



CORE VALUES

A PRIMER FOR THE

MISSION AND

FIRST STEPS IN THE CHURCH
PLANTING PROCESS

VISION STATEMENTS

A GUIDE FOR

CHURCH EXTENSION MINISTRIES

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

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Note: The Addendums have been taken from Appendices J, K, L, N, O & P contained in “The Nuts and Bolts of Church Planting” by Aubrey Malphurs, Baker Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2011. Used by permission.



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INTRODUCTION

Church planting is a process, and in order to know where you are going and allow those who form your team to appreciate where the church plant is going, the planter needs to lead his team through a *first step* process of developing the church plant's core values, mission statement, and vision statement.

The Core Values of a church plant are essential to the process of planting and foundational to the planning of a future particular BFC church. Core Values answer the question, *what are we all about*. The term passion is notably connected to values. We must be passionate about our values in order to know who we are and not lose sight of God's leading.

The Mission of a church plant and its Mission Statement focuses on the questions, *where are we heading, what is it that God wants us to do?* The Mission of a church plant will set the church plant in motion, heading in the direction it is supposed to go and where it is to end up. The Mission must be revisited often and must be communicated often to those in the church plant and those who want to be part of the plant.

The church is values driven and mission directed, plus it must know what kind of a church God wants to plant which leads to creating a Vision Statement for the church plant. Vision keeps the planter and his team pointing ahead, and this is vital in order to weather the struggles of planting, the ups and downs, and when planting becomes challenging. With a vision set forth for what the church will eventually be, there is hope, and it fuels the energy to keep moving forward.

Think of Core Values, Mission and Vision as the portrait of the church plant. You are first sketching on the canvas what the portrait is all about, and then you take your brush and begin picking your colors and textures to show where you are going with the interpretation, and finally you are putting on the finishing touches to show the completed picture.

This Primer is merely an introductory tool so that the planter can begin early on with the fleshing out of his church planting model and be able to bring people on board with him. This Primer should be used in correlation with Aubrey Malphurs' book, ***The Nuts and Bolts of Church Planting, chapters 5, 6, 7***. If you and your team read and follow Malphurs' explanations and process for creating your Core Values, Mission Statement and Vision Statement, you will end up with all three being well developed.

**Malphurs, Aubrey. *The Nuts and Bolts of Church Planting*.
Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2011.**

CORE VALUES

(Read Malphurs, Part 2 - Chapter 5, and Addendums #1-3 in this Primer)

Core Values need to be established at the beginning of your planting experience. Aubrey Malphurs in his book, *The Nuts and Bolts of Church Planting* (Note: All the Addendums to this Primer are taken from this book) explains the following reasons why Core Values are so important.

- 1. Values determine a church's ministry distinctives.**
- 2. Values dictate people's personal involvement in the church.**
- 3. Values communicate what's important.**
- 4. Values help people embrace positive change.**
- 5. Values affect the church's overall behavior.**
- 6. Values inspire people to action.**
- 7. Values enhance credible leadership.**
- 8. Values shape a ministry's character.**
- 9. Values contribute to ministry success.**

“Values are essential to effective leadership. They are the uncompromisable, undebatable truths that drive and direct behavior. They are motivational, giving us the reason *why* we do things; and they are restrictive, placing boundaries around behavior. Values are those things that we deem important and that provide direction and guidance in spite of our emotions... The first step in effective leadership is defining core values. Until that is done, the ship the leader is trying to steer has no rudder. Vision, mission, strategy and outcomes are difficult – if not impossible – to define until values are clear. Jesus knew that. Early in the process of developing his team of disciples, he forced them to confront this foundational issue. Matthew records Jesus' primer on values in Matthew 6:1-34.” (www.Bible.org/series/book-b?page=309)

The word passion has a significant connection to values. Normally what the planter is passionate about, he values. However, what the planter is passionate about and what he values may not be what other people are passionate about and what they value. It is strategically very important for the planter to have people on his team who are aligned with his passions and values. As time goes on the values of the planter and his team have to be communicated to those coming into the plant. Let newcomers know up front what the values of the plant are and if they can support the values, great, but if not it may be better for them to move on.

Martin Luther at the conclusion of his trial at the Diet of Worms concluded his defense with these words, “*Here I stand. I can do no other. So help me God.*” When we form our values statements, they are what we stand on and what drives our further mission to reach our vision (Philippians 1:21-24).

Assignments in “*Nuts and Bolts*”:

- 1. Study Chapter 5.**
- 2. Do the three step process for the planter's personal core values, pages 74-75.**
- 3. Write out a plan for communicating your core values to your team, pages 76-79.**
- 4. Meet with your team and present your values and discuss the team's alignment with your values.**

MISSION STATEMENT

(Read Malphurs, Part 2 - Chapter 6, and Addendum #4 in this Primer)

A good inquiry to make when it comes to core values is, *what are you doing about your values?* For example, *you say evangelism is your core value, then what are you doing about evangelism, who was saved recently, who last gave testimony in your plant of witnessing, or how many baptisms were there in the last year?* If you have a core value in place, you need to do something about it; that is Mission!

Core values deal with what the plant is all about and what is most important. The Mission and Mission Statement will direct the plant in where it is going and what it is to do about what it is passionate about. Again, here are points from Malphurs' book regarding the Mission (pg. 85).

- 1. The mission dictates the church's direction.**
- 2. The mission focuses on the church's function.**
- 3. The mission predicts the church's future.**
- 4. The mission provides the boundaries for decision making.**
- 5. The mission inspires ministry unity.**
- 6. The mission shapes the ministry's strategy.**
- 7. The mission enhances ministry effectiveness.**
- 8. The mission provides the church with a cause.**
- 9. The mission provides the church with a clear focus.**
- 10. The mission facilitates evaluation.**

The Mission Statement asks, *what are we to be doing based upon what we value?* A Mission Statement must line up with God's mission, i.e. to seek and save the lost, to make disciples, to build and expand His church, to do mercy, to love one another, etc.

Mission Statements begin in the mind of the church planter; however, they flow to the team for their input and discussion. A church plant's mission statement needs to prioritize evangelism. Whether it's making disciples, baptizing, seeing people transformed to Christ, maturing people in Christ, all this begins with evangelism. From evangelism comes conversion which necessitates disciple-making.

Assignments in "Nuts and Bolts":

- 1. Study Chapter 6.**
- 2. Do the four step process for the plant's mission development, pages 92-93.**
- 3. Write out a plan for communicating your mission to your team, pages 94-96.**
- 4. Meet with your team and present your Mission Statement and discuss with the team.**

VISION STATEMENT

(Read Malphurs, Part 2 - Chapter 7 & 8, and Addendums #5 & 6 in this Primer)

Now we come to the finish line question, *what will the church be or what kind of church is God going to plant through our efforts?* In a day and age where we are so caught up with the here and now, we might miss the portrait we envision for the church plant.

In coaching, the coach tries to keep the client focused on their goals and on where they dream of being in the future. The biggest hurdle to reaching what we visualize is when we are absorbed with the challenges and struggles that capture our attention in the present. A coaching guru once said that *there are no obstacles, only opportunities*. How much more should the Christian, and particularly the church planter, see every challenge and obstacle as an opportunity for God to work His work. With a Vision firmly in place, the planter and his team will keep moving forward toward finishing the race and seeing God's church planted.

Again, using Malphurs' book, here are points that reveal how important Vision is to the planter and his team (pg. 100).

- 1. Vision provides energy (for the core group).**
- 2. Vision fosters risk taking.**
- 3. Vision legitimizes leadership.**
- 4. Vision empowers the church.**
- 5. Vision sustains ministry.**
- 6. Vision motivates giving.**
- 7. Vision keeps the church looking forward.**

Vision will point the church forward and doesn't allow backward thinking or dwelling on those things that would blur the forward vision. Jesus and such Apostles like Paul pressed on with their mission toward reaching their vision. In Christ's case it was to make atonement for the sinner. In Paul's case it was to spread the Gospel and plant churches. Whenever someone or something tried to sidetrack them from their course, they got right back on their mission, holding their vision out in front of them and their disciples.

Many leaders get confused when it comes to what a Mission Statement is and what a Vision Statement should be. There is a difference between a Mission and Vision Statement and again, Malphurs' book does a good job of describing the difference.

Assignments in "Nuts and Bolts":

- 1. Study Chapter 7.**
- 2. Do the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Base exercises listed on pages 106-108.**
- 3. Write out a plan for communicating your vision to your team, pages 108-110.**
- 4. Meet with your team and present your Vision Statement and discuss with the team.**

ADDENDUM #1 - Church Core Values Audit

Directions: Using the scale below, circle the number that best expresses to what extent the following values are important to your church (actual values). Work your way through the list quickly, going with your first impression.

	1 Not Important	2 Somewhat Important	3 Important	4 Most Important
1. Family: The relationships between a husband and wife and their children	1	2	3	4
2. Biblical instruction: A familiarity with and desire to know the truths of Scripture	1	2	3	4
3. World missions: Spreading the gospel of Christ around the globe	1	2	3	4
4. Encouragement: Giving hope to people who at times need some hope	1	2	3	4
5. Giving: Providing a portion of one's finances to support the ministry	1	2	3	4
6. Fellowship: Relating to and spending time with others, especially people within the church	1	2	3	4
7. Leadership: A person's ability to influence others to pursue God's mission for the church	1	2	3	4
8. Cultural relevance: Communicating truth in a way that people who aren't like us understand	1	2	3	4
9. Prayer: Communicating with God	1	2	3	4
10. Excellence: Maintaining the highest ministry standards that bring glory to God	1	2	3	4
11. Evangelism: Telling others the Good News about Christ	1	2	3	4
12. Team ministry: A group of people ministering together	1	2	3	4
13. Creativity: Coming up with new ideas and ways of doing ministry	1	2	3	4
14. Worship: Attributing worth to God	1	2	3	4
15. Cooperation: The act of working together in the service of the Savior	1	2	3	4
16. Ministry/service: Christians actively involved and serving in the ministries of the church (a mobilized congregation)	1	2	3	4
17. Obedience: A willingness to do what God or others ask	1	2	3	4
18. Innovation: Making changes that promote the ministry as it serves Christ	1	2	3	4
19. Initiative: The willingness to take the first step or make the first move in a ministry situation	1	2	3	4
20. Community: The desire to reach out to the people who live within driving distance of the church (your Jerusalem)	1	2	3	4
21. Other values:	1	2	3	4

Note all the values that you rated with a 3 or 4. Rank these according to priority. The first six are your core values.

This page is taken from Appendix J, p. 237-238, "The Nuts and Bolts of Church Planting" by Aubrey Malphurs, Baker Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2011. Used by permission.

ADDENDUM #2 - *Personal Core Values Audit*

Directions

Using the scale below, circle the number that best expresses to what extent the following values are important to you (actual values). Work your way through the list quickly, going with your first impression.

	1 Not Important	2 Somewhat Important	3 Important	4 Most Important
1. Family: The relationships between a husband and wife and their children	1	2	3	4
2. Biblical instruction: A familiarity with and desire to know the truths of Scripture	1	2	3	4
3. World missions: Spreading the gospel of Christ around the globe	1	2	3	4
4. Encouragement: Giving hope to people who at times need some hope	1	2	3	4
5. Giving: Providing a portion of one's finances to support the ministry	1	2	3	4
6. Fellowship: Relating to and spending time with others, especially people within the church	1	2	3	4
7. Leadership: A person's ability to influence others to pursue God's mission for the church	1	2	3	4
8. Cultural relevance: Communicating truth in a way that people who aren't like us understand	1	2	3	4
9. Prayer: Communicating with God	1	2	3	4
10. Excellence: Maintaining the highest ministry standards that bring glory to God	1	2	3	4
11. Evangelism: Telling others the Good News about Christ	1	2	3	4
12. Team ministry: A group of people ministering together	1	2	3	4
13. Creativity: Coming up with new ideas and ways of doing ministry	1	2	3	4
14. Worship: Attributing worth to God	1	2	3	4
15. Cooperation: The act of working together in the service of the Savior	1	2	3	4
16. Ministry/service: Christians actively involved and serving in the ministries of the church (a mobilized congregation)	1	2	3	4
17. Obedience: A willingness to do what God or others ask	1	2	3	4
18. Innovation: Making changes that promote the ministry as it serves Christ	1	2	3	4
19. Initiative: The willingness to take the first step or make the first move in a ministry situation	1	2	3	4
20. Community: The desire to reach out to the people who live within driving distance of the church (your Jerusalem)	1	2	3	4
21. Other values:	1	2	3	4

Note all the values that you rated with a 3 or 4. Rank these according to priority. The first six are your core values.

This page is taken from Appendix K, p. 239-240, "The Nuts and Bolts of Church Planting" by Aubrey Malphurs, Baker Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2011. Used by permission.

ADDENDUM #3 - *Sample Core Values Statement*

Scripture

We believe that God's inerrant Word is our final authority for faith and practice (2 Tim. 3:16). This means that what we do is deeply theological. Therefore, we will use the Bible as the guide for our writing, consulting, training, and speaking ministries.

Church

We believe that Christ's church is the only hope for mankind (Matt. 16:18). Therefore, we have a passion to help churches—at home and abroad—discover and implement Christ's church-building process.

Leadership

We believe that leadership is the hope of the church (2 Tim. 2:2). Therefore, we serve primarily with those at staff and lay levels who have leadership gifts and abilities.

Great Commission

We are convinced that Christ's will and mission for His church is the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20). Therefore, we are committed to lead and equip churches to make and mature disciples at home and abroad.

Transformation

We believe that God's desire is to transform all His people into the likeness of His Son (Gal. 4:19; 5:22-23). This means that we challenge churches to change their forms but not their biblical functions to remain relevant to a lost and dying world (1 Chron. 12:32).

Creativity and Innovation

Our heavenly Father is a God of creativity (Genesis 1). Therefore, we challenge churches to be creative and innovative in what they do as they reach out to a lost and dying world while serving their constituents.

Excellence

Christians ultimately serve God, not men (Col. 3:23-24). Therefore, we seek to honor Him by maintaining a high standard of excellence in all our services for Him.

The Malphurs Group

This page is taken from Appendix L, p. 241-242, "The Nuts and Bolts *of* Church Planting" by Aubrey Malphurs, Baker Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2011. Used by permission.

ADDENDUM #4 - *Sample Missions Statements*

The following are mission statements that I've collected over the years. Some are great statements, some aren't so great, and some are included for the sake of levity. Regardless, they are here to help you understand better the mission concept and to come up with a mission statement that describes you and your planted church. I suggest that you read and critique them, using the information under the Development of the Mission Statement in chapter 6. Write down any that you like and think would fit your planted church.

- “Our mission is to turn irreligious people into fully devoted followers of Christ.”
- “Our mission is to lead unchurched people to become fully devoted followers of Christ.”
- “Our mission is to grow people into completely committed Christ-followers.”
- “We exist to know Christ and make him known.”
- “Our mission is to present Christ as Savior and pursue Christ as Lord.”
- “Our mission is to provide the best opportunity for people to become fully devoted followers of Christ.”
- “We exist to lead all people into a life-changing, ever growing relationship with Christ.”
- “Our mission is to see people become fully developing followers of Christ.”
- “Our mission is to lead ordinary people to extraordinary life in Christ.”
- “Our mission is to follow and make followers of Christ.”
- “Our mission is to passionately follow and make followers of Christ.”
- “Our mission is that every man, woman, and child in Greater Austin hear the gospel from the lips of someone at Hill Country Bible Church.”
- “We exist to develop all people into fully functioning followers of Christ.”
- “Our mission is to lead people into a growing relationship with Christ.”
- “Our mission is to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.”
- “Sharing Christ • Building Believers”
- “Reach • Build • Release”
- “Our mission is to connect the disconnected into a vital relationship with Jesus Christ.”
- “We exist to be used by God as he transforms people into disciples of Jesus Christ, here and around the world.”
- “Our mission is to meet people where they are and encourage them toward maturity in Christ.”
- “We exist to establish a church in Madrid that is radically devoted to God, relentlessly committed to authentic community, and remarkably passionate for lost people.”
- “We're a community of misfits transformed by Jesus to be a catalyst for loving people on the fringes of our culture.”

This page is taken from Appendix N, p. 247-248, “The Nuts and Bolts of Church Planting” by Aubrey Malphurs, Baker Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2011. Used by permission.

ADDENDUM #5 - *Vision Audit*

An important factor in developing a vision is your vision style. Your vision style is how you catch a vision.

Directions: From the choices a or b below, choose the one that best describes your preference.

1. I like courses that focus on
 - a) fact
 - b) theory
2. I prefer the company of
 - a) realistic people
 - b) imaginative people
3. People view me as
 - a) a practical person
 - b) an ingenious person
4. I like people best who
 - a) prefer the “tried and true”
 - b) come up with new ideas
5. People say that I am
 - a) conventional
 - b) unconventional
6. I like to pursue matters
 - a) in the accepted way
 - b) in my own unique way
7. I prefer
 - a) facts
 - b) ideas
8. I’m more comfortable with
 - a) certainty
 - b) theory
9. I like best
 - a) building things
 - b) inventing things
10. I am convinced that
 - a) seeing is believing
 - b) believing is seeing
11. I prefer
 - a) the concrete
 - b) the abstract
12. I am more comfortable with
 - a) the known
 - b) the unknown
13. I would prefer to be known as
 - a) a realist
 - b) a visionary
14. I like to think more about
 - a) what is
 - b) what could be
15. I’m more likely to trust
 - a) my experience
 - b) my intuition
16. I’m known as someone with
 - a) common sense
 - b) vision
17. I think it’s more important to
 - a) adjust to the facts
 - b) see possibilities
18. I prefer to
 - a) support established methods
 - b) address unsolved problems

Interpretation

Total the number of As you circled. Then total the number of Bs you circled. Which is the greater number?

The Vision Catcher

If you circled more As than Bs, you’re the type of leader who *catches* a vision by visiting another ministry and seeing it for yourself. You focus more on the present than the future.

Your vision style: *vision catcher*

The Vision Creator

If you circled more Bs than As, you’re the type of leader who *creates* a vision in your head. You focus primarily on the future and are a natural visionary.

Your vision style: *vision creator*

This page is taken from Appendix O, p. 249-251, “The Nuts and Bolts *of* Church Planting” by Aubrey Malphurs, Baker Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2011. Used by permission.

ADDENDUM #6 - *Sample Vision Statements*

Irving Bible Church

Our Dreams

About 10 years ago we developed a series of statements of what we dreamed IBC would become. The statements that follow have withstood the test of time and still reflect the heart of what is going on with IBC.

We dream of a church . . .

where the gospel is the underlying theme; where grace is accepted and extended; where the salvation of souls is the norm, not the exception; where love for people springs from love for God; where joy permeates the air; where people are one in spirit; where service is considered a privilege not a burden.

where people find real help, experience real change, and discover real answers; where marriages are healed and parents' hearts are turned toward their children; where destructive lifestyles, habits, addictions, and compulsions are forever jettisoned; where wasted lives are retrieved and new beginnings launched.

where God's Word is exalted in authority, studied with expectation, taught with relevance, heard with anticipation, and obeyed with passion; where the preaching is encouraging, positive, and practical.

where prayer is the undergirding and engulfing medium for all we do and for every initiative we take.

where people are free to attempt great things for God; where taking risks for his kingdom is an exalted virtue; where people have nothing to prove and therefore nothing to lose; where creativity and innovation are honored, not feared; where all kinds of people serve God in diverse ways with mutual love, encouragement, respect, and unity.

where people's hearts beat for God's work around the world; where impact is made on lives across the street and around the world; where short-term workers regularly go out to minister internationally and return with a world perspective.

where the challenge of nurturing new, cutting-edge ministries becomes reality; where past traditions form the foundations for launching new innovations, not the ball and chain to impede them; where hundreds of laymen and women are effectively trained and actually entrusted with the work of the ministry; where partnerships are formed by networking with other ministries to further the cause of Christ.

where the children and youth are nurtured in the faith; where they are made strong in their ability to serve the Lord and stand for him in their world.

where God is worshiped joyfully and reverently; where the music is Christ-honoring and relevant; where worship is a significant event which encourages believers and transforms them into the triumphant army of God; where worship communicates to the visitor the greatness of our God, the joyfulness of the Christian life, and the emptiness of life without Jesus.

where the issues of our culture are seriously addressed; where the community expects to find a viewpoint both practical and godly, a viewpoint which must be taken seriously; where God's people take stands in the community that are courageous and compassionate.

where growth is not only welcomed, but anticipated as the norm; where the heartbeat of every person is for outreach and inclusion, not for comfortable complacency and seclusion.

Irving Bible Church
Irving, Texas

Village View Community Church

Our Vision

Our dream is to be a place known for its love, its worship of God, its service to its families, the discipling of its leaders, and its ability to reach others for Jesus and to see them become members of a local church fellowship.

Our dream is to be a place where the lost, hurting, and receptive can find love, acceptance, forgiveness, renewal, and healing.

Our dream is to be a place where people are encouraged to discover their spiritual gifts and use them in order to find fulfillment and fruitfulness in ministry and life.

Our dream is to be a loving fellowship of believers involved in small groups, serving and building relationships with one another, reaching the unchurched, sharing in ministry, disciplined through the Bible, and worshipping God in our homes, church, and communities.

Our dream is to be a catalyst for the launching of new churches.

Our dream is to be a regional church of the tri-county area with beautiful yet simple facilities, a Bible School, Christian School, Christian Day Care, Youth and Senior Centers, Counseling Center, Catered and Assisted Living Facility, and Nursing Home to minister to the whole person: body, soul, and spirit and to be located on a piece of land that is peaceful, beautifully landscaped, and easily accessible.

Village View Community Church
The Villages
Summerfield, Florida

The Saddleback Vision

From Pastor Rick Warren's first sermon, March 30, 1980

It is the dream of a place where the hurting, the depressed, the frustrated, and the confused can find love, acceptance, help, hope, forgiveness, guidance, and encouragement.

It is the dream of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with the hundreds of thousands of residents in South Orange County.

It is the dream of welcoming 20,000 members into the fellowship of our church family—loving, learning, laughing, and living in harmony together.

It is the dream of equipping every believer for a significant ministry by helping them discover the gifts and talents God gave them. It is the dream of developing people to spiritual maturity through Bible studies, small groups, seminars, retreats, and a Bible school for our members.

It is the dream of sending out hundreds of career missionaries and church workers all around the world, and empowering every member for a personal life mission in the world.

It is the dream of sending our members by the thousands on short-term mission projects to every continent.

It is the dream of starting at least one new daughter church every year.

It is the dream of at least fifty acres of land, on which will be built a regional church for South Orange County—with beautiful, yet simple, facilities including a worship center seating thousands, a counseling and prayer center, classrooms for Bible studies and training lay ministers, and a recreation area. All of this will be designed to minister to the total person—spiritually, emotionally, and socially—and set in a peaceful inspiring garden landscape.

I stand before you today and state in confident assurance that these dreams will become reality. Why? Because they are inspired by God!

Saddleback Valley Community Church
Lake Forest, California

Forest Meadow Baptist Church

The vision of Forest Meadow Baptist Church is to provide for the needs of Lake Highlands' children and their families by providing lots of opportunities to experience creative, high-quality worship, discipleship, activities, and hands-on global missions involvement.

Our church is a Christian community that welcomes the mosaic of cultures living in our neighborhoods. Where needed, we establish culturally specific churches and ministries.

We are a multi-congregational church, meaning we offer services and discipleship in a variety of different languages and at numerous locations around the world. At our main campus on Church Road, we have services in English, Spanish, several Sudanese dialects, Bemba (Zambian), and Swahili. Our global missions vision is to share the love of Jesus Christ with all the peoples of the world, beginning here in Dallas and extending to the ends of the earth. We are working intensely with the Great Commission Initiative, and in a church planting ministry in Southern Sudan.

Forest Meadow Baptist Church
Dallas, Texas

Vision Statement

Clear Lake Community Church

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

We envision children waking up parents on Sunday morning excited to go to church.

We see lots of smiles, glad to be in a place of belonging, welcomed again by a familiar face.

We see the fright of first time melted by an extra caring touch and loneliness replaced by laughter.

We see motivated volunteers, passionate about being with kids, gifted to teach, serve, and shepherd.

We see a facility which is "kid focused," that will facilitate learning and having fun for hundreds of kids.

We see a clean and attractive environment where excellence and creativity are immediately noticed.

We see concerned moms, relieved as they drop off their children, and dads without distraction, engaged in the service.

We envision a security process which builds confidence with parents.

We see physical care babies being cuddled and crawlers being chased.

We sense a foundation being laid where Sunday morning is an experience of God's love for the youngest baby to the oldest child, a time when seeds of faith can be planted and nurtured.

We hear cheers of older kids, and feel fun in the air as hundreds of kids celebrate and sing of the goodness of God; we hear the quietness of prayer.

We envision the stories of the Bible told in creative ways.

We see the look of conviction as the gospel penetrates a child's heart.

We see caring adults leading discussion and listening during small group time.

We dream of kids carrying Bibles and bringing friends.

We see whole families growing closer to God and each other through programs to motivate and equip parents.

In the next five years, we envision hundreds of kids choosing to be baptized and building a faith foundation that will lead to a lifetime of full devotion to Christ and multiplication of kingdom impact.

Will Mancini
Clear Lake Community Church
Houston, Texas

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