

## The Vision Revisited

Q: We speak often about the **mission** and **vision** of EFCN. What is the difference between a mission statement and a vision statement?

A: A **mission** statement explains why we occupy this corner. It describes our purpose here on earth. The **vision** is an outgrowth of our mission. It describes what the mission looks like at various points along our journey as the body of Christ. It needs to be a compelling and exciting picture of the future possibilities in Christ.

Q: What are the **mission** and **vision** statements of our church?

A: Our **mission** statement says, *"We exist to compel people to radically embrace the primal call of Jesus stated in Matthew 4:19, "Come follow Me!"* In other words our **mission** is to see people become devoted followers of Jesus. Our **vision** statement says that our passion is to, *"Become an epicenter of 3,000 people whose lives are being continuously transformed to bring the hope of the gospel regionally and globally."* In other words we envision becoming a church that is being transformed by God's grace to grow deeper in faith and wider in outreach.

Q: How are we going about becoming this church of 3000 transforming lives?

A: First of all we want to do all things well and with results that glorify God. There is an expectation that every ministry in our church is growing both deep and wide! However in order to move the ministry forward we have established some major goals to help us spread God's transforming power regionally and globally:

1. We believe God has called us to deepen the spiritual depth of believers. We have established Equip University to do this. The purpose of this ministry is to help others grow deeper in their knowledge and application of biblical truth. So far we have offered several different courses and seminars. Next January we will launch an on going marriage ministry out of Equip called **"Marriage Matters"**. In addition we will continue our Journaling ministry that is designed to develop daily Bible reading through the entire in a year.
2. We believe that God has called us to partner with nationals on every continent of the world to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. That endeavor has already begun with our focus on the South Pacific. Although not a continent God has brought our way several

un-reached or “little reached” tribes in both Papua New Guinea and Indonesia. We’ve already been sending the support and help with powerful life transforming results.

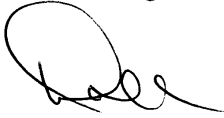
3. We believe that God has called us to train leaders who will impact the church locally, regionally and nationally. This is being done through our newly established ministries called “*NextGen*” and “*Leading the Journey*”. We already have 35 men and women who have attended sessions on what it means to lead in the local church. In addition I’m involved along with our **Church Chairman** Rich Kristak in mentoring churches in our district and in other parts of the country including Canada!
4. We believe that we will begin a second campus. This has been slower than I thought it would be. We decided a year ago that before we did a multi-site we needed to make the best use of our own site. So we launched Saturday Night services and we are running nearly three hundred. This has been a good step to teach us what will be required once we start our second campus. Our goal is to begin that campus once we reach 80% capacity in our 11:00 a.m. service. We’ve already done some of the training and continue to look for opportunities.
5. We believe that God has strategically put us into a community filled with families with children and we are responsible to reach as many for Christ as is possible. We are bursting at the seams on weekends and during the week with our **AWANA** ministries. Once again we’ve been patiently waiting for God’s leading in this matter. We have some preliminary drawings but how that land has become available right next to us we are waiting to see how the Lord will lead. Being able to purchase additional land at a fair value is prudent for parking needs. Stay tuned and please pray!
6. We believe God is calling us to a performing arts ministry that will use the creative arts as a tool to reach, teach and disciple children, young people and young adults throughout this community. We are looking for the leader that God would raise up to make this happen. We are in serious conversation with someone that may be able to lead and launch this ministry. I’d ask for people to be praying for God to direct us as we dialogue with potential leaders!

Q; So what can I do as an individual to help make the Vision a reality?

As you can see that we've made headway on about half of the vision and we are praying for God to guide us to the summit! I would like to ask **you** to do three things:

- Pray for our leaders and for God to make the way clear on several of these issues. Also pray as we try to fill two key positions on our staff. We are looking for a full time godly and experienced leader to head up our small group ministry. We are also beginning to prayerfully consider how we go about finding a new worship leader.
- Get involved! I want to encourage everyone to worship, serve, be in a small group and give to support the mission and vision of EFCN.
- Reach Out! Pray for God to lead you to seekers who you can befriend and share Christ through your actions and words.

In His Grip,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale", written in a cursive style.

Pastor Dale