



Establishing a Family Vision

Summer 2015

by Kris Baines

I'm sure you would agree that as we get older time seems to be going faster. I know I'm not the only man who regularly declares, "There are not enough hours in the day!"

For me, time management isn't a strength. However as a husband and father I am responsible to manage my time well so I can avoid life becoming too hectic and unbearably busy.

that are the outworking of those priorities. For example: family devotions, fellowship, hospitality, quality family time, evangelism, exercise, topics to study, skills to develop, ways to serve within the local church etc.

Something that really helps me is deliberate and intentional planning and prioritising. I am realising more and more that when life gets too fast-paced, priorities get jumbled and important things get neglected, there is much I can do with the Lord's help to make things more manageable and peaceable again. I often remind myself that there are always enough hours in the day to do God's will!

"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is." (Ephesians 5:15-17, NKJV)

■ Evaluation

Once this is done we then evaluate the value and benefit of how our time has been used. Where do you feel as a family God wants you to serve Him? What gifts has God given your children? What burdens do you each have to serve God? Have certain activities contributed towards your family vision or distracted you from it?

So here are a few simple suggestions that may help you to develop a family vision if you haven't done so already. You can then adjust the details, according to what works best for your family.

■ Prayer and Feedback

As a family we begin with prayer and commit the time to the Lord, asking for His wisdom. We then discuss how things are going in general, specific struggles, prayer needs and problems that need addressing. We also share victories and growth so we can thank God for them together.

■ Prioritisation

The next step is to shuffle whatever you need to in your lives, to prioritise that which should be given more time and attention. Will one less activity in the week help your wife to not be so exhausted? Will a time of serving or ministering in a rest home help your children to become less self-centred? Is that weekly commitment to help someone out causing you to neglect something of greater importance? The details will be different for everyone.

This is also a time for me to be real with my children, sharing my failures and how I am seeking God's help. Children can tolerate a lot of my mistakes, but not consistent hypocrisy.

■ Documenting the Family Vision

I have a notebook in which I document our "fluid" family vision. It includes a list of things we consider to be priorities for our family, in accordance with God's call upon our lives. It also includes the activities and actions

■ Moving from the "Why" to the "How"

If something new is to be implemented, what needs to take place for that to happen and when will it take place? If something is to be deleted from the family schedule, when and how is that going to be done? The goal is ➤

THE INSIDE RUNNING

Before I was married I considered myself a bit of an expert on parenting. Unfortunately I felt obliged to share this expertise. My friends treated me with far more grace and kindness than I deserved! Over the last 28 years I've come to understand that life is a lot more complicated and I seem to know less all the time!

People's natural tendency is to look back and base decisions on their experience over the past three years, without really considering likely changes in the next three years.

Over time we all travel through life stages that are distinctly different at each step. Love, forgiveness and kindness go a long way in maintaining and strengthening relationships. It's the glue that gets us through hard times. In tough times we need our own inner well of spiritual strength that we can draw on, which comes from our own relationship with God.

Ultimately we can't make our spouse do anything – and we shouldn't try. We are not here to control people but to love them and grow older together as friends.

May God be ever closer with you on your journey.

With gratitude

John Subritzky





not *perfection*, it is *direction* – and without that direction we may just slip back into a hectic pace of life, with no real sense of purpose or goal.

One of the most helpful things about having an established family vision is that when a new opportunity, activity or event is begging for our time and attention, it can be evaluated in light of the family vision, and that makes it a lot easier to say “yes” or “no”, and saves a lot of unnecessary hassle later on.

Aim to make this an encouraging, inspiring and special time, knowing that God is with you. It may feel awkward at first, getting the family together in this way, but over time it will become easier, and much appreciated by your wife and children!

What's on the DVD

FEATURED SPEAKER: Richard Ellena - Power of Love & Power of Legacy
Sharing the lessons he has learnt through the triumphs and tragedies of life, Richard humbly gives his key points for long-term success with family and marriage. Richard is the Anglican Bishop of Nelson diocese. 30 min

DRAMA: Second Chance 6 min

BONUS FEATURES:

- **My Story:** Nick Tuitasi - When Nick speaks it is always special and worth listening to. Don't skip over this one! 6 min
- **Mighty Men:** Angus Buchan – Angus filmed this message for Kiwi men – that's you! Many excellent points here. 24 min
- **PK Music:** Go 4 min
- **First Date:** A nice take on this. 2 min
- **Fatherhood:** The toughest job you will ever love! 5 min
- **Annoying Clichés About Singles:** Wow! We have said some of these. Oops! 2 min

HUMOUR CLIPS: Golf fails; Stretcher bearer fails; Waterslide; Easy fishing 6 min

BETTER WORK STORIES: Starting Young 3 min

DVD EXTRA RESOURCES: Access these using Windows Explorer (PC) or Command F (Mac)

ARTICLES: Including Pat Morley *A Key to Godliness for Young Men*; Kirk Giles *The Priority of Fatherhood*; Luke Gilkerson *Daddy Looks at Porn*; Herb Reese *Closer Than a Brother*; Derek Prince *Faith as a Gift*; Francis Frangipane *This Time I Will Praise the Lord* & *The Silent Harvest*; Kevin Forlong *The Power of a Word Pt 1 & Pt 2*; Nikki Bray *Taking Care of the Small (Important) Things*; Tom O'Neil Stance Blogs *Two Goats and a Fence* & *Success Through Failure*

RESOURCES: Including *Weekly Studies* for

Includes unseen footage



Men's Groups with *Facilitator Guidelines*; *Event Photos* GO 2015 CHC; *Advance Brochure Influence* 2016; *Study Questions* Power of Love & Power of Legacy; Family Interest *Website Links*; *Bible Reading Plans* and more...

MP3s: Including Mike Murphy *Parenting Sons* 48 min; Colleen & Angie Sonderman *Raising & Releasing Your Daughters* 45 min; Derek Prince *Overcoming Guilt, Shame, Rejection* 46 min

PKNZ Classics: Craig Vernall *Epic Battle for Your Marriage* 31 min; Nick Field *Our Greatest Ally* 29 min

Different perspective on family



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PROMISE #4

A Promise Keeper is committed to building strong marriages and families through love, protection, and biblical values.

Next Issue: RENEWED MIND