

## Building and Sustaining Shared Vision

"It is very dangerous to go into eternity with possibilities which one has oneself prevented from becoming realities. A possibility is a hint from God. One must follow it."  
— Søren Kierkegaard

## Unpacking Our Theme

- Vision
  - Faith underlies all of philosophy and worldview: we look for what we believe
  - Faith is a gift of revelation / our "eyes" are opened
  - Our view of the present and future is impacted by the in-breaking kingdom of God
- Vision is a composite of glimpses of God's possible future for us
- Vision is not branding, organizing slogans, motivating ideas generated by us (great ideas for God)

## Acts 2:42-47

- <sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

## The Vision Community of Acts 2

- Groups of 3: Based on the above snapshot of life in the early church, try to describe elements of the vision that initiated / directed that community

## The Vision Community of Acts 2

- Together they saw a common invitation to commit themselves to a radical new future
- They experienced a tangible sense of God being with them
- They were intrinsically motivated
- Their sacrifice seemed to be a privilege, not an obligation

## Vision Fatigue

- The diminishing return of “vision-casting”:



## Vision Fatigue

- The diminishing return of “vision-casting”:
  - Mistrust in general
  - Almost exclusive focus on the present
  - Previous disappointment
  - Competition
- The most sustainable vision is found by listening together for the hints/ramours/ clues/glimpses that God is always provides to his people
- The most greatly needed gift among pastoral leaders today is that of “vision-gathering”

## Building From the Ground Up

- Re-connect with the horizon yourself – what is God’s invitation to you? Begin to walk it out!
- Prepare the soil of hearts by telling the Story / stories
- Awaken the longing and dreams within the community / make space to remember and expect encounters
- As you walk toward God’s invited future, who notices?
- Nurture, connect small fires to make a bigger one
- To change form before function always invites dissonance and discord