

Our “On Mission” Vision

Introduction

Recently, our elders’ team met to discuss the future of the Cornerstone Church. We talked about our mission - and here’s what we came up with:

1. Jesus Gave Us Our Mission - Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus gave us our mission in Matthew 28. He told his disciples to “make disciples.” He sent them out to do what he did with them. The elders all agreed that this must be our focus: to make disciples.

What is a disciple? A person who relates to Jesus on three levels, illustrated in:

Matthew 11:28-29 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

- **A disciple commits to Jesus - come to me AND receive rest for your soul**
- **A disciple obeys Jesus - learn from me**
- **A disciple surrenders to Jesus - take my yoke upon you**

Pastor Rick Warren recently wrote that a disciple is someone who is moving from Jesus’ invitation to “come and see” to Jesus’ command to “come and die.” (<http://www.pastors.com/blogs/ministrytoolbox/archive/2010/05/12/discipleship-moving-from-come-and-see-to-come-and-die.aspx>)

Bible teacher, Warren Wiersbe, describes a disciples as, “One who has believed on Jesus Christ and expressed this faith by being baptized. He remains in the fellowship of believers that he might be taught the truths of the faith. He is then able to go out and win others and teach them. (Wiersbe Bible Commentary, page 86)

Our mission is to help men and women become this kind of disciple.

So ... how do we do this? I call it our “On Mission” vision:

2. Our “On Mission” Vision

Our “on mission” vision is this: We will make disciples in three primary settings:

Setting #1: Sundays: when the focus is on Worship and the Word. Sundays are powerful because God meets us, fueling our faith and inviting us deeper into surrender.

I’ll come back to Sundays in a moment.

Setting #2: Small Groups: when the focus is on relationship building, Bible study, and humble service. Small groups are discipleship incubators - a safe place to work through the three stages. I include our youth ministry and our AWANA ministry under the heading of small groups. Both of these are important to us.

Tami McMaken leads our small group ministry and I’ve asked her to talk to us about it on May 30, so I’ll move on.

Setting #3: Special Bible Events: I’ll talk to you about this another day.

This is where we will focus our resources as a church. We will make our plans based on these three discipleship settings. The calendar will reflect this. The budget will reflect this. The make up of our staff and ministry teams will reflect this.

There are so many good things we could do, but we think we can do these three things really well and actually accomplish more by doing less.

Now, I want to go back to Sundays and talk about how we can stay on mission at our Sunday Celebrations. Each one of us plays a very important part in this:

There are four things we can all do to stay on mission on Sundays:

Make Sunday Celebrations a priority: We grow deeper in discipleship here on Sundays. There is amazing God-power present here. God refuels and refocuses us. So, we should all do everything we can to be here as often as possible.

Invest and invite. We welcome visitors. We know they will meet Jesus here. Take time to build genuine friendships with unchurched people. When the time is right invite them here on a Sunday and bring them, sit with them and invite them home for lunch afterwards. I commend all of you who bring friends to church. Great job!

Volunteer. Sundays are a great opportunity to serve - which is what disciples do. We want to create a very positive experience here on Sundays and that takes a lot of help. What could you do to make Sundays great? Dennis McMaken has a list of opportunities. For example:

- I would like people to be greeted in the parking lot twice, and then in the building. I'd like visitors to be taken on a tour and shown to a seat. We need a much bigger greeting team to get that done.
- The Safari Zone is a wonderful ministry for kids but it would be even better if more of us served there. Donna needs 30 more volunteers.
- Whatever you do will help us stay on mission - making disciples - and it will help you develop as a disciple.

Take the next steps: Once you've made Sunday a priority, spread your wings a little and come to NEXT. Then join the Starting Point - 10 week - small group. Then move on from there to join a long-term small group.

Conclusion

That's it. The Cornerstone Church exists to make disciples. I know God will help us do this.

- I'm asking you to commit to this mission, to make it your mission, to work together to do the mission and to stay on mission.
- It will be worth your time, your money, your prayers and your blood, sweat and tears.

Think about it this way:

One day, around the throne of God, will be a huge multitude of worshippers brought there by the people of the Cornerstone Church.

That glorious future is what we are going to sing about right now.