

A Vision for Medical Missions

by Bruce Steffes



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1. Please share with our readers the vision that God placed in your heart and describe the current status of the realization of this dream.

I believe God rarely gives us a blueprint or vision for our lives in its entirety. Should He do so, I know I would spend my time trying to live by the blueprint instead of by faith. Ps. 119:105 reads: “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” God has only shown me the way one step at a time—and I have

had the choice whether to follow. In the midst of a thriving surgical practice, He asked me to step out of it. Once out of it, He showed me the great need of suffering people and asked me to consider exploring medical missions. Once in medical missions, He showed me the need to train African physicians and asked me to consider the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons.

2. Many believe that “visions” are mystical types of experiences reserved for the spiritual elite. Describe how this vision came to you.

I have often wished that there had been some mystical, clearly divine and clearly supernatural experience. It may have been easier during the times of doubt to cling to that experience. Instead, my changes have been more like C.S. Lewis’ experience when he stated that he started that fateful trip as a non-Christian and finished it as a believer. For me, God has used an intellectual process—and sometimes an experiential process—to make these

various changes of direction under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

3. How did you respond to such a vision? What was your reaction?

More often than not, I have intellectually protested mightily until I yielded body and soul. However, I continue to learn to trust His path for me.

4. As you have sought to follow the vision, what have been your greatest challenges?

That is an easy answer—me! And then after that, all the others. While I fully recognize that it is God’s work, I too often claim fame or blame when neither is mine. The Accuser is always willing to nudge me in either direction. And if I feel I am approaching perfection, God uses others—and my reaction to them—to show me that there is a great deal of work to be done within my own heart.



5. What are the primary lessons God has taught you through this journey of faith?

That He remains Jehovah-Jireh and is worthy of our faith; that despite the limited talents and gifts that He has given me, there are none that He actually needs; and that anything worthwhile that is ever accomplished is His activity and to His glory.

6. What would you like to say to someone who feels they are stuck in a rut and living in spiritual mediocrity? Does God have a vision for everyone?

The closest thing to a vision I ever had was the blinding realization one night that God really loves me despite my inadequacies—enough for Christ to die for me and had I been the only one, He still would have died for me despite my unworthiness. So the vision that sustains me is not a ministry, or a glimpse of what He might allow me to do in Africa, but rather the clear vision of being with Him for eternity, and I strive to hear, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.” That is a vision that can sustain each one of us and allows us to live a life of obedience—no matter to what God has called us.