

What "Experts" say about Vision

God (THE EXPERT) says in Gen.11:6 "Behold...now nothing they [mankind] have imagined they can do will be impossible for them [to accomplish]." Hmmm man is apparently designed to be quite creative and capable. We can use our sanctified imagination!

The worldly "experts" agree, saying that I should continually be refining, restating, rewriting, and representing the God given vision! The more the founder focuses on a clearer and clearer picture of where he is headed the stronger it will inspire and pull him forward and the more likely it is that he will discover the resources and those that have been prepared to partner in the process.

In that light I've been working on a presentation for a Christian foundation that offers help to start up ministries, so envision this:

Boat Retreat Testimony:

How could a boat trip so change life?

(This is a fabrication of past land based testimonies of actual ministry recipients, assembled in a nautical story to illustrate the boat retreat vision to come.)

"My husband and I went on a boat retreat with Noble Maritime Ministries last summer, and can now see that it was a major turning point in our marriage, family and ministry.

We serve with a major international mission organization where my husband is assistant director of human resources. The mission's work has had a huge impact by training, equipping, and sending workers worldwide. It has been fulfilling work, but also stressful. Our marriage relationship was crumbling, my husband's job satisfaction level was dropping, finances were a strain, and we were ready to quit the mission and just go get a regular job. We knew our service had touched and launched scores of ministry pioneers, who in turn had affected thousands of people in the neediest corners of the earth, but **emotionally we were fried and had nothing more to offer!**

Continued on page 2

Praises

- God continues to minister to increasing numbers of individuals and couples in deep ways and we get to be involved through weekly sessions and multiple day intensive retreats.
- Kathy and girls' way paid to Switzerland for three weeks to help a single mom paint her home and of course enjoy Europe. Our friend says to hire a painting contractor would cost the same as three plane tickets. Seems like good reasoning to us. Being low budget homeschoolers we're calling it Betsy's senior/grad trip as well! Paris and the Alps, not bad God, thanks!)
- We are thankful for more boat-savvy relationships for Neil. This support and advice is important as he faces the responsibility of the Noble Maritime vision.
- Thank-you for your continued prayers and support.



Boat Retreat



Continued from page 1

A generous grant allowed us to take a boat retreat with Neil, Kathy and crew. Right away, their unconditional acceptance of us was therapeutic. We heard their own burn out in ministry story and quickly felt at ease to pour out our hearts and feel understood at a deep level. The experience was great, and included security, privacy, rest, colorful and healthy food, and amazing Pacific Northwest scenery including mountains, islands, Orca whales, bald eagles, quiet anchorages and hikes ashore. The accommodations aboard the Noble Quest were luxurious and private.

However, the highlight for us was the gracious prayer ministry sessions during which Bob and I discovered the root issues behind our emotional pain and exhaustion. We were able to receive renewal by Christ's Spirit, replacing our misinterpretations with His life-giving truth. Both of us had been to counseling in the past, but this was very different. It wasn't about being diagnosed and told what to "try harder" at, but rather a facilitated personal encounter with the Lord Jesus Himself, and Him setting us free! For example, one evening session I came to realize that during a childhood traumatic experience, the belief "I am ugly and worthless" became rooted in my life. That pain had haunted and hindered me for more than four decades. That night on the boat, Jesus liberated me of this pain-radiating lie with His life-giving truth. **The relief was over-the-top delicious!** It was late when we were done praying, but just for me, as a celebration, Neil up anchored, and while we sipped refreshments, we motored up the moonbeam that was sparkling across the rippled waters of the sound, to drop anchor and start a new day in a whole new unexplored area. I will never forget that evening!

Continued next column

We would be encouraged to hear from you:

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Noble Maritime Ministries

PO Box 1224

Anacortes, WA 98221

or online at www.noblemaritime.com

see "PayPal" at bottom of Home Page

Looking back one year since our boat retreat trip, I can see great and lasting fruit such as:

- Our marriage is in a much better place and growing stronger.
- An ongoing mentoring friendship with Neil and Kathy.
- Neil showed us a tool for successfully processing emotional flare-ups that will serve us well for the rest of our lives.
- We stayed in our ministry roles and are much more fruitful and at peace.
- We can see now that we were in a very vulnerable and critical place! If we had resigned, the impact on the field missionaries would have been damaging, not to mention our own defeat and marital stress (Many ministers who leave their positions emotionally broken don't return to service, and some abandon their faith altogether).
- The principles we learned on our trip we are now implementing at our mission and they are improving how the organization sees equipping, sending, and pastoral care of ministers of the gospel.

Neil and Kathy and their team have blessed us in more ways than they will ever know."

**Bob and Sue Missionary
Hereandthere, Texas**

Prayer

- ✎ More wisdom
- ✎ More courage
- ✎ Needed ministry tools:
 - one or more **Love and Respect** DVD series by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs (www.loveandrespect.com)
- ✎ hot tub (for baptizing tired ministry recipients)
- ✎ 60-90 foot boat
- ✎ \$500,000/yr operations budget
- ✎ another nice set of guest towels and linens for king bed.
- ✎ if we don't have a boat soon, finances to charter a vessel for the first Boat Retreat this summer
- ✎ **Help:** we could use help with this show case garden property as spring growth hits

