

Sunday Education
Bible 201
November 10, 2024

Revisiting our vision-how we arrived here, what we're doing and what we should be doing

In regard to pop culture, I used to like rereading books to best understand all the nuances of the story, the characters, the author and his/her inspiration and rationale for writing

These days, I read fewer books but I kind of have a similar practice with favored movies or TV shows. Let's focus on tv shows for the sake of multiple seasons, the serial component and depth of characterization: there are 2 shows that I regularly view repeatedly: The Office and 24. I might start watching an episode and recall something interesting or forget how a situation occurs which prompts me to rewatch older and other episodes to better recall the who, how and even the why

I've had an assignment from Bruce concerning the quality/content of the website that I'm going to pass on to Steve for different reasons (It will inform Steve that this group has received intensive and advanced Scripture training about our responsibilities, roles and reason(s) for what we're doing

We're discussing Vision over the next few weeks, especially as the local Richmond group may be moving into a new location. My questions for us and you individually are:

- ❖ **WHY ARE WE MOVING?**
- ❖ **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF LEASING A BUILDING?-Kathy**
- ❖ **HOW WILL WE BE DIFFERENT THAN WHAT WE WERE BEFORE OR EVEN NOW?-Gene**

We need to be/become a worship group (church of the Big Serve)

Because of the motley nature of this crew, attracting and maintaining has proved almost impossible.

This group has attempted partnering, giveaways, publicity and importing talent

We have experienced the most lasting and distinguished success by serving others, which has mostly been forgotten because it seems like so long ago

We determined the above practices were highly and hilariously ineffectual for us.

We need to give ourselves away. And when we have, we experienced the most successful Kingdom endeavors.

Coffee House Approach-initially, not a revenue generating activity. Give good coffee drinks to those requesting one. The idea here is to welcome with something desirable without compromising the Gospel-**ESTABLISH A BUDGET**

Lunch/Food-Plan for it. Make it a priority as opposed to a Saturday rush issue. If you put it on your weekly calendar as a priority, then you'll do it even if no one else does. (Consider bringing your [Fellowship] sacrifice to our weekly service.) Steve is currently practicing this now with the weekly worship at his home that only had Sherri in attendance this past week.

External Outreach/Service-Plan for a predictable weekly/monthly service event. Even if only one of you able to successfully participate, this can become a priority that can develop momentum-**ESTABLISH A BUDGET**

Jesus Encounters-these should occur out of the abundance of your joy for Jesus and your appreciation of life. Not as a hostage, unpleasant assignment that you HAVE to do because you're going to be asked about your progress. This activity could generate visitors as you purposely invite people to join you for worship

Length of Gathering-I don't know what this will look like but refrain from practicing, encouraging and teaching participants to rush to get away or schedule to do the next thing on their checklists. Model and demonstrate and anticipation and joy of gathering together for worship

Service Elements-Be authentic and include stuff that is normative and not stilted

Music-truly diverse songs that may be hymn or psalm based. New is much less important than accurate, heartfelt inspirational and memorable

Praying-An air of ease, spontaneity, multiple voices/less silence interval that is almost cheerful and inviting

- ✓ Everybody has full days
- ✓ Everybody is busy
- ✓ Everybody has priorities that aren't Interlink Fellowship

In looking back over 4 plus years of genuine discussion, interaction and deeply diving into the Bible and personal applications for each of us, it is a bit frustrating and saddening to appraise the content, look over our core membership and recognize that some of us remain in the very places we were when we embarked on this course

If you access our website and diligently review the content, you will discover that we have covered a great many topics to aid and support us becoming more mature Believers with better oriented Kingdom values/perspectives.

These were not developed and presented for the sake of substance creation and website population but to permit us to examine ourselves and set ourselves toward true Kingdom Ambassadorship