

# Inspire

## Vision

Usually every February I like to speak on the vision of the church. Where we are going, what we are doing and how we are going get to where we are going. It's important stuff. It's the reason people go on journeys, get on buses or planes — The Destination of where they are going.

This year was no different except instead of vision day we took up the whole month. We spoke about personal vision, relational vision, church and community vision, and vision for our world. As I shared on church and community vision, God gave me some fresh insight on vision out of the book of Nehemiah

### What is Vision?

I've always believed that vision is having a picture of what you see yourself and your group being and doing. It is a mental picture of a future state. Vision is a hope that anchors you to the future and pulls you through all kinds of challenges and struggles. Vision is seeing spiritually what God is placing in your heart.

God said to Jeremiah in Chapter 1:11 *"What do you See"*

He said to Isaiah in Chapter 60:4 *"Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm."*

This was a look of faith, a visionary, a seeing of things that are not as though they are. Because in verse 5 it says, *"Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy."* This is an actual look at what you are seeing spiritually.

Jesus said to the disciples in John 4:35 *"Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."* He was saying don't just live in the natural state of things but see into the spirit of what God is doing and wanting to do. Paul also said in Ephesians 1:18 *"I pray also that the*

*eyes of your heart may be opened."* (Your spiritual eyes) The reason Paul wanted them open is so that we could see the hope to which we have been called. Vision is Supernatural seeing the hope to what God has called you to do and be.

### Poor Foresight

Some people have poor spiritual sight, their vision is blurred, their destiny is dull, their picture of the future is not clear, causing their hope to be deferred and their heart to become sick. This is why people die and cast off commitment. What I want to do is share a few things that will clarify your vision and make clearer your ability to spiritually see your future.

### What will give me a clearer vision?

Having a clearer vision will increase my hope for the future. When I think about my vision in the day, when I dream about it at night, this continuous meditation on the vision will induce me into action.

As I read through the story of Nehemiah God placed some keys in my heart concerning things that will make us see clearer the vision of God in our hearts.

### 1. Compassion

*"When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven."* Nehemiah 1:4 When I see the broken down wall of humanity, something triggers in my spirit that clarifies the vision and helps me see and feel Gods heart for the situation. Compassion is not a conjured up emotion, it is a spiritual feeling of God's heart. It will cause you to see without human judgment the need and situation at hand. Nehemiah's compassion drove him to prayer and fasting. These two things open us up to God's heart, plan and purpose. This is what I believe it is somewhat speaking about in Romans 8:26-27 *In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know*

*what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. 27And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.*

### 2. Say Sorry

Nehemiah 1:6-7 *"let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you. 7 We have acted very wickedly toward you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses."* It was like Nehemiah had a sorry day. He repented on behalf of his people and the people before. I suppose its obvious, that if you get your heart right with God and others, everything becomes clearer, confirming the proclamation John and Jesus spoke: *"Repent for the kingdom is at hand"*. It's like they were saying get your heart right and the kingdom of God will flow through you more clearly and closer.

I remember a mate went through a bit of a dry patch in business, then suddenly things just took off, I quizzed him about it. He said he was getting a little self confident and He just simply apologized and said sorry to God and things began to open up for him. (Jeremiah 17:5-8)

### 3. Favour from God and Man

*"O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man."* There is no doubt that one of the keys that releases the blessing of God is His favour. There is nothing you can do to conjure up or manipulate the favour of God, accept to position yourself to be in the right place both in heart and location.

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## Vision - Continued

I will never forget when I moved to Newcastle and the church was very strapped for cash so we gave away money and believed for God's provision. Within days a person that buried 3 blocks of Gold in their pot plant for 5 years came and gave it to me. That night as he did I found this verse that God spoke to me through, Isaiah 45:3 *"I will give you the treasures of darkness, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, who summons you by name."* The gold was worth \$7,770 but the message and favour from God that I felt and sensed was priceless. His call to move to Newcastle and His vision for the city became clearer to me that day.

### 4. Understanding your heart

Nehemiah 2:12 *"I set out during the night with a few men. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on."* Vision is from God but it's in your heart. We need to learn to read our hearts, our desires, our passions and our DNA because it's in these things that make the vision clearer in your life. It's an interesting thing that when someone finds God they often find themselves and in finding ones self, we often discover the God given vision that he has placed in all of us from conception. You can see this picture in Peter's revelation of Jesus — at the same time he got a revelation of who he was and what he was called to do, so much so, that Jesus even changed his name (Matthew 16).

The same thing happened to Saul when he was knocked of his high horse and got saved. He was in that place were he

discovered himself, so much so again that he too changed his name. In discovering himself he discovered his destiny, Acts 9:15 *But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. Something he remained true to right to the end.*

Acts 26:19 *So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven.*

Gods plan is wrapped up in you discovering who you are and will enable you to discover the plan of God in your heart.

### 5. Every vision will be opposed

Nehemiah 2:19 *But when Sanballat the Horonite, Tobiah the Ammonite official and Geshem the Arab heard about it, they mocked and ridiculed us. "What is this you are doing?" they asked. "Are you rebelling against the king?"* Don't always take opposition as a bad thing. Sometimes it is a sign of going the right way. We've got to realize the devil is not into God's plan and he'll do everything to resist it. I think of all the verbal slanderous and even physical attacks I have experienced over the years in ministry. It has reinforced the vision of God in my heart. One of our ministries at Life is serving and ministering to the marginalized of our inner city in which we feed over 700 meals a week at our Soul Café. We have a daily AA Meeting, and a number of other Groups that serve these people practically, legal aid, accommodation, counseling and care. We have a vision to increase this area but about 18 months ago a fight broke out with 2 of the clients. One was stabbed, as he lay their bleeding I was trying to stop the flow with my shirt as I spoke to him, but it

was a fatal stab wound, and he died in my hands within 10 minutes. I couldn't help but think, this is going to hurt us and our WFTD program. Funding and support started to dry up. It looked like we would have to reduce our program and put off staff. Some families left our church feeling it would be an unsafe place.

The truth is, when you work with volatile and fragile people on a daily basis things out of our control can happen. We don't live in a perfect world where nothing goes wrong. This is a surreal way of thinking some Christians live, thinking nothing bad will happen to us. These people should simply read the bible, it is full of shitty things happening but the great news is we have the God of heaven helping us and working with us.

I felt led to phone a good friend, he asked to state how much I needed to sustain the health of the program. I told him \$40,000; He sent it the next day. Since then He has sent another \$20,000 of which has caused us not only to sustain, but increase our program of which we are doing.

Remember all things work out for the good to those who love him and are called according to his purpose.

So keep loving him, stay in his plan and remember Paul's encouragement in Corinthians 15:58, *"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."*

Love

Kevin

Team Leader @ Life & Ozreach

## Encourage your leadership

One of the great things you can do to help leadership above you is encourage them.

This was a email I got from one of my leaders while we were in a staff meeting. Our secretary read it out to us, you could imagine the encouragement we all felt.

Thought I'd share it with you. Encourage and be encouraged.

### Keep Chopping that Wood

The other day I was in the gym wondering why the hell I was there! Can't beat father time; can't get strong enough to satisfy the inner man.

I was just finishing my session when a guy come up to me: his name is Colin Murphy. I know he was former Mr Australia and came 3rd in Mr olympia in the 90's. He nearly died three years ago from cancer. He went to jail for two years for a crime he didn't commit and has now received an official

pardon. He came up and said to me **"Keeping on choppin' that wood buddy!"**

I didn't straight away know what he meant, but I realised he was encouraging me to keep at it. Can't get perfect, just keep trying.

Kevin and Tracy have spent years trying, preaching, building churches and relationships: my friends, **keep chopping that wood!**

Gary and Margaret, 40 years of service to God: **keep chopping that wood!**

Nikki, years in the wilderness, now great woman of God, **keep chopping that wood!**

Donna and Mark, servants and pastoral leaders, **keep chopping that wood!**

Ted, lost, found and a new person, **keep chopping that wood!**

All of the staff at Life; **keep chopping that wood!**

I'm sitting here in my hotel room, wondering what the hell am I doing helping my client who tomorrow faces the law and the community in answer to those terrible pedophile charges. He's not got a friend in the world. Jesus said that if anyone causes a child to sin they should be thrown into the pits of hell. Child sex crimes are so wrong.

Jesus, where are you in all this?

I can hear him now: Jesus says to me as clear as anything **"Keep chopping that wood brother!"**

That's encouragement, direct from God.

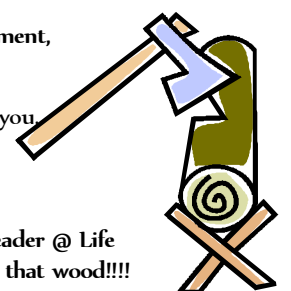
Thanks for all of you.

Cheers

Mark Ramsland

Lawyer & team leader @ Life

Ps **Keep choppin' that wood!!!!**





# GlobeReach Conference and Ministry Trips

**Cambodia** 21-25th July 2008  
Contact Kevin Wilcock  
info@lifechurch.org.au

**India** October 2008  
Contact: Colin Hedges  
Colinhedges@optusnet.com.au

**Indonesia** 13-18th October 2008  
Contact Kevin Wilcock  
info@lifechurch.org.au

**Philippines** Feb 2009  
Contact Ken Gibson  
khgibson@idx.com.au  
(02) 4951 7445

**Philippines** 27th Oct to 5th Nov 2008  
Youth Camp, Contact: Brendon Elliott  
on Ph: 0422 463 488 or  
Email: Brendan@sccc.com.au

Anyone wanting to go on a mission please contact the Leader on the contact numbers provided.

## Leaders forums on the Emerging Church

There is a small group of leaders who are involved in currently or who are very much exploring the emerging church transition. There will be forums held where we can engage, discuss and enjoy what God is doing in our journey!

The agenda is simply to interact discuss, hash out, provide your experience and frustrations and questions. To share where we are at and where we might like to go as leaders in this special time to be alive.

There will be limited numbers so if you would like to come along please contact the following people at varying locations.

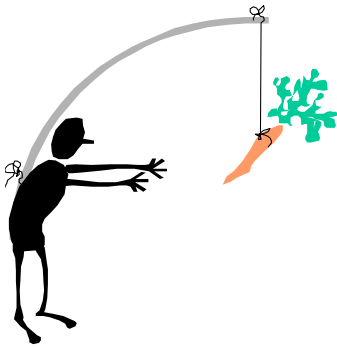
**Newcastle**  
Monday 2nd June from 10am - 12pm  
15 Denison St, Newcastle West  
Ph: Brent Leggett 0408 826 455

**Sydney**  
Ph: Michael McGarrity 0419 277 916  
28th May 2008 and 25th June 2008

**Sunshine Coast**  
13th June 7:00pm to 9:00pm.  
The penny farthing pub at Montville  
Ph Dave Fenton 0432 272 356

**Brisbane**  
Saturday 14th June  
10am to 12pm at 3 Monkeys Café  
Ph: Dave Fenton 0432 272 356

## Rules on Engagement



*Here are some of the rules of engagement we have at our forum.*

*Light heartedness. You don't have to prove anything. You're not under attack. It's not a competition. If you're the brunt of the joke... laugh!*

*Daring - to think and speak outside the box - Humbly blunt.*

*Healthy debate - pushing the arguments out to the extremities so as to maximize the chances of finding the truth or a liberating idea.*

*Sincerely student - the places where I'm wrong are my best chance for change.*

*Brent Leggett*

## Connecting to OzReach

**Connecting to OzReach**  
People always ask what OzReach is about and how can we connect. OzReach is simply a friendship of ministers, churches and ministries.

### There are 2 ways to Connect to OzReach.

#### 1. Becoming part of Ozreach

Because we are more than just a friendship of ministers there is actually a strong call on Ozreach to train and release leaders and vision to plant and parent churches both nationally and globally. Because of this mandate we need a partnership of committed leaders and churches that will give financially, release leadership to the bigger picture.

#### What does being part of Ozreach involve?

Doing things together-there are a number of things we can do together, such as; Missions, church planting, special conferences, connecting relating and supporting one another

Becoming financially involved-There are no dues or fees connected with Ozreach, only the opportunity to give to support the vision of where we're going and what we're doing.

Releasing your people and resources, so that together we can make a difference. When you become part of something bigger than yourself and church you learn that releasing people for the bigger picture is part of the process of fulfilling the great commission.

#### 2. Relating to Ozreach

Because we believe Ozreach is just a part of the Kingdom of God. There will always be a space for ministers and leaders that just want to relate to draw from or build into without any expectation to have to join.

#### How can I relate to Ozreach

Through conferences, forums, leadership days and personally connecting to a relating Ozreach church leadership.

#### Postal Address:

P.O. Box 2021 Dangar  
NSW 2309

Phone & Fax: 02) 4961 0211  
Email: info@lifechurch.org.au  
Web: www.ozreach.org

Check out for all Info

# www.ozreach.org

Only 8 Tickets Available until June

# 24HR EXPRESS @ LIFE

**NEXT ONE WILL BE ON THE 18TH & 19TH JULY.  
PLAYING AT SOAPBOX WILL BE THE BODACIOUS COWBOYS.  
KIM HAMMOND AND KEVIN WILL BE SHARING AFTER THE BREAKFAST**

Ministers Getaway - 24hr express is a 24hr experience that will show you how a church can reach in to the higher levels of society and down to the lower levels. This program is simply to help ministers think outside of the box, to do church differently, and to reach into the grassroots of society. For more information and accommodation suggestions please refer to the attached brochure or contact Life Church office on 4961 0211 or Kevin Wilcock on 0407 467 798.



## LEADERSHIP & MINISTRY MANUAL

Kev's new 400 page manual which he has been writing for the last 20 years is finally available to purchase for \$30.00  
Ph 4961 0211 or email [info@lifechurch.org.au](mailto:info@lifechurch.org.au)  
Kev also has 20 cd packs available

# Generations



*A fresh prophetic gathering confronting transitional challenges of the 21st century culture.  
Friday the 8th to Sunday the 10th of August 2008. Café Church port Stephens.*



## Building a life of FAITH

**Whatever the church emerges into,  
one thing is for certain faith, will be required.**

Speakers:  
Margaret Court  
Col Stringer  
Kevin Wilcock  
Kim Hammond  
2nd to 4th October 2008  
@ Life Church

# Re-Imagine

Re-Imagine is a one yr internship involving coaching, education, challenging and empowering a particular kind of leader – one appropriate for the task of planting or transitioning a church or a ministry in a first world setting.

Re Imagine is designed and shaped for you and your particular setting and situation.

Cost \$1000.00 per person or \$1500.00 per couple.

Where: Monthly coaching will be in your local area. The internship will involve travelling to Sydney and Melbourne for conferences and group activities.

For more info call Fred 0412 284 710