



Calvary Alliance of Churches and Ministries

September 2007

Setting Godly Goals

Greetings My Friends!

I pray you all are rested and ready to finish 2007 with vigor and power. I know I am! This is an interesting and busy season for me. I'm working on several projects which we pray will take our ministry to the next level; we are working hard on our building project here in Norfolk; and my only daughter is getting married this weekend. **So pray for your Bishop!** ☺ But as I'm considering all these life-changing events I'm determined to simplify my thinking and walk with a measure of peace through simple goal-setting and planning, and I want you to do the same.

As you know, ministry can get crazy with so many things to think about, delegate, and do. But while you as a leader must understand what is going on around you, you cannot forget to think strategically concerning your vision. Getting lost in the details can have a devastating impact on your ministry. Dr. Chand says, "**either you evaluate or you stagnate.**" If we are not careful, we can fall into the trap of ministry stagnation: just "having church" from Sunday to Sunday, hoping for high attendance or a good offering with no real goals in mind. Prayerfully and consistently setting concrete, measurable goals for our lives and ministry keeps us from that growth-destroying path.

Paul said, "***...I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus***" (Phil 3:13-14). The Greek word for *goal* here is ***skopos*** where we get the word "scope." A scope is simply an instrument used to magnify a target. Don't let the interesting fact that most good scopes can be "focused" be lost on you. **Goals keep us focused on our vision and help us avoid "ministry creep"...starting ministries and doing other things that don't fit our distinct mission.** To set and achieve a goal requires you to focus on reaching a God-ordained reality with the willingness to persevere.

So I want to encourage you to set some personal, relational, financial, and ministry goals and **write them down (Hab 2:1-4)**. In Feb 2003, USA Today ran an article on New Year's resolutions. The previous year they questioned people about their upcoming goals and plans. USA Today divided the respondents into two categories: those who had written down their resolutions and those who just thought about them. **One year later, only 4% of the "thinkers" made any changes, but 46% of the "writers" followed through!** The "writers" are 10.5 times more likely to succeed than the "thinkers."

Then I want to urge you to write down a few plans to go with each goal because a goal without a plan is just a dream. **Proverbs 16:3 says, “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.”** Prayer-soaked plans are required to reach goals. A goal may be a reality or outcome, but plans are detailed action items. So plan to do something **daily** that takes you closer to your God-given goals and consequently, closer to the vision He has placed in your heart. Try this for the rest of the year and let me know what happens!

Your Servant in Christ Jesus,
B. Courtney McBath