

Vision Statement – Simbahan sa Bukid

- **To make disciples - Matthew 28:19-20 / Acts 2:42...**
 - There are 4 verbs in the Great commission – go, baptize, teach, and make disciples. Only one of those is a command (*imperative mood in the Greek*)... make disciples. The other three verbs amplify how to make disciples (*go / baptize / teach*). The model of a church can be summed up in teach the people and love the people. Therefore the desire is to simply teach and love – teach people and love them with the intent of making disciples. The vision for Himamaylan is to teach and love those the Lord brings.
 - How - in **Acts 2:42** the Holy Spirit lays out the 4 “Pillars” of the church. Apostles doctrine (*teaching*) / breaking of bread (*communion*) / fellowship / and prayer. You make disciples by simply 1. Teaching the Word (*learning about Jesus*) 2. Communion (*remembering the sacrifice of Jesus*) 3. Fellowship (*encouraging one another in their walk with Jesus*) 4. Prayer (*talking to Jesus*) – in other words it’s all about Jesus. Making disciples.
- **A national church - Acts 15...**
 - In **Acts 15** the counsel of Jerusalem deals most directly with the theology of the Law vs. Grace, but there is also a missions application. The church in Jerusalem decided that the gentile churches did not need to adopt the customs of the Jews in order to be saved. The decision was not that the churches in Jerusalem should stop their customs, only that the gentile churches did not need to adopt them. In other words when Paul went out church planting he did not need to establish a Jewish church. He came knowing only Christ and Him crucified (**I Corinthians 2:2**). He let the Holy Spirit do the work of defining the church in the cities and cultures he was in. What a lesson! The desire is to not establish an American church in the Philippines! The desire is to bring the gospel – then let the Holy Spirit define the church. That allows the church to be reproducible in the culture. The disciples who are raised up in the church will then have a model that they can follow and reproduce! If an American church is established, national disciples cannot duplicate the work. They are not American and do not have American resources. By allowing the Holy Spirit to establish a nationally defined church the national now have a model they can follow!
- **Raising up national leaders**
 - The vision is also to raise up nationals to minister and lead. The best person to minister to a national group is someone from within that group. An outsider will never be accepted as a national. No matter how proficient they become in the language or how familiar they become with the culture – they will always be considered an outsider. A national leader knows the language and culture of the people and is the best equipped to minister to them. What is needed is to simply provide the opportunity for those nationals to step out in faith. Through those opportunities the Lord can raise up men from within the fellowship as leaders and pastors. Through the observation of the work of the Holy Spirit in those men, who step out in faith to minister through the opportunities that were given, it was obvious to recognize and appoint the leaders according to the anointing of God (**Acts 14:21-23**).
 - For example – when decision need to be made – there is wonderful opportunity that is presented. The pastor could make all the decisions. The nationals would accept the decisions as he is a pastor, but inadvertently he would teach them to listen to and follow him, not Jesus. In contrast the other option is to present the nationals with the decisions. Encourage them to seek Jesus for a solution and let them make a decision. This way they learn to go to the Lord for answers and to have to trust in Him. Maturity and growth in the Christian walk comes directly from plugging people into Jesus. The challenge is that it is much easier to do the work ourselves, and unfortunately those we are teaching would much rather listen to us. It is easier to follow and hear from a man than it is to follow God and hear from God.
 - (Adapted from “Missionary Methods: St. Paul’s of ours” – Roland Allen) *In the Book of Acts we also see that the Apostle Paul did not go about as a missionary merely to convert individuals: he went to establish churches from which the light might radiate throughout the whole country (duplicatable missions – raising up nationals to duplicate the work). The secret of success in his work lie in the*

training of the nationals. This sets the pattern for the future. If the nationals are taught to depend upon the missionary, if all work, evangelistic, educational, social is concentrated in his hands, the infant church learns to rest passively upon the man from whom they receive their first insight into the Gospel. Their faith having no room to grow and no opportunity to develop lies dormant. A tradition very rapidly grows up that nothing can be done without the authority and guidance of the missionary, the people wait for him to move, and, the longer they do so, the more incapable they become of any independent action. Thus the leader is confirmed in the habit of gathering all responsibility into his own hands, and of doubting the ability of the people, until he makes their inactivity an excuse for doubting their capability. The fatal mistake is made of teaching the nationals to rely upon the wrong source of strength. Instead of seeking it in the working of the Holy Spirit, they seek it in the missionary. If the missionary is not cautious he runs the danger of becoming indispensable. By teaching the national believers to turn to him, to accept his guidance, inadvertently he educates them to put their trust in him. The great need of the missionary is to believe that the same Holy Spirit that inspires and guides him will also guide and inspire them.

- It is through the opportunity for nationals to make real decisions, with real consequences (*good and bad*), that they are able to step out in faith and learn. That is how we all learn; there are no short cuts. The same Holy Spirit that speaks to and guides us will guide the nationals as well. Not that there will not be challenges, there are always challenges, but you will see a healthy, flourishing, growing fellowship when the nationals are given the opportunity to step out in faith and serve.
- Those nationals (*disciples*) then can go out and duplicate the work throughout the country. The desire for Himamaylan is to seek to be replaced right from the start. To raise up national believers to take the church (*making it a national fellowship*). Also the desire to see a church established that it is not dependant on America, but defined by the Holy Spirit in such a way that it is duplicatable by national believers. Then from Himamaylan to see national believers raised up and sent out (*missions*) to reach other areas of the Philippines and beyond.

Pastor David