



# VISION 2020

*PC3 15-Year Anniversary*

Mike Ashcraft - 10.26.14

*"You reach 20,000 people one person at a time."*

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## **BOTTOM LINE:** *It starts with one.*

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Back in 1999 a lot was going on. Bill Clinton was still in office. My Space was officially introduced to the Internet, along with the initial release of Napster. The world was consumed with the potential Y2K problem and the millennium bug. Kids were quickly becoming addicted to Pokémon and Harry Potter. Two former Mouseketeers, Brittany Spears and Christina Aguilera, ruled the radio and every evening as we tuned into the television, we were wondering *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?*

Something else occurred in 1999 as well. This event didn't grab national headlines. Even in the city where this event occurred, it didn't create a blip on the radar. Most were unaware that it took place. But, as a result of a few individuals having the courage to take a step of faith, Port City Community Church held its first service.

This ragtag group of believers wanted to reach people and help them walk with God. They desired to create an environment for people to experience and process the implications of the Gospel. They hoped to disciple those they reached towards stability, gratitude and generosity. They wanted to make a difference by serving their city, region and world in such a way that it demonstrated God's love and transformed culture.

Somewhere along the line, you were swept up in this movement of God. As a church body, we've witnessed God move in incredible ways - hardened hearts have become softened, marriages repaired, families strengthened, and life-changing hope given. Over the past fifteen years, we've told countless stories of God moving through the people of PC3

Stories are huge when it comes to our faith. They have a way of capturing our attention. Think about it, everyone loves a good story - they inspire, they give hope, they speak of redemption. Yet, whether we realize it or not, each story has a shelf life. Every time it is told it slowly becomes less effective in its' ability to inspire others towards movement.

With this in mind, as a church, we have to be cognizant of the stories we are telling about our willingness to walk in faith to make His name known. Rehashing old tales of God's faithfulness puts us on dangerous ground. How so? Instead of advancing, it means as a church we are standing still and have grown comfortable and complacent. When the dreams of our past exceed the mission of the future, we are done. The faith of our past is not sufficient for the weight of the future.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How has God used this church body to make His name known in your own life? What impact has it had on you personally?
- What's the danger in settling for being a good church who continues to tell past stories of God's faithfulness?
- Read Matthew 16:13-20. What does Jesus want His disciples, as well as us, to understand about the responsibility we've been given as believers?
- What's the difference between being a spectator and being an owner of the mission? Would you say you are a spectator or an owner?
- What is your initial reaction to hearing PC3's goal of wanting to reach 20,000 people by 2020? What will be required for us to meet this goal?
- Reaching 20,000 people starts with one. Who is your ONE?
- How can PC3's mission of reaching people and helping them walk with God become intensely personal and intensely relational for you?

In Matthew 16, Jesus tells Peter that His story has yet to come and end. In fact, there are countless stories that still need to be told. Jesus is telling Peter, the other disciples and now us as the present day church, that we play a critical role in the telling of God's love to the world. Church is a place where God loves the world through His people. Similar to a father handing his teenage son the keys to the family car for the first time, Jesus is passing the torch on to the disciples to be His representatives on earth. In essence, Jesus is saying, "here are the keys to the kingdom. Now, go put your faith into action." As we look at the keys we hold in our hands, we need to pause and reflect on what exactly we are doing with the responsibility we've been given. Are we being intentional or not?

As we celebrate our 15 year anniversary as a church, we want to look back in order to gain momentum for the future. Through much prayer and planning, we feel God is calling us to reach 20,000 people by 2020. As we embark on this bold goal, what we have to remember is that a great church isn't measured by its' size, but its' impact on the world. The only way you reach 20,000 people is one person at a time. It starts with one.

It begins by recognizing those within your reach and in your sphere of influence. In order for this to occur, it will require everyone to see his or her part as significant. We all play a part in fulfilling the mission of "reaching people and helping them walk with God." This mission must become intensely personal and intensely relational. Who is your ONE?

Jesus builds His church, but He uses us to do it. Jesus builds His church by handing us the keys. Everyone desires to tell great stories of God's faithfulness, yet very few have the courage to step out in faith or leave their comfort zone. Risk is required to live this way. We don't get to tell great stories unless we are willing to live them first.

The simple truth is this, the church has the only message that has the power to change the human heart, heal a wounded soul, turn hatred into love and comfort the grieving. Our message brings repentance, redemption and reconciliation. Church is an identity that is ours in Christ. It is an identity that shapes the whole of life so that life and mission become our heartbeat. The Gospel is not a collection of facts, but a story. It happens through me and through you.

Each one of us must pause and ask ourselves if we are being intentional with the responsibility and influence we've been given. What are you doing with this message of hope? What would it look like for you to become increasingly instrumental in the life of this body? These questions change everything because they move you from participating to owning the mission. The time has come to tell new stories.