



Greater Sydney Conference

'It' - How Churches and Leaders Can Get It and Keep It.

Craig Groeschel
Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2008.

What is 'it'?

it is what God does through a rare combination of these qualities found in His people:

- Passion for His presence
- A deep craving to reach the lost
- Sincere integrity
- Spirit-filled faith
- Down-to-earth humility
- Brokenness

It is not a model, system, or result of programs. You can't purchase *it*. *It* can't be copied. Not everyone will get *it*.

It can be found in all types of churches.

Vision

Worse than being blind would be to be able to see but not have any vision – Helen Keller

When there is no vision:

- Most ideas seem like good ideas. This leads to over-programming and burnout.
- There is nothing compelling to give toward. This leads to a consumer mindset instead of a contributing mindset.
- Organizations become focused inward. This leads to a slow and painful death.
- Instead of working together, people compete for resources.

Many churches today are visionless. Sure we talk about loving God and loving people however often what churches are actually doing does not measure up to the claims they make.

If a Martian came to your church what would they say you were all about?

Benefits of Vision:

- The organisation (or ministry) will take on a life of its own.
- People tend to give sacrificially to it (financially and of themselves).
- People will tolerate inconveniences for the greater cause.
- Opportunities for distraction will decrease.

You can never underestimate the amount of energy and frequency you must give to vision casting. You can never underestimate it. Just when you think you've thoroughly explained the vision, it's time to start over and communicate it all again. *Bill Hybels*

Vision leaks. I wholeheartedly believe you would be hard pressed to over-communicate your vision. *Andy Stanley*

- Talk about the vision
- Tell stories about the vision
- Illustrate the vision
- Reward those who live the vision
- Highlight the vision anywhere you can see it
- Once you've done all of the above, do it all again.

Three Levels of Vision Buy-In

- Level 1 – The people believe in the vision enough to benefit from it. People with a consumer mindset. They come to church because they like it.
- Level 2 – The people believe in the vision enough to contribute comfortably. People ready to contribute as long as it's easy. They're happy to help if it doesn't interfere with their other priorities.
- Level 3 – The people believe in the vision enough to give their lives to it. They recognise there their lives are no their own and that they are part of the greatest cause on earth.

Everyone craves a cause to fight for. We love to be part of something that is making a difference. As leaders, it's our role to seek God, see the vision, communicate it in a compelling way, and invite people to give their lives for the greatest cause on earth – the cause of Christ.

Focus

- The clearer your vision becomes, the easier it is to guard what God calls you to do.
- Instead of saying 'and,' maybe you need to say 'or'.
- To be great at a few things and experience it, you'll have to say 'no' to many things.
- When focus increases, options decrease.
- Cut back to move forward
- Focus is the commitment to abandon everything that falls outside of the simple ministry process – Thom Rainer and Eric Geiger
- If you try and chase two rabbits you'll probably catch neither.
- Good is the enemy of great – Jim Collins
- What few ministries are necessary to fulfilling your vision? If you could do only a few things for the greatest ministry return, what things would you do?

Camradarie – Enjoy 'it' with others

It is better to have one person working with you than three people working for you – Dwight D. Eisenhower

Teams that have *it*:

- Understand the big picture – understand the mission
- Have fun together – Model community
- Be real together
- Celebrate the wins
- Fight behind closed doors – saying what's on your mind with respect.

Innovation

- Passion creates motivation
- Limitations often reveal opportunities
- God often guides by what he doesn't provide
- You have everything you need to do what God wants you to do at this moment.
- Innovative leaders do anything short of sin to reach the lost.

Failure

- Failure is not an option. It is a necessity. If you're not failing, you've stopped dreaming. You'll eventually stop learning and you will stop growing.
- Great leaders learn the art of failing forward.

Love

- When we love deeply, love makes us do things we wouldn't otherwise do.
- When our churches look inward instead of outward, we're basically saying to nonbelievers, 'you can just go to hell'.
- Be careful not to blame yourself if someone rejects Christ. If you do, you might just be tempted to take credit when someone accepts Him.

Share

- The more possessive and competitive we are, the more divided we become.
- A kingdom-minded ministry is generous and hungry to partner with others to get more done for the glory of God.
- The more you are willing to give *it* away the more of *it* God seems to give.
- You have more than you realise. God has put more in you than anyone knows. Ask Him to stretch you and let Him.

Open.lifechurch.tv