

## Vision Quest Group Guide #2: Our Church and Its Context

By Murray L. Miller

### 1. Either read silently or take turns reading these Bible/EGW Texts

A. **Bible:** Proverbs 29:18; Isaiah 2; Matthew 4:16; Matthew 5:14; Matthew 9:35-38; John 4:34-42; Acts 2:40-47.

Write down thoughts here: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### B. **Ellen White** excerpt on "vision"

"In visions of the night, representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God's people. Many were praising God. The sick were healed, and other miracles were wrought. A spirit of intercession was seen, even as was manifested before the great Day of Pentecost. Hundreds and thousands were seen visiting families and opening before them the word of God. Hearts were convicted by the power of the Holy Spirit, and a spirit of genuine conversion was manifest. On every side, doors were thrown open to the proclamation of the truth. The world seemed to be lightened with the heavenly influence. Great blessings were received by the true and humble people of God." - Testimonies, Volume 9, page 126.

### 2. Fill in the blanks writing down your thoughts after reading these items

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\_\_\_\_\_

3. Look again at the Vision statement definition: **Vision:** pertaining to seeing or an imagined reality; believing God knows the future, we prayerfully seek to know and envision our part in the fulfillment of His plan for our community and world.

### 4. Look at the Sample vision statements:

A. General Conference: We pursue our mission under the guidance and through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit through:

*Preaching.* Accepting Christ's commission (Matthew 28:18-20), we proclaim to all the world, in these last days, the everlasting gospel of God's love, most fully revealed in His Son's life, ministry, atoning death, resurrection and high priestly ministry. Recognizing the Bible to be God's infallible revelation of His will, we present its full message, including the second advent of Christ and the continuing authority of His Ten Commandment law with its reminder of the Seventh-day Sabbath.

*Teaching.* Acknowledging that development of mind and character is essential to God's redemptive plan, we promote the growth of a mature understanding of and relationship to God, His Word and the created universe.

*Healing.* Affirming the Biblical principles of the wellbeing of the whole person, we make the preservation of health and healing of the sick a priority and through our ministry to the poor and oppressed, cooperate with the Creator in His compassionate work of restoration.

*Discipling.* Affirming the continued spiritual growth and development of all members, we nurture the newly converted, instruct them in righteous living, train them for effective witness and encourage their responsive obedience to God's will.

B. Northern California Conference:

Our vision is to be among the most productive, effective and spiritually dynamic conferences in the North American Division by:

- Developing skilled, spiritual leaders
- Fostering healthy, growing churches and ministries
- Operating schools of excellence
- Caring for our communities

C. Hayfork Adventist Church: To be known as a community of faith that experiences changed lives, shares our faith with others and are agents of change in the Hayfork area.

5. In a paragraph write down a vision statement in your own words that is Scriptural and describes how you see the church's impact if we were to fulfill our mission in Anderson: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (write on back if needed)

6. Write down common elements & combine into one statement:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Statement the group chooses to submit: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (over if needed)

8. Facilitator: you will read the statement to the congregation

9. Note-taker: you will make sure the pastor receives the statement