

2020 Vision Talk – Expanding the Garden

Here to There Mountain

- Where is our there?
- What does God want for us?
- What is our purpose.

In Genesis 1 we see God creating and orders a wonderful world out of chaos ...

- And sets in it a beautiful garden filled with mind-blowing trees ...
- Plants all kinds of vegetation and wild life.

The garden was created as a sacred space ...

- A cosmic temple you could say ...
- A place where heaven and earth [God's space & our Space] would come together,
- A place FOR God's own dwelling
- A place where he could take up his rest
- A place from where he could rule and reign the universe. [Psalm 132:14]

And although the creation was very good as we see throughout Genesis ...

- It wasn't perfect [tā-mīm – complete] as it seems to be **IN-complete**.
- In other words, Genesis 1 & 2 doesn't appear to be a static work of art ...
- Like a "picture" on a "canvas" that is just meant to be looked at ...
- Appreciated and enjoyed, but rather a plan that is going somewhere.

So, what is the plan? Where is it supposed to be going? And how will God take it there?

Genesis 1:26–28 ²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make mankind ^[adam] in our image, ^[selem] in our likeness, so that they ^[adam] may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷ So God created mankind ^[adam] in his own image, ^[selem] in the image ^[selem] of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

God places humanity at the center of the garden ...

- In order to expand his garden and bear his image [selem/ eikon] into it.

They were to spread his glory ...

- His pulsating life and being into the world by imaging him into the world

- Through the way that they would rule and reign God's world on his behalf
- So that "... the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." (Habakkuk 2:14)

So that is up there ...

- That is where we want to go.
- We want to have all these garden-like communities all over our city ...
- And then from there beyond.

So, how are we going to do it?

Mount Everest

- 8,848 meters high.
- Has four camps.

Base Camp – 5,380

Camp 1 - 6,065 m

Camp 2 – 6,400 m

Camp 3 – 7,400 m

Camp 4 – 7,925

The Balcony – 8,440

If we want to get to the summit

- We are going to need some camps along the way
- (4 x camps teen berg op met click elk).

Camp 1 – Fuller House “Initiative”

What is that? We started touching on it towards the end of last year.

- Fuller House: (logo) Expanding the Garden from your Home ...
- Through one another relationships.

We want to “reboot” that idea in 2020.

- In some ways it is going to run from Jan to end of April.
 - In other ways it is going to run through the year.

One of the things that we have seen over the last couple of years ...

- Is that we have very few friends studying the bible. (on calendar)

- And that is one of the main purposes of being a Christian.
- Helping people know God better.

So, one of the things that we have been thinking and praying about ...

- As a leadership team is ...
- How can we **increase our circle of influence** as ...
- Individuals and then also as family groups.

How can we not just go to church, but be the church?

- Not just go to Sunday worship service.
- But being the church every day.
- And “Being the Church” is about connecting with people ...
- Befriend people and somehow influence them ...
- And help them know God better.

And therefore, the campaign ...

- **Fuller house ...**
- In other words, how can I have a fuller house (my own home) ...
- From which I can expand the garden and help people ...
- To get to know God better.

This initiative is going to have two goals: **The Goal**

The **GOAL** of the campaign is two-fold ...

1. **To invite 6 new people into our home ...**
 - With the longer-term goal of helping THEM to get to Know God better.
2. **To do this through one another relationships** or kitchen relationships.

Today we are only going to talk about the first part.

- We will do number two next week.

To invite 6 new people into our home ...

- With the goal of helping those new friends to Know God better.

Steven Covey idea, begin with the end in mind.

- What is it that we want see happen in **the end.**
- Helping 6 new friends knowing God better.
- So that they can become part of his Messianic community ...
- And expand his garden while they bear his image into it.

John 17:3³ Now this is eternal life: that they KNOW YOU, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

This is Eternal Life, this is the life of the age to come, the life of God's new world.

- The life of the new creation.
- That they know you the only true God.
- And Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

So, in other words he is saying, that we can experience ...

- The world to come, God's New Creation in our lives right now ...
- By knowing God and knowing Jesus.

And therefore we want to help people Know God and Jesus.

Acts 20:27 ²⁷ For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.

- We live in a very religious city ...
- Where tons of people know "part of" the will of God.
- Know some things of the bible.

But that is very different from The Story of the Bible ...

- And the whole will of God.

So, we want to help people Know God, Know Jesus ...

- And know the whole will of God.

To help them see how God wants to invite them into his story ...

- And into his plan of renewing all things.
- Staring now till the end of this age.

That right at the end there is where we are heading.

- We want to help people Know God better.

1. Have thriving Family groups in our suburbs.
2. Extend to other suburbs.
3. Extend to other towns.

First need to get people into my home.

- From home expand garden

And therefore this initiative.

- At the heart of it Jan – April (on calendar)
- In these four months we want to encourage every member ...
- To invite 6 new people into your home.

That is why we have entitled it: FULLER HOUSE: Expanding the Garden from your home.

So, for Lisa and myself.

- 6 couples.
- No legalism.

What do I mean by "New?"

- New is, they have not been in your home before.
- Not talking about the neighbour that has been there before.
- The uncle or aunt or cousin that have come out a 100 times ...
- Not really interested.
- They are more than welcome, but that is not what I am talking about.

They might not be new to you, but new to your home.

- Parent as school.
- Colleague at work
- Someone in neighbourhood that you have spoken to.
- But you have not had them in your home.

So, want to encourage you to from Jan – April

- 6 new people into your home.
- With the longer term goal of getting to know them better.

What are you going to do with them in your home.

- If they want to start getting to know the bible better, JUMP in.
- Befriend and get to know them.
- Have coffee, dinner etc.

With the long term goal of helping them know God.

- I am talking about a very prayerful and patient process.

Currently we are about 280 members.

- Imagine a 170 of us get to do this.
- Some will be sick , some out of town ...
- We will have over a 1000 + friends ...
- That we will be able to connect with and influence ...
- And prayer help to get to Know God better.

Remember where we are going ...

- Up the summit.

Which takes us to camp 2

- What is camp 2
- 1:1 Bible Study