



# ONE VOICE



Churches: ♦Bethany ♦Immanuel ♦Lunder ♦Silver Lake ♦Winnebago

Pastor Randy Baldwin & Pastor Bill Peters

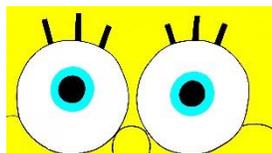
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## WANDERINGS AND WONDERINGS

### The Spirit Give Us Dreams and Visions – Things Hoped For

I get wearied by pessimism. We have it everywhere. In our personal lives. In our communities and nation. Even in our churches. Where is everyone? Why don't we have kids anymore? The end is near. The church is dying. There are some real answers to those questions, but I, like many, do not always want to go there. Sometimes I do not want to own up to them. Sometimes I do not believe them.



Are they answers or all they perceptions? Where have we set our sights? Our trust? Our hope? Pessimism is most often a lack of vision.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. Our hopes and our dreams – they make us ... they excite us ... they lift us up ... they empower us to be what God has created us to be.

One of my favorite stories is that of Abraham and Sarah "late in life", during their transition of waiting for God to keep his promise and experiencing it.

*"Abraham had a number of visions, this one was while he was in his late nineties. I can just see this old man waking up one morning, nudging his wife, and with a shaky voice saying, "Sarah? Sarah?"*

*Sarah, in her late eighties, responded in groggy fashion*

*"What is it, Abe?"*

*I just had a vision,"*



*says the old man.*

*"What kind of vision, Abe?" asks Sarah.*

*I just had a vision of a new world! A new humanity! A new People! Sarah, you and I are going to create a whole new epoch in human history!"*

*"How does this new humanity start?" asks Sarah.*

*"Glad you asked" smirks Abraham.*

*The next scene, a year later. The now 100 year old Abraham, probably limping along with a walker holding him up, alongside his now 90 year old pregnant wife. (God does have a sense of humor.)*

*"Where are you going, Abe?" the people ask.*

*"I don't know," the old man answers.*

*"Well then, why are you leaving?" they yelled back at him.*

*"BECAUSE GOD HAS GIVEN ME A VISION!" shouts Abraham.*

*(From " Things Hoped For" Let Me Tell You a Story by Tony Campolo)*

Put that story alongside a story told by Soren Kierkegaardian – a parable about ducks. He describes a town where only ducks live. *Every Sunday the ducks waddle out of their houses and waddle down Main Street to their church. They waddle into the sanctuary and squat in their proper pews. The duck choir waddles in and takes its place, then the duck minister comes forward and opens the duck Bible. He reads to them. "Ducks! God has given you wings! With wings you can fly! With wings you can mount up and soar like eagles. No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! You have wings! God has given you wings and you can fly like birds!"*

*All the ducks shouted, "Amen!" And they all waddled home.*

Have vision. Have a vision! Have God's vision? Look up ... and see where God is leading.

**"I lift up my eyes to the hills ... the Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore."**

Wanderings and Wonderings,

Pastor Bill Peters



