

RETHINKING / REVISIONING YOUR WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Is it time to take a hard look at where your women's ministry has been and where it needs to go in the future? Then it's time to rethink and revision!

Where there is no vision, the people perish. Proverbs 29:18

**Baptist Convention of New York
Women's Ministry**

6538 Baptist Way
East Syracuse NY 13057
800.552.0004

cmeyer@bcnysbc.org



Evaluate your current ministry status

QUESTIONS TO ASK

How would you describe your current women's ministry?

Have you asked other women in your church to describe it?

If you could describe what you "want" the ministry to be, what would it be?

What obstacles stand in your way?

Do you think you have a distorted view? Why or why not?

What steps do you need to take in order to make your vision happen?

Do all the women in your church see themselves as part of your women's ministry? Why or why not?

How has God revealed His desire for your women's ministry? Verse?

*"If your vision is for a year, plant wheat.
If your vision is for ten years, plant trees.
If your vision is for a lifetime, plant people."
Chinese Proverb*



What does God's word say to us?

BIBLICAL LOOK AT A VISION CASTER: NEHEMIAH

Chapter One:

Nehemiah saw the need. You must see the need. How do you respond? Nehemiah fasted and prayed. He sought the Lord first.

Chapter Two:

Nehemiah made a plan. He asked permission from those in authority over him. He then inspected the walls. He identified with those he led and he recognized those who resisted change.

Chapter Three:

The gates were divided. Different people were involved and worked together toward one common goal. Repairs started close to their home.

Chapter Four:

Opposition occurred and people got tired in the midst of their work.

Chapter Five:

Nehemiah dealt with injustices and he helped those in need.

Chapter Six and Seven:

Completion happened and God received the glory! Big job, few people, short amount of time. Result? A reborn community.

*"Visioneering = Inspiration + Conviction
+ Action + Determination + Completion"*
Andy Stanley



The Three Major Parts of Vision

WHAT IS VISION?

What Is Vision?

- It is a clearly painted picture of a preferred future.
- Vision is emotional. There is no such thing as emotionless vision.
- Vision is motivational. Vision driven people are motivated people.
- Vision has direction. Direction simplifies decision-making.
- Vision is purposeful. Vision gives you reason to get up in the morning.

Stages to a Vision:

- Vision begins with dissatisfaction. Where is your dissatisfaction?
- Pray first—make sure it's God's vision and not your own.
- Investigate before you initiate.
- Honor the past before moving into the future. Who do you need to meet with?
- Cast vision to the right people at the right time.
- Don't expect others to take greater risks or make greater sacrifices than you (speed of the leader, speed of the team)
- Vision bleeds. You must revisit if often.
(see next page for *Building Blocks of Vision*)

The Vision Caster

- Know your audience and your culture. Think like a missionary.
- State the current reality—validate hard work.
- Paint a preferred future in “Technicolor”
- Speak from your heart—This is why I’m here. I believe God is in this.
- Use Scripture to support it.
- Share stories to support it.
- Ask your women to join you!



An Expanded Look at the Stages

BUILDING BLOCKS OF VISION

Building Blocks of Vision

- A vision begins as a concern.
- A vision does not necessarily require immediate action.
- Pray for opportunities and plan as if you expect God to answer your prayers.
- God is using your circumstances to position and prepare you to accomplish His vision for your life.
- What God originates, He orchestrates.
- Walk before you talk; investigate before you initiate.
- Communicate your vision as a solution to a problem that must be addressed immediately.
- Cast your vision to the appropriate people at the appropriate time.
- Don't expect others to take greater risks or make greater sacrifices than you have.
- Don't confuse your plans with God's vision.
- Visions are refined—they don't change; plans are revised—they rarely stay the same.
- Respond to criticism with prayer, remembrance, and if necessary, a revision of the plan.
- Visions thrive in an environment of unity; they die in an environment of division.
- Abandon the vision before you abandon your moral authority.
- Don't get distracted.
- There is divine potential in all you envision to do.
- The end of a God-ordained vision is God.
- Maintaining a vision requires adherence to a set of core beliefs and behaviors.
- Visions require constant attention.
- Maintaining a vision requires bold leadership.

"Vision is the art of seeing things invisible."

Jonathan Swift



How do you keep it going?

MAKING VISION STICK

Take Responsibility
State the Vision Simply
Cast the Vision Convincingly
Repeat the Vision Regularly
Celebrate the Vision Systematically
Embrace the Vision Personally

Next Steps:

- Consider your purpose statement again.
- Meet with others and dream!
- Are your ideas good ideas or God ideas?
- What needs to happen in the next month, next year, next five years?
- What happens to the vision if you leave?

*"If it's a mist in the pulpit,
it's a fog in the pew."*
Howard Hendricks