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JESUS' VISION DAY MESSAGE

Inspire

I remember the first time I shared a vision day sermon in 1988 with the first church I pastored. A couple of fervent word of faith people were horrified that I would do such a thing, I never quite understood their reason apart from they said God and Jesus didn't have one and also come to think of it now they would oppose me on a lot of things. But nevertheless I spoke the vision at what we called "Vision Sunday" and the church grew. I remember one year we reached our vision by July and had to have another vision day sermon in August.

Vision gives people direction. It gives people something to aim for because if you aim for nothing there is a big chance you'll hit it.

I suppose to some, vision casting and goal setting can seem pretty worldly, like the church is some mechanical business operation, or something. But the truth is God works with us and more than we realize at times and we work him more than we realize.

VISION IS

I've always found that vision is taking a small piece of the big picture of God's overall plan, presenting it to the church so we can run with it together. Vision lives within us all, a small sense of what God wants us to do. So because we have that sense of where we are going, we develop measurable steps to get there. God had a vision for creating the world so accurate was his plan that He rested on the Sabbath.

God gave Abraham a vision to move into the promise land (Genesis 13:14-17). He gave Nehemiah a vision to rebuild the broken down walls of Jerusalem. (Nehemiah 2:12) Jesus gave his early church a vision with progressive goals to be his witness to the world. *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* Acts 1:8

Jesus lived by vision himself, vision that had goals attached to it (measurable steps that said where he was meant to be at a certain time) and he wouldn't be diverted from the course he was on. He replied: *"Go tell that fox, I will keep on driving out*

demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal." (Luke 13:32).

But one of the most profound scripture of Jesus presenting vision to the church of the day is in Luke 4:16-21. He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendants and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, *"Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."*

TRIALS & TESTINGS

It's interesting that Jesus came out of the wilderness, a real testing time in his life, what does it say in verse 14—He came out empowered by the spirit and in verse 18—19, speaking out the vision for the next three years of his ministry.

It's interesting that pressure pushes vision to the forefront of our lives and empowers us to fulfill it. So you find yourself in times of trials and testings—this is a good thing. I don't believe God creates these times, but my theology says that He uses them, and one of those reasons is this—to push His purpose and plans He has for you to the front of your priorities.

HIS VISION STRATEGY

To proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

It kind of hits you at all levels and touches every level of social justice, spiritual influence and physical impact. It's really hard to improve on, that is why I believe vision should always launch out from His or should be based in His. In fact why don't you compare your church vision and goals to His. It might need adding to, taking away from

or you might be really encouraged. But wherever you are at, let His first vision statement have influence in yours.

Some ask: "Was he speaking spiritually, physically or socially?" I believe all. The ministry of Jesus was and is holistic, He ministered to the whole person.

GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR.

Good news to the poor, is Christ died for our sin, which isn't just being separated from God, it's anything that cripples the image of God in humanity. Everyone has some area of poverty. Some people are relationally poor, some are emotionally poor, some financially poor and all are spiritually poor—God wants to redeem us, lift us to a greater place. This scripture says it well *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."* 2Corinthians 8:9.

Now I can hear you theological nerds and extreme anti prosperity people protesting this in your heart, but think about when the God of the universe comes into your life, there will be lift in every area. I'm not saying we are all going to be millionaires, He couldn't trust half of us. But there will be blessing, lift and increase. As I read the scriptures and get to know God, I am convinced that He has a bias toward the poor and so should the church in their vision. We should be reaching those that are lost, lonely, the least and the last. Those that society would term as a loser or a Looney. These people are dear to the heart of God and should be to ours and our church—or are we too cool and trendy for them?



Consider these scriptures: Deuteronomy 10:18, Deuteronomy 15:7-11, Proverbs 31:8, Isaiah 1:17, James 1:27. Why is it we tend to walk by the other side like the Pharisees did in Luke 10:31 with the man that was beaten up. Are the poor and broken included in your vision?

PROCLAIM FREEDOM TO PRISONERS

It's interesting that proclaim means to say and do—it's not just a sermon but to serve someone. And prisoners are not those that are not just physically in gaol, but anyone that's bound, to either a bad attitude, an addiction to some substance or just in prison to their own hurt or unforgiveness. But what

are we doing for prisoners? My city is the third largest in Australia for prisoner release—about 800 a year. We could visit some, we could help them transition back into society, house and help them—the list goes on. I won't go on and cover every aspect of His vision day sermon as I think you get what I'm saying. But why don't you study it a little more as you

prepare for your vision day message and make room for those that have none and in your church ministries serve those that can't serve themselves.
Love Kev



Soul Café Christmas Lunch—Nikki Correia



Well who would have thought three months ago that we would be holding our 9th annual Christmas party in our new premises?

I had a moment of reflection looking around the café

last weekend at the 100 people sitting in the café, Santa in the corner beside the Christmas tree handing out gifts to all the children and thought wow! We have made it, yet again, through such a tough time and to see this day of joy and laughter with giving and receiving.

- ◆ Deb the Local Business Banker of Westpac; and
 - ◆ Tim Owen our local MP.
- as well as a lot of wonderful people from our community.

What a mix of people in one room, how beautiful that we can all come together and work alongside of each other for the common cause.

Nicola and Leanne were busy taking Santa photos with all the kids and will be printing them for free as a gift to each family, yet another gift we have received.

Bryen and Gayle from Newcastle Limousines paid for the food as they do every year for our Christmas Party, wow another gift we have received.

camera could see the shaking of his excitement as he held up his billabong cap and wallet and then screeched in excitement that he also got a gift card. His father was so touched.

A mum came in the next day for lunch with three young children and the youngest said: "We are living in someone else's house—mum said it's like a holiday", as the mum burst into tears.

We have no idea really what some people are facing this Christmas.

Lastly I would like to share a poem with you that Macka wrote after he received his gift.

*Bless our café Dear Lord we pray
Keep us safe by night and day
Bless the walls so firm and stout
Keeping want and trouble out
Bless all they who enter in
May "God's" spirit dwell within.*



We at Soul Café have received so many gifts from the:

- ◆ Kiwanis Club,
- ◆ Think Local Act Local, girls
- ◆ Wallsend Curves

And many more people to give to the people who come into our café.

We also received gifts in labour this year. We had so many wonderful volunteers including:

- ◆ The girls from Think Local Act Local;
- ◆ The regional Manager of Westpac, Steve, his wife, Kerry and three beautiful children;

Santa took the day off from David Jones to come and visit us at Soul Café, now that's a huge gift for our kids here.

Basically what I am trying to say is, thank you everyone for making this Christmas so special for so many people. As we at Soul Cafe are seen to be giving out so much, I see that we are actually receiving so much from our community.

Stories that I know will touch your heart...

As Nicola and Leanne were going around taking photos they came to a young teenage boy and they asked him what he got from Santa. Nicola said if only the



To all at Soul Café Newcastle
From
MACKA!



Nikki Correia
Manager Soul Café
Email: admin@soulcafe.com.au



OzReach

P.O. Box 2021, Dangar NSW 2309

www.ozreach.org

We are simply a kingdom of God based ministry that wants to provide fellowship, connection and influence for ministers of churches and leaders of ministries.

To know more about connecting to Ozreach as a group of churches, contact: **Kevin Wilcock on: 0407 467 798**
Email: info@lifechurch.org.au

Ozreach relates to:



www.pioneer.org.uk

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CITYWIDE UNITY—Howard Mole

When Mary met with Elizabeth (Luke 1:41) it is recorded that Elizabeth's baby leapt in her womb.

I felt that same jump in the belly of my spirit when I heard that Rick Prosser was resigning from full time ministry with his church to take up God's call on his life to take the City of Newcastle for the Kingdom of God. I did not know the man, but I did know that it was of God.

In this last 12 months, Rick has been challenging, building relationships and pulling together the spiritual leaders of this city. We have begun to see the coming together of pastors and church leaders in relationship, prayer and partnering in a way that has not been seen before in Newcastle.

Luis Palau Festival at the end of 2012 will be evidence of this as the church rises up

together to influence and service this city. It will not be a string of crusades where churches stroke their ego's and pander to their own needs for a display of spirituality but rather a time when Christians of various denominations and creeds will unite to sacrificially give of themselves to a city community out of a heart of love, grace and mercy.

A city saved, or taken for the kingdom of God, will be recognised by the numbers who heed what Christ declared to be the most important commandment. When these things happen in Newcastle we will see a Newcastle where:

- ◆ More, rather than less are prepared to honour God, and put their faith in Jesus Christ.
- ◆ The City Councillors are prepared to meet for prayer and pray about the decisions

they are making for the people of Newcastle

- ◆ The Christian Church unites together as the Body of Christ—working for the glory of God not the glory of their own particular arm or leg or eye or ear.
- ◆ Individual churches will stop comparing and measuring themselves by numbers, size, wealth and even salvations, but rather measure their effectiveness in the community by their Godly attitude, leadership and influence across the city
- ◆ The wider community of Newcastle will recognise the Christian church as a united force of influence in the city—a force that supports the wider community for the well being of individuals, family, and society.

Howard Mole

Elder & Team Leader @ City Life

Travel Itinerary for Ozreach Team

KEVIN	7th—15th Feb 1st—2nd March 11th March 25th—31st May	Philippines Toowoomba Wollongong U.K.	HOWARD	27th—29th Jan 17th—19th Feb	Tamworth Jervis Bay
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OZREACH CONNECT

You may have heard that Ozreach is aiming to develop further in 2012 and as part of the process we're planning to have some gatherings in the North Coast and Newcastle area and also some in the South. The aim is to enable people to travel less distances and still build a relational network of Jesus-focussed, missionally-minded friends.

Ozreach is a relational network, which means it only works as well as you and I contribute to the network. Ozreach presents an opportunity to build friendships with others in ministry, so make an effort to catch up with each other at other times too.

SOUTHERN

On **Saturday 3rd March**, the Ozreach Southern Crew are hosting a gathering in Engadine, with Pastor Jeremy Hodson who'll encourage us in the area of

"Developing leaders in a small church." Jeremy has been a mate of mine for years, he has been on staff at a large church, and has planted a church on the North Coast. He's a lecturer in the areas of leadership and preaching at Alpha Crucis. If you have friends in ministry that you want to invite along, by all means do so. There is no charge for the event but just let us know if people are coming so we can cater for everyone.

The evening will start at 7pm with coffee and dessert at "The Hub", 37 Cambrai Avenue, Engadine. Please sms or call Mike McGarrity on the number below or email him at: mike.mcgarrity@communitychurch.org.au

Blessya

Mike McGarrity Mobile: 0419 277 916

NORTHERN

Bernie Higgins Mobile: 0412 458 289

OZREACH CONFERENCE

With Peter McHugh

26th & 27th October 2012

Peter has been in pastoral ministry for over 25 years. He has planted 2 church and facilitated the planting of 7 other churches. Peter has found himself being called to pastor other pastors. Peter has been able to enable others to experience revelation and freedom by learning how to lead from who they are in Christ. He is a gifted communicator whose greatest joy and privilege is to see people rise up and step into their identities and demonstrating the Father's love in remarkable ways. Today he and his wife Lyn, lead Stairway Church in Melbourne

Please put this date in your diary

GlobeReach Some of the works we support overseas

BALI- Michael & Bianca Zietsch

A Special Giving Opportunity

Hi all of our beautiful friends and family. We hope that you had such a great time over Christmas celebrating the birth of our KING! We are excited to see Papa move here in Bali this year and are expecting something amazing to come from our national team. At the moment we have 3 national team members and we have already seen them use their potential in serving their communities and people are coming to know Him. As we have had to raise our support financially for our family, we are now in a position to raise our national workers wages.

Below are our team members and little about them:

GERSON, YANTI & baby Grace.

Pak Gerson is originally from Ambun and his wife Yanti is from a Hindu background in Java.



They both have a real heart to see West Bali surfing communities transformed by the power of JC and we are so blessed to have

them in our team. Pak Gerson eventually would like to start his own business, maybe selling fruit from his motorbike. This would give him a solid platform for sharing with people and being among the community he works in. At the moment their monthly wage is \$165.00 per month (\$42.00 per week).

ELA

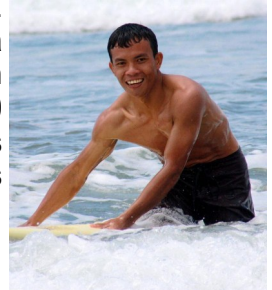
Ela is originally from Medan in Sumatra and has been part of our team for nearly two years. She has a real passion to see women who feel like they have no hope to really know their creator and understand His love for them. She has played a vital role in performing the card project and has plans to build her own motorbike rental and headband business. Her monthly wage is \$120.00 per month (\$30.00 per week).



SIHIN

Sihin is from Kalimantan and is a powerhouse man of GD. He has a real heart to serve the surfing community here and has already launched a social project to fix broken surfboards for local

underprivileged groms to learn surfing. He has a dream to start a small business by making surfboard fins and also motorbike rentals. Sihin's monthly wage is \$120.00 (\$30.00 per week). He also needs a small business loan of around \$1000.00 to buy 2 motorbikes so he can start his business.



This is a brilliant opportunity for you to be involved in bringing JC to those in need. We are making plans for all our national workers to become sustainable through small businesses etc in the future so they will not rely on outside money but in the meantime we have to provide them with a wage and transport.

If you feel Papa is moving you to support these mighty men and women of God either monthly or one off please contact us at:

Michael & Bianca Zietsch

Email: zietsch@swissmail.org

CAMBODIA, Joshua House — Vuthea's story

"When I arrived at Joshua House I started a new life, a new soul. I started to go to church and to think about Jesus."

Vuthea was born in the western Cambodian province of Pursat in 1990. One of 14 children, Vuthea spend the majority of his childhood in poverty with his parents barely being able to afford to feed their children. Many of Vuthea's siblings were sick and any money the family did have was used for medicine and treatment.

Vuthea wants to study to be a doctor. *"I don't want people in a poor country die because they don't have a doctor or money."* says Vuthea. He has seen many people in his village and even his own family die because of lack of access to medical treatment, something he is determined not to see happen in the future. Vuthea is now in his 3rd year of his Medical Degree. He often volunteers for weekend night shifts at the national public hospital as a medical student to gain experience. He also volunteers his

time teaching English at a local NGO.

"When I arrived at Joshua House I started a new life, a new soul. I started to go to church and to think about Jesus" says Vuthea. He is thankful for the support and advice he has received from the Joshua House parents.

Here is a recent e-mail from Vuthea who arrived at Joshua House nine years ago and is now one of our University students living at a dormitory.



Hello, how are you?

I am so happy to have a chance to write

to you, nowadays I'm feeling good because I have a chance to serve God like all of you. I went to a tribes' village twice in November—the first time was from 9th to 12th November and the second time from 18th to 21st November 2011. There I saw a lot of miracles from God like in the bible in Mark 2. It's incredible but this is what God does for all of us. So many people believe in Jesus now. On the second trip, we lead them how to have a good relationship with God. They worship God by the spirit because our God is Spirit. Now they worship the true God like us too. I'm so happy because God the Lord I know is my Father, He never gives me a bad thing or good thing but He gives me the best and perfect thing. My heart's desire is to exalt the Lord. I thank GOD for letting me know and serve Him; we have 10,000 reasons to praise him.

Empower Asia

Email: jhdcambodia@gmail.com