

“If All of Our People Would Tithe...”!

By Ken Love, FLCOG Health Coach

Forever we have heard that a church needs a vision, a call of God, a reason to give, to serve, to commit. Vision is really hard work. It means sitting with God, listening to the heart cries of the context (our communities) and seeing how the Lord might move thru us to expand His Kingdom.

What is also hard work is tying everything to vision; every decision, every expenditure, every song choice, every interaction, every children’s class, every small group, everything. Leaders lose vision like everyone else. We lose it in our busyness (so wrapped up in the what, we forget the why) and our blindness (not seeing it clearly ourselves). When the leaders lose vision the congregation stalls. The people go their own way, for one’s personal vision is better than no vision.

When the leaders lose vision and the congregation stalls, a natural result is the loss of finances and servants. Why give? Why sacrifice in serving? Okay, the Bible says so. Teaching obedience is HUGE! But so is VISION. Without vision, provision (the resources needed to get to the vision) will not come.

And here’s the key. When a church stalls, that often pushes the wrong buttons in leaders. Out of our inner fears and frustrations we leaders can begin to appeal to the wrong part of our people’s heart. That will sound like, “WE need YOU to give.” “If all of our people would tithe....”. “WE need more volunteers in our children’s department.” True as our needs may be, that language draws the arrows from the people to the body. This means the people hear they are not important. They are only seen as cash cows!

The people seem only to exist to serve the organization (and the leaders needs). But what if we as leaders approached with vision? What if it wasn’t our need (as leaders) but resources critical to the mission? What if we taught people to tithe so that they could walk in blessing! So they could be a part of a church that is transforming the lives of men and women. Serving to change a kid’s life. Investing in a teen for the sake of the God who loves them? How different would be our language if our heart was far more mission focused, far more committed to the vision the Lord has given us, and not to our own survival?

Resources and care should, of course go both ways. The church serves the people and the people join the larger mission. And when they join, resources flow... and lives change - both those being served and those who are doing the serving.

Linking the vision to every call, every resource challenge, every serving opportunity is hard work. But once we do, we call our church to a new level of living, a higher impact, a more fulfilled life. The people do not just serve the local organization (the church) they serve the mission of Jesus. Do they know how their giving, serving,

sacrifice connects to your vision? If my people are not serving and giving generously, maybe the question should be – “am I communicating vision!”