

## VISION 2023

*Proverbs 29:18 (MKJV) Where there is no vision, the people perish; but he who keeps the law, he is blessed.*

*Proverbs 29:18 (NIV) Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction.*

*Proverbs 29:18 (ESV) Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.*

This scripture highlights the importance of a vision in the life of an individual, family, or organisation.

The absence of a God ordained message, or true preaching of the word, people become idle, people are preoccupied with mundane things of this world, people stop performing good works, people become ungovernable and begin to rebel against God and authority.

This also happens when people are in the presence of a God inspired message but choose to ignore it.

It is catastrophic for a life lived without a vision – *“The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision”* - Helen Keller<sup>1</sup>

- It gives me great joy to take time to unpack the vision of Go church and I am so excited that you have come to be educated and hopefully to be inspired to run with it.
- Whenever God wants to do a work, He calls a visionary and puts people around the vision bearer to assist him in bringing about the vision to life.
- To bring a dream and a vision to reality, everyone needs to be fully engaged and committed to the vision at hand.
- God gives one vision, and it is important that we all rally behind the vision.
- This morning, I want to talk to you on the subject matter, **HANDLE THE VISION LIKE IT MATTERS.**
- Until everyone sees the value behind a vision, that vision remains a pipe dream.
- You give yourself to what matters – parents give everything for their child because he/she matters to them, couples handle their marriages with care because it matters to them, men handle their cars with much care because they matter to them.

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<sup>1</sup> an American author, disability rights advocate, political activist and lecturer

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- The same thing applies to the vision at Go church – the day that it becomes a matter of life and death for us, we will handle it as such.
- We must ask ourselves whether this vision really matters to us – the answer to that question determines how you will handle yourself.
- There is something about politicians – they give everything for their ideologies, no matter how skewed the ideas are.
  
- Firstly, I want to unpack the broader vision of Go church, dealing with who we are and there after I want to unpack what we are about this year.
- If someone should come to you today and ask you “what are you guys all about at go church?”, would you be in a position to explain it.
- If you cannot tell someone who we are at Go church, then we have a problem. It reflects how I have failed to clearly articulate the vision of the church.

### **WHAT IS THE MISSION OF GO CHURCH?**

To be a movement of God-honouring believers progressively discipling nations by communicating and demonstrating the Kingdom of God.

#### **1. WHO ARE WE?**

##### **A MOVEMENT OF GOD HONOURING BELIEVERS**

- This is our identity, this is what distinguishes us from another church down the road, this is what draws certain people to this church and this is what repels others from this church?

#### **2. WHAT DO WE DO?**

##### **WE PROGRESSIVELY DISCIPLE NATIONS TO BECOME GOD HONORING**

- When Jesus left the earth, He left us a clear instruction – I am sorry to say that it was not to make money, it was not to build beautiful auditoriums, it was not to make a name for ourselves, it was not to be the most popular church in the community. **IT WAS TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS.**

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## **3. HOW DO WE DO IT?**

### **BY COMMUNICATING AND DEMONSTRATING THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**

- When you communicate, you present relevant information that is useful to a situation – at go, we teach the word with clarity and simplicity.
- The main grace over go church is the grace to effectively teach the scriptures – we believe in communicating the kingdom of God.
- You might not find a lot of shouting and screaming around here but you will find solid food – you will be taught principles in the word line upon line.

## **4. HOW IS THE VISION EXPRESSED**

The vision at Go church is expressed through the following 5 pillars:

- Making Disciples
- Building Families
- Raising Leaders
- Transforming Society
- Establishing Churches

In one line, the identity of Go Church can be summed up as follows;

## **GOD HONOURING IN ALL**

- An organization cannot run with efficiency unless it knows what the end is.
- In the absence of a compelling vision people will give up, people will be confused and demotivated.
- The vision of Go church is to raise God-honouring believers who progressively disciple nations.
- The key there is to progressively disciple nations.
- There is absolutely no way we can disciple nations unless we reach nations for Jesus. This church will thrive the moment it engages this matter of discipling nations and make them God honoring in the process.
- As the year of 2022 came to an end, the Lord started laying things in my heart and one of them that came strongly to my heart was the need for the church to go back to the basics – the need to refocus on the main mandate of the church.
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## WHAT IS 2023 ALL ABOUT?

- Allow me to introduce the theme for 2023 – this theme is tied on the hip with the mission of Go church.
- This theme for 2023 is **LOVE TO REACH AND REACH TO LOVE**
- So what do we mean by saying LOVE TO REACH AND REACH TO LOVE:
- We are saying that make a deliberate decision to love being a witness of Jesus Christ. Love want Christ loved and still love to do – it is to reach the nations.
- When you love something, you will go out of your way in order to express that love.
- Christ loved you to the point of death.
- In 2023, we are going back to the basics, whereby we are passionately involved with touching the next person.
- What will be the anchor scripture for this theme?

*Acts 1:6 Then, indeed, these coming together, they asked Him, saying, Lord, do You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel? 7 And He said to them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 But you shall receive power, the Holy Spirit coming upon you. And you shall be witnesses to Me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

- I could have gone straight to verse 8 but I felt it important to start from verse 6 to highlight how important it is that we are not sidetracked by side shows.
- The disciples were being sidetracked by issues of timing and the restoration of their comfort so to speak. Jesus had to pull them back to what was of importance to them.
- Jesus was reminding them that His death and resurrection was all about the souls of people and not the comfort and emancipation of the Jewish nation.
- If we are not careful, we will get bogged down with day-to-day issues of life and lose sight of the bigger picture.
- At the center of this theme is this *“What are we willing to do to reach people outside the church and outside the faith?”*
- **When we say love to reach, we mean:**
  - Commit to reaching people

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- Make time to reach people
- Make meaningful sacrifices to reach people for God
- Lay down your life for the souls that Jesus laid down His life for.
- When we talk about reach to love, we mean:
  - Love without action is not love.
  - You move from just loving to do something to putting action to your love.
  - This is faith with works and love that can be seen.
- In embracing a vision, you have three levels of commitment:
  - 1st level – the person likes the vision and enjoys eating of it (these are consumers or arm chair revolutionaries)
  - 2nd level – the person likes the vision, enjoys eating of it and is prepared to give towards it (when it is convenient this person gives small change, this person contributes towards a church program).
  - 3rd level – the person likes the vision, enjoys eating of it, is prepared to give towards it and prepared to lay down his life for it.
- I don't know at what level you are at – I believe most of you have gone to the 2nd level. I am praying for us so that we can move onto level 3.
- When a church reaches level 3, that church becomes unstoppable and can achieve much for the kingdom of God – they become more like Jesus who laid down His life for the sheep.

### **HOW TO LIVE “THE LOVE TO REACH TYPE OF LIFE”**

1. You cultivate non-believing friendships. You pray for them by name.
2. Your heart aches when no visitors come to church.
3. Your heart aches when there are no new salvations.
4. Small groups are attractive to new people, and they get outside the walls of their meeting place to make a difference in their city.
5. You want to know how to evangelize - The church provides personal evangelism training—and members attend. They look forward to the training because they genuinely want to be prepared to tell the gospel.
6. You are always on the lookout for how to reach people.
7. You are excited about participating in outreach programs.
8. You are committed to inviting people to church – what has been your reasons for not inviting people to church.

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9. The church is welcoming to new people – you want every new person to feel welcome and loved.
10. Prayer meetings focus more on non-believers and the unchurched than on church members. They still deal with personal needs, but they're not the primary focus of the prayers.