

Wisdom From Above

Visioneering

A new calendar year has dawned
upon us...

It wasn't too long ago when we were
concerned about the Y2K.

It has been 15 years since and it seems that
our lives haven't changed much.

We are the same old self, except for a few white hair and a few wrinkles here and there.

As King Solomon said: generations come and generations go yet the world stays basically the same.

Nothing much has changed significantly.

As we grow older with each passing year, we want to be better and wiser.

Wiser not only in the material world,
but preferably on the spiritual aspects
of life.

As Peter encourages: “Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.” (2 Peter 3:18.)

On this note, we will embark on a new Bible Study Series for the 1st quarter of this year. Our theme is entitled

“Wisdom From Above.”

It comes in three (3) parts namely:

1. Visioneering:

Engineering and Fulfilling Your Spiritual Goal

2. God's Secret Wisdom:

Empowerment of Divine Wisdom

3. The Mind of Christ: Driving Force of Christian Life

Visioneering

People love New Year's Day!
It provides an emotional and
psychological lift to many

It signals a fresh start with lots of hope
and exciting new beginnings

It is a wonderful time for visioneering
and setting life's goals

It allows people the opportunity to take inventory of their lives, plan out ahead into the future and to contemplate on what they want to be 5, 10, 20 years from today, and even into eternity

All visioneering and goal setting has one primary objective. At the final reckoning of things, it is what you want to achieve,...

...what you want to accomplish and what
you want to become is what should
propel you forward to the attainment of
your ultimate goal

The start of a brand new calendar year affords you this opportunity to make a wish and let it come true ...

...and our message today titled
“Vioneering” is intended to help
you jumpstart your plans for the
future.

What is a Vision?

We have here some famous quotable quotes
about “vision,” they are:

“The most pathetic person in the world is someone who has sight but no vision.”

—Helen Keller

“Dreams are extremely important. You can’t do it unless you can imagine it.”

--George Lucas

“The empires of the future are empires of
the mind.”

--Winston Churchill

“Leadership is the capacity to translate
vision into reality.”

--Warren Bennis

“If you can dream it, you can do it.”

-- Walt Disney

“Vision without execution is
hallucination.”

--Thomas Edison

“The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it.”

– Michelangelo

“Vision without action is a daydream.
Action without vision is a nightmare.”

– Japanese Proverb

What is a vision?

Vision is an internalization of a goal. Vision is to see yourself achieving your destiny.

It is a direction of life.

Many companies have a
Vision – Mission Statement.

The vision statement encompasses the essence of a company. It explains what the company wants to be.

The CGI Philippines
vision and mission statement is:
To save lives and to help bring
many sons to glory

Do you know this famous
personality?

Dr. Mark Victor Hansen, author of the world's bestselling book *CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE SOUL*.

Some of you might have read one of his 38 books.

He was an immensely successful author
and management consultant.

A few years back I attended his lecture at the
Shangri-La Makati Hotel on
“Dare To Win.”

More than 500 people attended the seminar and each paid P5,000 to attend a half-day session and P10,000 for a whole day talk. I came on a free pass.

His entire talk centered on setting goals and achieving them. He asked all participants to set 101 goals in 20 minutes assuming they were 12 years old.

Of all the participants he
picked me and asked what
my goals were.

Knowing the format of the lecture, I
responded to have one million
US dollars.

Then, he asked, “what else?”

At this point a joke came to mind, I remembered someone who asked a friend on what he considered important and he replied a dollar bill.

The man quarried further and asked, what is more important than a dollar bill, the friend thought for a while and said, a 100 dollar bill?

So, when Dr. Hansen asked me what my next goal was, I answered 2 million dollars.

He wasn't amused at all.

He then asked the pretty girl seated close to me.
She is really pretty. She said, she is single and
wishes to settle down with a man who loves her
and have a happy family.

She said other things but that is the only thing I
remember.

A pretty girl looking for a husband! I
remembered my good friend

How I wished he were there.

I am sure people's goal would revolve around wealth, health, family, social status, fame and power.

My goal in life is simple,
I don't need 101 goals.

I only need one goal

I will tell you later what my one
goal and vision is.

People actually paid P5,000 for a three hour talk. To tell you honestly, I didn't learn anything valuable.

Dr. Hansen gives lectures around the world because he wants to make a difference in the world. He wants to train and create more millionaires.

He has a seminar course called, Minute Millionaires and he charges \$7,500 for a three-day session.

I sincerely believe if we charged P10,000 for this afternoon's lecture, it would have been worth every centavo.

The truth we share is worth more than gold, that is why we give it for FREE. Our mission is simple, preach the truth and in the process save some people.

The book Chicken Soup For The Soul has within it a story entitled “Follow your dream” and it goes like this:

I have a friend named Monty Roberts who owns a horse ranch in San Ysidro. He has let me use his house to put on fund-raising events to raise money for youth at risk programs.

The last time I was there he introduced me by saying, “I want to tell you why I let Jack use my house. It all goes back to a story about a young man who was the son of an itinerant horse trainer who would go from stable to stable, race track to race track, farm to farm, and ranch to ranch, training horses.

As a result, the boy's high school career was continually interrupted. When he was a senior, he was asked to write a paper about what he wanted to be and do when he grew up.

“That night he wrote a seven-page paper describing his goal of someday owning a horse ranch. He wrote about his dream in great detail and he even drew a diagram of a 200-acre ranch, showing the location of all the buildings, the stables and the track. Then he drew a detailed floor plan for a 4,000-square-foot house that would sit on the 200-acre dream ranch.

“He put a great deal of his heart into the project and the next day he handed it in to his teacher.

Two days later he received his paper back. On the front page was a large red F with a note that read, ‘See me after class.’

“The boy with the dream went to see the teacher after class and asked,
‘Why did I receive an F?’

“The teacher said, ‘This is an unrealistic dream for a young boy like you. You have no money. You come from an itinerant family. You have no resources. Owning a horse ranch requires a lot of money. You have to buy the land. You have to pay for the original breeding stock and later you’ll have to pay large stud fees. There’s no way you could ever do it.’ Then the teacher added, ‘If you will rewrite this paper with a more realistic goal, I will reconsider your grade.’

“The boy went home and thought about it long and hard. He asked his father what he should do. His father said, ‘Look, son, you have to make up your own mind on this. However, I think it is a very important decision for you.’

“Finally, after sitting with it for a week,
the boy turned in the same paper,
making no changes at all. He stated,
‘You can keep the F and I’ll keep my
dream.’”

Monty then turned to the assembled group and said, “I tell you this story because you are sitting in my 4,000-square-foot house in the middle of my 200-acre horse ranch. I still have that school paper framed over the fireplace.”

He added, “The best part of the story is that two summers ago that same school teacher brought 30 kids to camp out on my ranch for a week.”

When the teacher was leaving, he said, ‘Look, Monty, I can tell you this now. When I was your teacher, I was something of a dream stealer. During those years I stole a lot of kids’ dreams. Fortunately, you had enough gumption not to give up on yours.’”

The lesson of the story is:

Vision drives your life

Don't let anyone steal your dreams.

Follow your heart no matter what.

Importance Of Vision

What is your life's vision?

If you had a life's goal what would it be?

The Bible records two different visions, each of which is distinct of the other. One is recorded in
1 Kings 3:4-15

1 Kings 3:4-15

(4) The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

1 Kings 3:2-15

(6) Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

(7) "Now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties.

1 Kings 3:2-15

- (8) Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number.
- (9) So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

1 Kings 3:2-15

(10) The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this.

(11) So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice,

(12) I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.

1 Kings 3:2-15

(13) Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both riches and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.

(14) And if you walk in my ways and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life."

1 Kings 3:2-15

(15) Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream. He returned to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord's covenant and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he gave a feast for all his court.”

Solomon's request was for wisdom to rule over the people.

Solomon had a pretty good wish. He didn't ask for riches or long life or any of the worldly things. He asked for wisdom to be able to lead God's people. God gave him wisdom. Unfortunately, Solomon didn't stay focused.

He started out so well but got
distracted by His Harem of 700 wives
and 300 concubines who turned him
into idolatry.

He asked for the wisdom of the world to rule over his people. He got it, but this nearly cost him his salvation.

If you were given a wish for a life's goal, what would it be?

Would you want to be a millionaire, a powerful politician, a famed personality or an enormously successful entrepreneur? What would your one wish be?

I think the wiser vision-goal came from
the most unexpected individual

The Thief on the Cross

He had a short dialogue with Jesus and
he had a vision

Luke 23:39-43

(39) "One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

(40) But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence?"

Luke 23:39-43

(41) We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

(42) Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

(43) Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth today, you will be with me in paradise."

The thief on the cross envisioned to be to be with Christ in paradise when and he asked be to be there. He understood Jesus message and he was able to visualize it.

What a goal – an incredible vision!

All the men of faith have the same
vision; including Abraham, the father
of the faithful

Abraham's Vision

(Hebrews 11:8-12)

(8) “By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

(9) By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

(10) For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

Abraham's Vision

(Hebrews 11:8-12)

(11) By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise.

(12) And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

He was driven by it. His vision was to be in the Holy City, the New Jerusalem-- to be with God.

All the men and women of faith of Hebrews 11 had this one goal of being with God in the coming Kingdom. The accounts in Hebrews 11 speak of their undying vision.

Hebrews 11:13-16

(13) All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.

(14) People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own.

Hebrews 11:13-16

(15) If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return.

(16) Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Hebrews 11:38-40

(38) And the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

(39) These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised.

(40) God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

If you have a goal in life, what would it be?

Jesus said:

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:33).

When people speak about the Kingdom of God, it conjures up a lot of meanings. To some it connotes heaven, to others paradise, yet to others the Millennial reign of Christ. The KINGDOM OF GOD may mean more than all these.

The kingdom of God means a
KINGDOM COMPOSED OF GODLIKE SPIRITUAL
BEINGS
wherein we are to become spiritual CHILDREN
of God!

1 John 3:1-2

- (1) “How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called **children of God!** And that is **what we are!** The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
- (2) Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, **we shall be like him,** for we shall see him as he is.”

Hebrews 2:10-13

(10) In bringing **many sons to glory**, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.

(11) Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the **same family**. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.

Hebrews 2:10-13

(12) He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises."

(13) And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me."

Romans 8:14-17

(14) For those who are led by the Spirit of God are **sons of God**.

(15) For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

Romans 8:14-17

(16) The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are **God's children**.

(17) Now if we are children, then we are heirs—**heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ**, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also **share in his glory**.

Revelation 21:7

(7) He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be **his God and he will be my son.**

My friends, our one goal in life is “son ship” in the kingdom of God, to be adopted as sons and daughters into the Divine Family.

Romans 8:23-25

(23) Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our **adoption as sons**, the redemption of our bodies.

(24) For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has?

(25) But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Jesus' gospel is about the kingdom of God who many fail to see.

Let us examine one of the Kingdom parables in Matthew 13.

Matthew 13:9-23

(9) He who has ears, let him hear."

(10) The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?"

(11) He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.

Matthew 13:9-23

(12) Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.

(13) This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

(14) In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

Matthew 13:9-23

(15) For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'

(16) But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.

Matthew 13:9-23

(17) For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. "

(18) Listen then to what the parable of the sower mean.

Matthew 13:9-23

(19) When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path.

(20) The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy.

Matthew 13:9-23

(21) But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.

(22) The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.

Matthew 13:9-23

(23) But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

Sadly,

few people are able to visualize this incredible potential of becoming a son of God, thus failed to make it a vision and a life-goal

Let us be mindful of what Apostle Peter wrote in
2 Peter 1:4

“that we may participate in the divine nature.”

Everyone's goal in life must be to participate in the divine glory and to become a son of our Father in Heaven!

This is one vision in life that is comparable to none. Nothing should deter us from this vision. Anything short of this vision-goal is not acceptable. We have no other choice but to make it work for us. How?

Make It Work

The majority who make New Year's resolution end up breaking it. And, most people fail to achieve their goals as well.

Make It Work

Therefore, proper planning is extremely critical in achieving a vision, more so if it concerns our salvation.

Here are a few guides on formulating your vision, they are:

- #1 Make Wise Choices
- #2 Make A Commitment
- #3 Start A New Habit

Guide #1 Make Wise Choices

Know what you really want

Guide #1 Make Wise Choices

You need to clearly state your goal and then internalize it. You need to imagine and see yourself where you want to be and what you want to become.

Making the wise choice requires you to spend time studying the Bible - meditating on God's words in relation to your future. God's wish is for you to be a son in His kingdom.

Ephesians 1:3-14

(3) “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

(4) For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

(5) In love he predestined us to be **adopted as his sons** through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

Ephesians 1:3-14

(6) to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

(7) In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

(8) that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

Ephesians 1:3-14

(9) And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,

(10) to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

(11) In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,

Ephesians 1:3-14

(12) in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

(13) And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

(14) who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory

You need to consider whether your life's vision
matches with God's plan for you!

Make the wise choice!

#2 Make A Commitment

Having a vision is easy;
it is the commitment that is difficult.

#2 Make A Commitment

A commitment necessitates a change of mind and habit. It requires an inner will.

#2 Make A Commitment

In Matthew 13:44-46, Jesus said:

(44) "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

(45) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls.

(46) When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Make A Commitment

A total and complete commitment will demand everything we've got. We have to labor and ensure that we attain the eternal goal.

Philippians 3:12-14

(12) Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

(13) Brothers, 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,

(14) I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Finish the Race

At ten minutes to seven on a dark, cool evening in Mexico City in 1968, Akhwari of Tanzania painfully hobbled into the Olympic Stadium – the last to finish the marathon.

The winner had already been crowned, and the victory ceremony was long finished. So the stadium was almost empty as Arkwari, alone, his leg bloody and bandaged, struggled to circle the track to the finish line.

The respected documentary filmmaker, Bud Greenspan, watched from a distance. Then, intrigued, Bud walked over to Arkwari and asked why he had continued the grueling struggle to the finish line.

The young man from Tanzania answered softly,
“My country did not send me nine thousand
miles to start the race. They send me nine
thousand miles to finish the race.”

1 Corinthians 9:24-26

(24) Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.

(25) Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

(26) Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air.

Hebrews 12:1-3

(1) Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Hebrews 12:1-3

- (1) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
- (2) Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

#3 Start A New Habit

Commitment requires a change of attitude and
behavior

Make Sabbath a New & Normal Habit

Action is required to make progress. With a new and energized vision of eternal hope, you need a new normal habit to keep you motivated on the track.

The Sabbath is not only a command but a sign between God and His true followers. It is a sign between you and God.

Exodus 31:13-14

(13) "Say to the Israelites, 'You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy.

(14) 'Observe the Sabbath, because it is holy to you. Anyone who desecrates it must be put to death; whoever does any work on that day must be cut off from his people.

Having a vision is not enough,
you have to achieve it

Make Sabbath a New & Normal Habit

Make Sabbath your new normal day of worship.

Conclusion

Proverbs 29:18:

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.”

Conclusion

This is a true saying. Without this divine vision, people will not achieve their God ordained destiny.

Conclusion

If you do not know what God has planned for you, you will never direct your life accordingly to achieve it.

Conclusion

Friends, now you know your potential. Make it your one single vision in life.

Conclusion

I said earlier that I do not need 101 goals.
I just need one.

Conclusion

My vision should be your vision too.

There is only one vision and
one goal for all of us.

Conclusion

The only vision in life is to attain SONSHIP in the Divine Family as purposed by our Heavenly Father.

Conclusion

Let us all work, labor and finish the race towards
the achievement of this vision.

Conclusion

This is God's wish for all His children –
to become a member of His Divine Family!