

## DREAMS FOR THIS CHURCH

### Int.

1. Aim: To give some dreams for this congregation and what attitudes it would take to see them fulfilled!
2. Joseph was called a dreamer.
  - a. Gen. 37:11 v. 19 "Behold, this dreamer cometh."
  - b. His dreams came true - his family bowed down to him. - Gen.42:6-9
3. We need dreamers in the church today.
  - a. Not in the same way Joseph dreamed
  - b. One definition of the word Dream is: "A goal or purpose ardently desired, IDEAL."  
(Web. p.253) "To consider as a possibility; imagine. "To conceive as possible, fitting, or proper."
4. The church needs dreamers, planners, men of vision
  - a. A principle of success - "He who fails to plan, plans to fail."
  - b. Pro. 29:18 "Where there is no vision, the people perish:" Vision = a dream, revelation
  - c. People are happier when challenged!
  - d. Vision "The act or power of imagination." (Web. p.994)
  - e. The reason some people complain so much is from the pain in their neck from looking backward. - Phil. 3:13-14
  - f. Vision anticipates solutions to problems and opportunities - plan ahead - "It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark."

5. Dreams or Visions for this congregation
  - a. 200 + members - faithful in attendance and living
  - b. More Elders and Deacons
  - c. Baptizing one person every week
  - d. Improved educational program - with more teachers and classes. Waiting list for teachers to take their turn.
  - e. Helping spread gospel - supporting mission works - one specific mission point - broadcasting over internet to churches without a preacher or to people unable to attend
  - f. Helping people in need - bigger benevolence program
6. What do we need to do to realize these dreams?

## Discussion

### I. A GRATEFUL CHURCH

- A. Thanksgiving is a command
  1. Col. 3:17 "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him"
  2. 1 Thes. 5:18 "in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
- B. We have so much for which we should be thankful
  1. Material blessings - Matt. 6:33
  2. Family - Pro. 18:22 "He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the LORD." Children

3. Spiritual blessings - Eph. 1:3
4. The Church of our Lord throughout the world - Matt. 16:18
5. Evans Church of Christ
  - a. All the members
  - b. Elders / Deacons
  - c. The Bible class teachers
  - d. Those who lead in worship
  - e. Those who help in any way
- C. Illustration. — Thankfulness— “The Pigs Don't express thankfulness”

## **II. A FAITHFUL CHURCH**

- A. WHERE EVERY MEMBER KNOWS, BELIEVES, & OBEYS THE BIBLE
- B. Lack of Knowledge Destroys - Hos. 4:6 “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”
- C. Commanded to Know -
  1. Eph. 5:17 “Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”
  2. I Pet.3:15
- D. Must Study - II Tim. 2:15 - Jn. 5:39
- E. Jesus makes a difference in our life. - Acts 4:13 “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.”

F. A faithful Church will be a Praying Church

1. The early church started praying and continued to do so! While waiting in Jerusalem - Acts 1:14 "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren."
2. Stedfastly - Acts 2:42 "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."
3. Pray for boldness - Acts 4: 23-31
4. Peter in Prison - Acts 12:5

G. Fervent Prayer is necessary - Col. 4:12 "always remembering you earnestly in his prayers,"

### **III. A LOVING CHURCH**

A. OVERFLOWING WITH PEOPLE WHO LOVE OTHERS

B. Mark of discipleship -

1. Jn. 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."
2. I Jn. 3:14

C. Seen in Action - I Jn. 3:16-18 - love in deed and truth

D. A loving Church is one that helps people

1. Pure religion - Jas. 1:27
2. All Men - Gal. 6:2
3. Illustration - Benevolence - "Hunting Another Boy"

#### **IV. A SOUL SAVING CHURCH**

- A. This was the emphasis in the early church
  - 1. Jesus was hunting for fishers of men - Mt. 4:19
  - 2. Church - Acts 5:42, 8:4
- B. We must be aware of the mission of the church
  - 1. Preach - seek - save Luke 19:10 Mark 16:15,16
  - 2. We are not a worshiping society
  - 3. Illustration - Soul Winning "Soldier-Watch Repairs"
- C. Soul- Saving Involves
  - 1. Teaching - II Tim. 2:24-25
  - 2. Encouraging - I Thes. 5:11
  - 3. Restoring - Gal. 6:1 "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted."

#### **V. A STEDFAST CHURCH**

- A. THAT IS STEDFAST, UNMOVABLE - NOT EASILY DISCOURAGED
- B. Always doing the Lord's work - regardless of immediate results
  - 1. 1 Cor. 15:58 "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."
  - 2. Gal. 6:9 "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."
- C. Stedfast in the doctrine - II John 9

## **CONCLUSION**

1. Dreams for this church:
  - a. 200 + members - faithful in attendance and living
  - b. More Elders and Deacons
  - c. Baptizing one person every week
  - d. Improved educational program - with more teachers and classes. Waiting list for teachers to take their turn.
  - e. Helping spread gospel - supporting mission works - one specific mission point - broadcasting over internet to churches without a preacher or to people unable to attend
  - f. Helping people in need - bigger benevolence program
2. Summary of things we must do to reach these goals
  - a. Education - Matt. 28:19-20
  - b. Dedication - Rom. 12:1-2
  - c. Motivation - Col. 3:2
3. Will you help reach these goals ?
4. Purpose - to give Glory and honor to God
  - a. Souls saved
  - b. Stronger - faithful congregation