## DEVELOPING A VISION-EXERCISE ONE



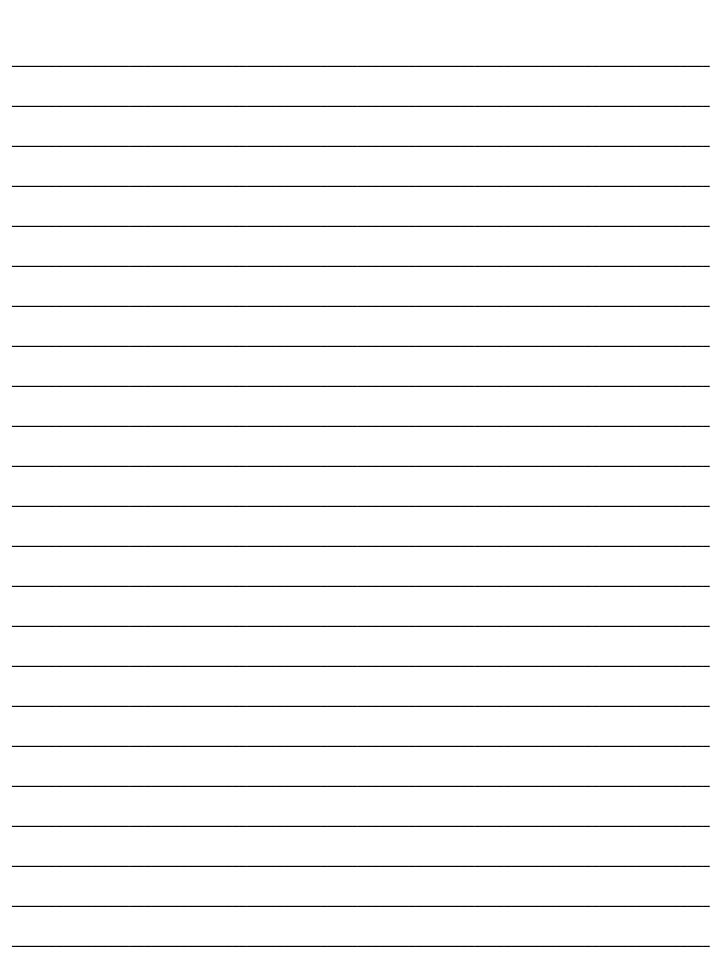
The first step in developing a vision for your ministry is to prayerfully imagine the potential of your ministry without restraint or restriction. Don't focus on the limitations of facilities, resources, budgets, or volunteers. If we truly believe God can do anything, we must honor him by allowing the Holy Spirit to enable us to see beyond our present situation.

Take this full sheet of paper, use extra if you need to, and begin to write out what you'd love to see in a ministry that is fully accomplishing what you believe would please God. Don't start by trying to come up with a pithy or catchy short vision statement. Start by jotting down everything that comes to mind. Run-on sentences are acceptable!

Some people call this a brain-dump. I'd prefer to call it a heart-deposit. Just put down everything that is on your heart for your ministry. Take as much time and space as you need, and try to cover as much as possible. Narrow it down later, but for now just put it all down. There may be a hidden nugget.

While you can also do this exercise on computer, I recommend writing by hand. The pace of writing can at times be in better sync with your thoughts than typing. This can help you better capture your thoughts. The next page can be reproduced as many times as needed for capturing your visionary thoughts.

Ready? Take time to pray, and then start dreaming and writing. Go!				



## **DEVELOPING A VISION-EXERCISE TWO**

Once you have put your many thoughts and ideas and dreams down on paper, you are ready to move on to the next step. It's time to start marking it up!

Get a highlighter or colored pen and go back through what you wrote. Read it several times and circle or highlight key phrases or words that stand out.

- Perhaps there are words that reoccur in different contexts.
- Perhaps there is a sentence that resonates with you.
- Look for words that are unique to your ministry, location, demographic, or culture.

low, jot down the key words, phrases, themes, or ideas that you highlighted. These will	
m the structure of your vision. Before many tall buildings go up, you'll see that steel	
me begin to form, and it gives you a good idea of the type of building that will soon starere. Like that steel frame, your vision's structure will soon support the entire ministry.	nd

## DEVELOPING A VISION-EXERCISE THREE

Take all those heart-felt prayers, ideas, dreams, and creative thoughts that you narrowed down to key ideas and concepts. Then, translate them into a stated vision that you can champion to the volunteers and families at your church. Be sure to share your drafts with some friends who are good at editing. What may make perfect sense to you could be confusing to someone else. You are painting with broad strokes, so you don't need to include everything, but you don't want to be so broad that your vision would describe any ministry. It needs to describe your ministry at your church.

Write three completely different vision statements, then choose your favorite, perhaps borrowing parts of the others, and start to finalize what the end result will be.

Draft One		
Draft Two		
Draft Three		
Now Put it All Together		