

“Discovering and Implementing Our God-given Vision”

A Simple Evaluation/Planning Tool for Effective Ministry

Designed for local Missionary Church leadership teams as they develop vision, mission, values and steps of action.

One of the most haunting questions found in the Gospels comes from Jesus when he asked, “When I return, will I find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8)

At the heart of this profound question is the word *faith*. The scriptural context of this question suggests that the definition Jesus had in mind when he used the word faith is “belief in action.” Hence, the haunting question he asked his disciples, “When I return, will I find *belief in action*?”

For a local Missionary Church congregation, this question may immediately spawn a host of additional questions, questions that focus on mission, vision, values, goals, strategies, and benchmarks. Scripture, church history, and everyday practice tell us that “stepping up” to these questions on a regular basis is the best way to stay on the “straight and narrow,” and helps us try to answer this haunting question of Jesus. It has been proven, beyond all doubt, that there is no substitute for regularly reviewing the “ministry fundamentals” – and their implications – and then recalibrating direction, plans, goals, and action steps in light of those implications.

Six Strategic Questions. Attached to this introduction is a short, simple review tool that might be helpful in achieving the above. Rather than use the nomenclature of mission, vision, goals, etc., this review tool is built around six primary, well known questions – Who, What, Why, Where, How, and When?

We need to answer these questions in light of the Biblical principles, which the Missionary Church believes about ministry:

- a) God so loved the world that he gave his son
- b) We are unashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ
- c) We are anointed by the Holy Spirit to be Christ’s witnesses

- d) With his authority we are mandated to make disciples of all nations
- e) We are pledged to “obedience to Jesus Christ her Lord,” and to “being the holy people of God in the world, and to building His church by worldwide evangelism, discipleship, and multiplication of growing churches, all to the glory of God.” (MC Mission Statement)

(See Dynamic Passion Vision document, pages 11-12, adopted by General Conference 2009)

And we also need to answer these questions in view of a specific Vision for ministry, which we as a corporate body have been led to adopt:

- Calling the Missionary Church to perpetual intercessory prayer,
- Passionate commitment to evangelize the lost and make disciples,
- A targeted focus on strengthening local churches,
- Planting new churches and districts, and
- Intentional recruitment and development of catalytic leaders.

(See Dynamic Passion document, pages 13-16, adopted by General Conference 2009)

Every church developing its own specific Vision Statement. The six strategic questions in this tool are framed in a way to help every “member church become fully engaged in framing and implementing its own ministry vision and five-year goals” as part of the District/Regional and Denominational ministry vision. (See Dynamic Passion document, C, 4, page 27.)

These questions inherently acknowledge that no two churches are alike. One size does not fit all. While the first three questions – Who, What, and Why – may have more of a universal feel, they also speak to the matter of specific distinctives. The last three questions – Where, How, and When – are questions that can be answered only by the particulars of an individual church body.

Annual Focus on Fundamentals. Most healthy people stay healthy by participating in an annual checkup. All winning athletic teams become that way by reviewing and implementing “the fundamentals” at the beginning of every season. And, given the daunting challenges of the 21st-century, it makes perfect sense that every Missionary Church would want to evaluate its ministry effectiveness by reviewing its ministry fundamentals and their implications on an annual basis.

Now, on to the process of discovering and implementing our God-given vision or evaluating the one you already have. May God bless you with an effective, fruitful ministry!

