The Vision and Mission of Beginning Experience®

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Goals for this Session

- Understanding what a vision is and why it is important
- Understanding what a mission is and why it is important
- Understanding the difference between Vision and Mission
- Knowing the Vision and Mission of the Beginning Experience ministry
- Understanding how the Vision and Mission drive ministry action, team activity and board decisions

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What is a Vision?

- A guiding light, a beacon, that—
  - Helps us check our direction
  - Away from danger
  - Toward our goal
  - Helps us weigh alternatives, make good choices

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What is a Vision?

- Interior inspiration to give of ourselves to cause needed change
- Long term basis for work of our ministry
- Our focus is on those who have experienced loss of a spouse or parent through death, divorce, or separation
- May be shared by other organizations

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Beginning Experience Vision

*That these hurting people will become healed, transformed, and free again to love themselves, others and God.*

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Remember Your Weekend

- How you felt Friday night
- Experiencing the process
  - Encountering where you were in your grief
  - Beginning to let go through sharing and being heard
  - Caring for others in your group
- How you felt on Sunday
  —your first experience of the vision—

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What is Mission?

- The reason an organization exists
- Doing our part to bring about the vision
  - Reflects changes in people’s lives that we intend to accomplish
  - Reflects ways we intend to accomplish those changes
  - Reflects the outcome we intended to accomplish

Our Mission Statement

- The purpose of the Beginning Experience ministry is to:
  - facilitate the grief resolution process for adults and children who have suffered a loss through death, divorce or separation,
  - thereby enabling them to love again themselves, others and God.

Beginning Experience Mission

- We accomplish this purpose by offering quality, copyrighted, grief resolution programs
  - Presented by trained peer ministers
  - Designed to move grieving people through a transformational process to a new beginning in their lives.

Beginning Experience Mission

- We believe that through resolving the grief:
  - Individuals participate in the death & resurrection of Christ as he lives in the world today;
  - Those working through this experience can effectively walk with others for whom the experience is new and hard;
  - The invitation to recover offers an opportunity for transforming one’s life, and for freeing individuals to love self, others and God in new and deeper ways.

Ministry of Beginning Experience

- Ministry is way of enabling others to become transformed
- Suggests offering the individual what he/she needs
- Suggests action: going to and seeking out those who need help

Beginning Experience Weekend

- Our most powerful ministry
- Core of a healing program continuum
  - Coping with Life Alone for newly hurting
  - Programs for follow up support
    - Continued Beginnings
    - Rebuilding
    - Beyond Beginning Experience
Ministry to Children & Youth
- When a spouse dies or parents divorce, children grieve deeply
- Weekend programs serve varied age levels
  - Children’s Beginning Experience: ages 8-12
  - Young People’s Beginning Experience: ages 13-18
  - Young Adult Beginning Experience: ages 18-25+
- Who Am I Now?
  - Support program serves these same age groups

Beginning Experience Process
- Invitation to healing and transformation by:
  - Encountering one’s own self in grief
  - Letting go of the past
  - Reaching out to others
- Moves us to new life, wholeness, holiness
- Process is **life long**; applies in other life events
- Lifeless til we bring our new life, love to others

Using the Vision and Mission
- Basis for evaluating ourselves as ministers
- Basis for evaluating health of our team
- Inspire discovery
- Bring about renewal
- Maintain a healthy team

Well Functioning Team
- Vision and Mission are part of team identity
  - Each member understands and lives the vision
  - Entire team is moving toward same vision, fulfilling
    same mission
  - Members use process for individual growth
- Honest, loving confrontation practiced
- Leadership distributed; responsibility shared

Well Functioning Team (cont.)
- Prayer, renewal frequent for members, team
- Frequent contact:
  - Within team
  - With other teams
  - With IMC
- Activities, programs in addition to Weekend
- Connects with other local ministries
- Team is creative and high-spirited

Losing sight of the Vision
- Vision is a beacon to guide the way
  - Example: a lighthouse guiding a boat to safe landing
- What if no one is watching the beacon?
  - Those in the boat keep rowing
  - Expend lots of energy
  - May not reach the goal
Distortions of the Vision

Ministry to those who have suffered loss

- Weekend only
- Pseudo Community
- "Doing" the Weekend
- Social Club
- Power/Control

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Distortions of the Vision

When Vision is distorted, Mission is lost

---Weekend only
---Pseudo Community
---"Doing" the Weekend
---Social Club

Maintain or correct the course

- Repeat Vision, Mission often in many forms
  - Use as the focus of a Team Renewal
  - Include in team prayer & at board meetings
  - Ask “Are we using the process in our own life & in team life?”
    - Self-encounter
    - Letting go
    - Gentle, loving confrontation and reconciliation
    - Love for self, others, God

- Maintain or correct course (cont.)
  - Use Vision, Mission to test decisions
    - Will Vision/Mission be enhanced by this decision?
      - Does it serve participants?
      - Does it strengthen team in service to participants?
      - Would another decision better enhance Mission/Vision?

Use Resources

- Be faithful to Manual for Beginning Experience
- Follow team training guides, use approved materials
- Contact Executive Director, International Board Representative

Team Member Responsibilities

- Adhere to the Vision personally
- Continue our personal growth
- Give support to each other
- Actively reach out to others
- Be aware that we are never “done”

Board Responsibilities

- Keep Vision and Mission alive within team
- Use Vision, Mission as guide to good decisions
- From alternatives, which decision:
  - Best enhances serving participants?
  - Best strengthen team ability to serve?
Summary

- Vision: guiding light for change
- Mission: how we will enhance the vision
- Reviewed the Vision and Mission of the Beginning Experience ministry
- Vision and Mission drive ministry action, team activity and board decisions

Summary (cont.)

- Distortions of the Vision and Mission
  - Weekend only
  - Pseudo Community
  - “Doing” the Weekend
  - Social Club
  - Power/Control

Summary (cont.)

- Challenge to maintain Vision, Mission
  - Repeat often
  - Incorporate in personal life
  - Use to guide team activity, team spirit
  - Use to guide board decisions
    - Does this approach best serve participants
    - Does this approach strengthen team

Conclusion

- Vision impels us to grow
- We allow God’s power to transform us
- Reminds us of what we have received
- Reminds us of our call to serve

“What we have received, we freely give.”
—Acts 3:6

Closing Prayer