

Launch Team Meeting
06.29.2011
Vision Refresh

- I. Tonight I want to hit the refresh button on our vision for Mercy Vineyard Church.
- A. If you use the internet much, then you might be familiar with the refresh button.
 - 1. It re-downloads the page you're viewing.
 - 2. It clears out old copies of the page and loads the latest version.
 - B. It's important to push the refresh button on our vision now as we move into the training phase (which is the final phase before we launch).
 - C. We only have **9 WEEKS** until our first Sunday service together on September 4th and **11 WEEKS** until our official launch on September 18th!
 - 1. Hoo boy!
- II. Our community needs us to start this church.
- A. The spiritual need is great
 - 2. Church planting has long been known as the most effective form of _____ in the world.
 - 3. The national average for church attendance in a community is 20%. In the Quad Cities, the average is 7%.
 - 4. Every 11 seconds, someone goes to hell.
 - B. The physical need is great.
 - 1. Roughly 15% of Rock Island and 10% of Moline live below the poverty line. (22,350 for a family of 4).
 - 2. Many homes are single parent homes struggling just to get by.
 - C. When I think about our community, I often see the image of a little boy having his arm twisted by a bully (the devil) and he's crying "mercy!"
 - 1. Kids yell "uncle!" too, but Uncle Vineyard sounds funny.
 - D. Our community needs mercy and we serve a God who is "rich in mercy" according to Ephesians 2.
- III. Our Vision, Mission, and Values
- A. Vision - To be a large, multicultural, multigenerational, multiplying church, reaching, teaching, and releasing to make God famous and _____.
 - B. Mission - To build a community of contagiously passionate, continually praying, consistently growing, and compassionately giving followers of Jesus through programs of prayer and worship, teaching, and outreach.
 - C. Values -
 - 1. Outreach
 - Discipleship
 - Community
 - Prayer
 - Worship (Experiencing God)
 - Supernatural (Theology and Practice of the Kingdom of God)
 - Social Justice (Compassionate Ministry)
 - Simplicity
 - Multiculturalism (Reconciling community)
 - Excellence

Relevance (Culturally relevant mission)

IV. How do things things translate into Mercy Vineyard characteristics? (this list is not exhaustive)

- A. We're a church that emphasizes _____.
 - 1. Being a gathering place for believers is important, but we are first and foremost a ministry of reaching the lost.
 - 2. Small groups, worship ministry, and Bible study are important but Jesus died so the _____.
 - a) We hold the cure for the sickness that ails mankind and it's irresponsible to keep it to ourselves.
 - (1) Remember the Penn Gillette video, "How bad to you have to hate someone to not share your faith with them if you believe they're going to hell?"
- B. We're a church that _____.
 - 1. As space and facilities permit, prayer meetings will be the first meetings launched after Sunday mornings (and Roots, Growth, and Branches).
- C. We're a church involved with _____.
 - 1. My desire is for community on a mission day to be a small taste of things to come.

V. So where do we go from here to accomplish all those things?

- A. A strong _____.
 - 1. Our goal is to reach as many people as possible as quickly as possible so that we can be a self-sustaining church that plants other churches.
 - 2. Our first ministry goal is to have the best Sunday morning services (with children's ministry) possible.
- B. A Sunday meeting place
 - 1. We're still looking.
 - 2. We want to be north of 23rd Ave, South of the river, west of I 74 and East of 38th Street in Rock Island.
 - 3. We need a venue that holds at least 300, has space for children's ministry and nursery, as air conditioning, and plenty of parking. We also, need a short term, or month to month lease.
 - a) If a church doesn't grow to 100 in the first year, it probably never will.
 - b) Each number represents a life touched by God's mercy and grace.
 - c) iTown church saw 340 at their first service with 36 first time decisions to follow Jesus.
- C. A solid _____
 - 1. We are arranging the team to meet immediate needs for Sunday mornings.
 - 2. It breaks down to four areas:
 - a) Ministry
 - (1)Worship
 - (2)Prayer
 - (3)Children
 - b) Production
 - (1)Tech
 - (2)Video
 - (3)Drama
 - c) Hospitality
 - (1)Greeters

- (2) Welcome Center
- (3) Ushers
- (4) Guerilla greeters
- d) Operations
 - (1) Load/Unload
 - (2) Setup/Cleanup
 - (3) Welcome Center/Children's ministry tech setup
- 3. Most of us will be pulling double and triple duty so make sure you stay prayed up and wear comfortable shoes!
- 4. There will be more roles in the future that we will need to fill. Where you are assigned now, will not be forever.

VI. A bright future

- A. We are on course for a great launch.
 - 1. According to the church planter's roadmap, we're doing great!
 - 2. We have a strong team
 - 3. We have a wonderful sending church that has been a tremendous resource.

VII. What's next?

- A. If we haven't met with you yet, we will shortly.
- B. Stay _____!
- 1. "Blessed are the flexible for they will not be bent out of shape."
- C. Challenge to give more (beyond the tithe). This takes money!
- D. Guard yourself against becoming "_____".
- E. Get excited (remember, you're thermostats, not thermometers!)