

## “BIG VISIONS: THEY’RE WHAT PEOPLE WILL SUPPORT!”

*Dear Friend,*

Jesus is someone who will always be too much for us! His vision spans the world and the ages, and in fact, all of creation. He didn’t tell his followers to “Go into Jerusalem” or “Go into Judea,” but instead to “Go into the whole world and make disciples of all nations!”

And this big, bold, challenging vision is one that calls forth the best of our imaginations, creativity, and efforts. In fact, this vision, as all great visions do, thrills us and energizes us. Paraphrasing scripture, “Where there is no vision, the people perish; where there is bold vision, the people are alive!” Or, as the architect Daniel Burnham said, “Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work!”

Over the years I have worked with leaders with great dreams and imaginations who were constantly “casting the vision.” Leaders of great vision attract great efforts and sacrifices; leaders with little vision are usually part of a dying community. Believe me, I know it’s easy to lose our sense of vision. All leaders can get bogged down in paying bills, payroll, office and community disagreements, crumbling buildings, etc. It is imperative that leaders and staff go to their inspirational sources every day and every week, to be refreshed in the Spirit and in Jesus’s big vision of the Kingdom of God.

I can think of a some leaders that inspired people with their visions. I’m sure you can, too! Here are some that come to mind.

**A Church in New York City** – I know of a church in New York that wanted to “bring Christ to the world and the world to Christ.” They wanted to send missionaries around the world, plant churches in Africa, send medical missionaries to South America, and partner with sister churches in Asia. This church of 10,000 people, with a yearly income of \$10 million, ran a capital campaign for \$180 million or 18 times its Sunday income! This kind of enthusiasm and support is only possible when leaders have big visions.

**Secular Leaders** – Think of some of the leaders of our country. Think of Lincoln’s vision to see all men and women live free; of Teddy Roosevelt’s vision to establish the national parks; of Franklin Roosevelt’s vision to address the destitution of people in the Great Depression and to mobilize the country for World War II; of Eisenhower’s vision to build the Interstate Highway System; and of Kennedy’s challenge to America to go to the moon by the end of the decade. In one noteworthy illustration, the great car companies of Detroit were being mobilized for World War II. When the leaders of Ford Motor Company came in to see Franklin Roosevelt, they came with plans to convert to bomber production and build 100 bombers a day. Roosevelt crossed out 100 and wrote 1,000! And the people of Ford Motor built 1,000 bombers a day!

In my experience, a good number of pastors, principals, and leaders start out with visions and plans that are too timid. If they are going to put together a great vision and some great plans, they must think bigger!

As you make your plans, go to the big, bold example of Jesus and of the leaders that inspire you. For starters, you might make your plans 10 times larger than they currently are! Then, you’ll get your people’s attention and you’ll capture their hearts and imaginations. Your people know what’s important and what’s not; and they will respond generously with their time and resources to big, bold visions and dreams!

**Vision questions? Capital campaign questions? Contact Mark Filips and VisionWorks today at 402.999.2970 or [markf@VisionWorksCo.com](mailto:markf@VisionWorksCo.com) for expert advice with your needs!**