christ.

Can we do that? Can we?

At this point I was excited and thought after 3-4 months we were done. No, then Dan Moose introduced us to the work we would do on the vision statement. The strategic plan to make our mission a reality.

Add another 4-5 months and here we are. The vision statement is to have a word picture which you will see in a moment. Our vision statement draws the picture from Scripture. Over 100 examples in Scripture reflecting the word picture we selected. Here is one of those passages, listen closely.

Isaiah 61:1-3, “The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up

the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.”

Our new Vision Statement is:

The Log Church will be fertile ground where everyone matures in Christ. As we abide in Jesus we will grow like acorns into oaks of righteousness, through the power of the Spirit, being rooted deeply in God's Word. Our ensuing fruitfulness will overflow into lives, families and our community.

I hope you heard the values reflected in this statement. Let me read it again.

Now, if this statement is only read occasionally or put on a wall or into flyers but never impacts what we do it is completely worthless, and we just wasted 9 months. But.... but...if we actually work to make it a

reality, then we will make a difference in our community, in our families, in our lives.

So, how will we turn our vision into reality? We have set up 3 targets upon which we have built 3 month goals, 1 year goals and 3 year goals.

We will accomplish our vision by:

1. Adding 100 family units.

Let me give you the history of this goal. When we first threw it out it was actually “add 100 young families.” When someone asked what young meant David VanNingen said, “anyone younger than me.”

Our intention wasn't to ignore any age group, but we also felt like we are being led to target families, you know the kind with kids. Ultimately we removed the age to simply emphasize that we would reach out to those not yet connected to The Log Church.

This is something the Lord is still to reveal to us, but the bottom line is that we will be doing God's will for the church when we are inviting and actively looking for opportunities to invite people who do not yet know Jesus to join us on this journey toward God.

2. 50% of attenders actively involved in corporate prayer.

Let me explain what we mean here. When we say corporate prayer, it simply means that we are actively praying with other people regularly.

If you are in a small group that prays together you are involved in corporate prayer.

One of the values God has clearly called me to build into the Log Church is the value of praying together.

Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

There is a difference in God's manifestation in the prayer of 2 or 3 over the prayer of the one. We want each of you to experience that level of engagement with God.

3. Everyone participates in discipleship by being active in small groups, apprenticeships, or mentoring.

This is how we grow! Life change happens best in small groups whether it is a group of 4-5 couples or 1 on 1 mentoring.

Everyone should have a Paul, someone who is helping you grow, and everyone should have a Timothy, someone who you are helping grow.

Let me be crystal clear on this. If you only have 1 hour a week to give to God, it would be better for you to use that hour being a part of a small group rather than coming to a worship service. This is how important this value is!!!

As you leave today you will be given a document which includes our Mission Vision Values and over the next 6 messages, we will dive deeper into how these will impact life here at The Log Church.