

Vision or Blindness?

So many companies just stumble along, with no direction from the top.

“Where there is no vision the people perish...” (Proverbs 29:18 KJV) or

*“When people do not see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves ...
(The Message)*

The quote is out of context because its context is the Old Testament, and the relationship between God and the Jews.

There is so much hype, with millions of books, about leadership, that the need for vision is lost. Leadership without vision goes nowhere.

Vision is substituted by fancy slogans, which usually mean nothing, many of which we have learned to associate with brands, for example:

— “Just do it!”

— “Cell C for yourself,” having had conflict with them recently, I know it is a lie.

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In other cases the vision is so verbose and lengthy — and therefore arcane — that few people can relate to it. It is worse than having nothing at all. An example is:

Our vision is to achieve a shared vision and practice of the ministry of all believers. This means that every parishioner takes responsibility to contribute to the life of the faith community and be a witness in the broader community. This requires the spiritual growth of all believers, a deepening relationship with God, others, oneself and creation.

The spiritual growth and ministry of all believers is dependent on vibrant Christian community in which :

- all are welcome to belong and participate;
- the active participation of young people and children is valued and encouraged;
- worship is dynamic and includes the whole worshipping community;
- healing and reconciliation are a visible reality;
- the humanity of each member grows in relation with others;
- dynamic small groups build up the individual into community;
- the love of Christ is experienced, made visible, and given to the world.

Our prayer is that this vision has been faithfully received from God. As we have received it faithfully, may we live it faithfully, that it may be a blessing to us and through us to our world.

— and that is just a summarised version of it.

It is important that a vision statement can only achieve anything if, on it are built:

Goals (with measurable targets and deadlines)

Plans — to achieve the goals — and identifying the persons / teams responsible for making them work, through projects. Again, with deadlines and deliverables.

Budgets — the financial implications of the plan.