

The first thing I would like to say on behalf of Area SF is that in a strange way the Bicentennial

has been an answer to our prayers this last quarter. W/ Now, you are all clear that prayers

are not always answered the way that you hoped they might be answered, that they are often answered--

you might say that they are always answered, in a little bit different way than we originally

anticipate but like as I have been able to hear all the rest of us, we struggled this last quarter

with how to get it together, how to focus, if you will, how to make sense out of a situation we

had on our hands where we had 20 programs, and you know, how did you deal with all of those 20

Did you march them simultaneously and gloriously into *failure* or did you take a few of them and

ride with them and put the rest of them back in the cupboard somewhere, and how did you deal with

what you had on your hands. I think across our area and across the world, at least as I've been

able to hear it, we ~~had~~ *have* all kinds of ways to try to reduce the complexity and so forth

really trying to get the utterly mysterious ambiguities, the unaccounted for, out of our planning

and moved in alot of different directions ranging from in Area S. F. we talked very seriously

about having an ITI and maybe we should and maybe we shouldn't and it was that kind of struggle

that we have all participated in. Now I sense in terms of our conversations the last couple of

days on the Bicentennial that it answered our prayers in the sense that--not, and I'm not

at all pushing one way or another on having the Bicentennial, but the kind of width, the

kind of sense after the unfathomable, passing by, and I sense that our area what we were after

was we were trying to ~~get~~ ^{grab} hold of not ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~XXXXXX~~ ^{be} grabbed hold by that kind of power.

And you sensed that yesterday ^{to you jump} the kind of fascination and yet cynicism and fear and everything

else going on and yet down underneath the kind of fascination with that whole set of images, And

again, I'm not suggesting one way or another that we move on that but rather that we be present to

what it is that grabs at us, what it is that thrills us, what it is that fascinates us about that

kind of activity and I sense that awareness, that kind of a presence before that reality is in fact

Answer

I think the second thing I would like to focus on here a little bit or to speak about a little bit is

some of our experiences with battling planning this past quarter and again, I suspect that there fairly

common. But we sensed exactly as we said when we left where we'd have both the excitement and

the difficulty was on the two ends-- the practical vision and the implementaries. In term

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of practical vision, this past year I did a lot of work on LENS trying to market

It and kept running

into people who said, well, we have already done that in our company or in

our church and so forth.

We have already done problem-solving. And was intrigued by what

was going on because I knew they

hadn't, what was back underneath that and finally be

to see something like this that when you

took and looked at what they did, they

took took problems and goals and essentially what, and I'm

caricaturing a little bit

here to get at what our experience was that when you saw

a problem

at, what you were looking was not a contradiction. You were looking at the situation.

would be six or eight escapes from the situation, not practical solutions, but escapes out of that situation. ~~Not present~~ You see there are only 30 people coming on Sunday morning in your congregation that is a problem and the goal is 400 people--that is ridiculous in terms of in one sense working off that kind of a base or that allows you to refuse to deal with the actual situation which you had before you ~~And~~ what we began to see is that the phenomenal gift that we had in the battleplanning was that we started with the practical vision, or rather than focusing on problems or focusing on a situation that we did not like that we started to focus on the practical vision, that we had an organized sense after our own intuitions before we even began to move and raise the next question and what was obvious and what I knew all along and what I found in a brand new way the contradictions are not--you know how you do the practical vision and get that out of the way so you can really get down to the serious stuff, namely the contradictions, but the contradictions are in relation to the practical vision, ~~or~~ ~~that~~ it is the question of how do you get the practical

to talk about it. And that was a great release for us I think and it helps to begin to see that we

were not operating out of some vacuum. WX are operating out of our vision in trying to get some

picture of how to move in relation to that vision. Then over on the side of implementation we

again struggle with a number of ways and began to, I think see the utter necessity of holding that

crucial tension as you work with timelining in which you are utterly obedient to what you decided

to do and yet are able to be flexible in terms of what is required in the situation. We saw it in a

way like you know how you get a group together and do the battleplanning and there at the end would

be three or four *groups* all building those implementaries and then they'd come back together and

now you were rushed, running out of time, you didn't know how you are going to get finished, and so

you just grab it all and throw it together and read it quickly symbolically and send it off to the

typist and then it shows up nine weeks later and you wonder, where on earth did this come from?

You knew it was there in the instructions to get yourself a wall to ~~stand~~ *stand* ~~at~~ *at* with the weeks across and tactics down the side and you put up those cards and

And then you come back and look at ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ back in utter seriousness ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ is that in fact how do we have to arrange those so that they reflect what we are definitely planning to do rather than go do something else.

How did you get the whole group to function, to deal with the implementaries-~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ and decide seriously, if they are going to be done this week they get done this week. And then you decided maybe some of these are irrelevant. They get pulled off and you discover gaps that you

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ as I'm sure all of you have haven't begun to deal with and you put on the implementaries what you know from the corporate intuition of the group you know have to be up there. The last thing we smelled after there ~~as when we started of your team~~ When we buy 11d ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ the first tactics to a quarter we got to build really, for about 6 weeks.

Beyond that they either became abstract or non-existent. It finally dawned on us one reason was that *Reason, at least one of them,* The last part of the quarter was not part of this quarter. It was in relation to next quarter.

It was a time in which if we were going to have 2 LENS courses we had to be getting everything in gear, that if we got to this point and didn't have everything in the chute ~~about~~ *for* about 2 LENS course next

quarter, we were kidding ourselves about courses ~~XXXXXX~~ So we moved and learn a *low* ~~low~~ marching images *over the building*

with pictures and images of what we are going to do next quarter and finally said we have to go at least a quarter in terms of our practical vision here in order to come back and sensibly modify

and build the implementaries that we need to have from Wk. 7 down thru 13. That really was extremely

helpful to us to see that was possible and that we could handle ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

us out into longer range planning than we'd ever imaged ourselves doing by just working on a quarterly kind of basis. Now I suppose that that last thing was the kind of constant modification that had to go on in order to find a way to keep yourself rigidly over against what you had decided to ~~do~~ at several different levels--in terms of your practical vision, your tactics, your implementaries and ~~the~~ in the midst of that having on the one hand the hourly, daily kind of modification, that you had to do as the Lord gave you a brand new picture and without dropping that tension of throwing out your original plan and saying this is all wrong because you know that wasn't the case. You are never going to take what you build and slap it down the face of history. You are always going constantly holding that and creating ^{or} history, struggling to build what need to be there over against that kind of planning, just constantly ^{daily} holding that tension, hourly and daily is a deeply exciting and helpful experience. *the quarter.*