

PEARCE CHURCH

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VISION

My professor of Church Leadership class told the story of two guys out fishing. The one fellow was getting no bites. Frustrated, he looked over at the other boat and the man was reeling in lunker after lunker. Some of them could have been trophy fish. Strangely, he was throwing all of them back. Curious, the unsuccessful fisherman hollered across the water, "What are you doing? Why are you tossing the fish back into the lake?" The man in the other boat held up a small frying pan and said, "My pan is too small."

The point made was that the man's Vision was too small. He did not keep the fish because the cookware he brought with him was undersized for what he was reeling in. He had not envisioned the level of success he might have and had not thought "big enough." Now this can be taken too far by individuals, corporations, and churches when planning their "Vision" for the future. Just having an, "If you build it, they will come" mentality will not make it so. Lots of dreams and dollars are lost by overestimating and underpreparing. However, I do think having a vision for the future is a helpful concept. Vision guides planning and strategizing in the present so goals can be reached in the future.

I have been asked about my "Vision" for Pearce. I would like to see Pearce become a true "community" church, that is, a church that reaches all kinds of people from our whole community from various walks of life and backgrounds. I do not want to be primarily a "college" church, or a "senior citizens" church, or a young "hipster" church, or a "white" church. We want to share Christ with everyone, and make Pearce a place where anyone will feel welcomed and valued so they can grow in their relationship with Jesus in the context of our family. God's vision for Pearce (and believers everywhere) is found in John 13:34 – "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." This seems like an impossible vision in this day and age, with all its strife, conflict, and controversy, which sadly, has also impacted churches. But God would not ask us to believe something we could not achieve. So he gave us the means to realize the vision, as it says in Romans 5:5. "And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

My hope and prayer is that we will embrace the vision God has given Pearce, described in this way: "To be a family of God's holy love, that transforms lives for Christ." Join me in praying to this end, believing it, seeking it, and realizing it with the help of the Spirit of Christ in us. Amen!

With Faith,

Pastor Todd