

Why The New Day Dream? To Increase Our Vision

In the first quarter of 1999, Yahoo Magazine ran an article about an upstart company named Google. The article told about a new website coming from a company founded by a couple of college kids that had a unique approach to internet search. It was a “techy” article. The article also noted that the Google home page was almost a blank page – there was no portal, no departments, no categories and no advertisements – just a search box. The article saying that the Google engine was a good search engine, but there's no way for it to make money. So the article's conclusion was that Google was a novelty, it provided a good search function, but it didn't have much marketing potential.

I guess you know how the story turns out. Google, some believe, is just a couple of acquisitions away from complete world domination. Seriously, looking at their history, it's amazing to see the vision these guys had. Their vision gave them the boldness to attempt the unimaginable. At the time Google began, conventional wisdom was that you need to offer something more than search. You needed to have a portal with lots of columns and content on the home page, like Yahoo and Excite, and Alta Vista and all the others. And conventional wisdom was that you had to have ads, lots of flashy, animated, loud and annoying ads...because if the ads aren't obnoxious, people won't click on them.

Google, on the other hand, said, “We'll offer nothing but search, and on the results page we'll put some quiet little text ads, so they don't bother anyone who isn't interested.” From that simple concept came a multi-billion dollar empire. And even though Google now offers news, images, Gmail and a ton of other services – their home page is still very simple – just a logo, a search box and a couple of vital links.

Google illustrates the principles that we are going to focus on today and for the next couple of weeks as we spend some time refocusing on our vision for tomorrow as New Day Community Church.

Proverbs 29:18 “Where there is no vision, the people perish...” KJV

Proverbs 29:18 “If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves...” The Message

Being a person of vision doesn't merely mean you want to make a lot of money or gain a certain amount of prestige or capture 100% market share. For the follower of Jesus Christ, being a person of vision means that you have caught hold of God's dream for your life, God's plan for your life. The same is true for Churches. A church of vision is a church that has caught hold of God's dream for that Church.

Today we are going to answer the question, Why the New Day Dream with our focus on how we can maximize or increase our vision for the future, by discovering some characteristics of great vision.

Now, in order to increase our vision we need to first understand our vision for the future. This is what we believe that God has brought New Day Community Church into existence for.

OUR VISION STATEMENT:

**“Building God Inspired Relationships
Bridging Christ's Love To Our World”**

Now, what does that mean? It means that we believe that New Day Community exists in order to take the time to develop relationships with other people, as God helps us, so that we can share Christ's love with the people around us.

So, to maximize or increase our vision we must grasp these keys...

Key #1: Focus

As I mentioned before, Google is successful because they are masters of focus. Their ‘one thing’ is developing the fastest, biggest, and most accurate search engine on the planet. Everything else is second place for them.

1 Corinthians 9:16 “Yet when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, for I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!” NIV

In this section of 1 Corinthians, Paul is talking about the strategies he has adopted and some of the sacrifices he has made in the work of the ministry, and he says...

1 Corinthians 9:23 “I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.” NIV

To share in the blessings of the gospel it meant that Paul had to share the gospel with others – that’s what motivated Paul. It was his ‘one thing,’ the focus of his life. It was what he lived to do, what he lived to accomplish. It was what God called him to do with the remaining years of his life.

The question is: What’s our ‘one thing?’ Our Vision statement tells us that our one thing – the most important thing for us to do is to look for ways that God can help us to develop relationships with people so that God can use us to influence them for Jesus Christ.

Discussion: Brainstorm some ideas on how we can develop relationships with people who don’t know Jesus as their Savior so that we can influence them for God.

In order for us to be people of vision, we need focus. That's the first characteristic of great people that God uses to produce great Churches. The second characteristic or the 2nd key is ...

Key #2: Direction

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “The world makes a way for the man who knows where he is going.” In order for us to be people of vision, we need to be people of direction. What that means is we need to have an idea now of what our destination looks like. We need to have an idea now of where our vision will ultimately lead us. We have to know where we are going in order to get there.

Now what does that vision look like in the life of New Day Community Church? I’m glad that you asked. ☺

The New Day Dream is of a place where families and individuals alike can find love, acceptance, help, hope, forgiveness, guidance, and encouragement. It is the dream of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with people all over Champaign County. It’s a dream of people growing together in spiritual maturity through Bible studies, Small groups, seminars, retreats and fellowships, loving, laughing and learning together, understanding God’s wonderful plan and living life to its greatest potential. It’s the dream of every person using their God given SHAPE to minister to others. It is a dream of starting multiple services to reach the greatest number of people in Champaign County as we possibly can. It is a dream of again sending out members on short term Work & Witness Mission projects. It’s a dream of families & individuals; men and women, teens, boys and girls discovering that God loves them and that He has the power to change their lives. It’s a dream of people being freed from addictions, of marriages being restored, families being put back together. It’s a dream of adults, teens and children worshipping side by side supporting and encouraging each other. It’s a dream of new and expanded facilities so that we can have multiple avenues to impact Champaign County with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It’s a dream that requires faith – faith that believes the impossible.

Hebrews 11:1 “Faith means being sure of the things we hope for and knowing that something is real even if we do not see it.” NCV

Donald McGavran, the father of the Church growth movement said. “One of the challenges for every church – is that we must have a unified idea of where we are going. Sometimes churches get torn apart by factions trying to move in different directions – this group wants to be emergent, this group wants to be seeker-sensitive; this group wants to be contemporary, this group wants to be traditional; this group wants one kind of preaching and that group wants another kind of music... and when a church has several subsets trying to move it in different directions – the church loses sight of the calling to which it has been called, and it just becomes another building with some people in it on Sunday morning.”

God has called us to much more than that. It is our responsibility and our obligation to define where we are going and how, by God's grace, we'll get there. That's why Paul wrote this:

1 Corinthians 9:26 “Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air.” NIV

Paul knew where he was going, and he had a strategy for getting there. As a church, we too need to know where we are going and we too need to have a strategy for getting there.

I read to you just a minute ago of what we believe God wants New Day Community to look like as a Church. We believe that God has directed us to something that will be a part of how we start looking like what God desires for us to look like. You see we started using tables not just because we knew that when we moved we would probably be using tables. We started using tables on purpose, while we were still in the old building, in order to create an atmosphere that allowed some fellowship, some teaching and some discipleship to happen as a part of our Worship experience. When we pause for our table discussions it's not to just give me a couple of minute breather. We have our table discussions so that we can purposely think about and discuss something that will help us to apply something from the message to our daily lives.

A few minutes ago we were talking about our vision of developing relationships with people so God can use us to influence them for Christ. We then talked about ways to do that. You see that will help us to better remember what we talked about and maybe start thinking about a way to influence a co-worker, a neighbor or a class-mate.

As we began looking and praying about a place to re-locate to, one thing that was extremely important to us was that we wanted to be in a place that allows us to look more like what I read about a few minutes ago. We needed a place that we can see God's dream for New Day Community becoming a reality and we still believe that the Refinery is our best option as a place to meet God and allow that to happen. As I mentioned last Sunday, Dr. Kraemer, our new District Superintendent is excited about what we are attempting to do. During our conversation he made a few “off the top of his head” comments that we will be pursuing in the future so that we can “get the word out” so that people can learn about New Day Community Church and discover that “the new way at New Day” is something that could benefit their lives and their families.

Application: Focus on the New Day Dream. Think about the dream; believe the dream. How can you become a part of the dream becoming a reality?