

Random Ponderings

"Without a Progressive Vision, We Dwell Carelessly"

by Steve Brewer

These words penetrated me years ago. They came from a song that I first heard in a black church in Rochester, New York in the early 1970s. The song was powerful, but the message that followed by Paul Garlington was even more powerful. The gist of the message was that Christianity isn't a life that's thrown at you and just happens to you, but instead, it's a visionary life. You've been designed with natural interests and talents in life. Within those natural talents, God has a vision for you, and from that vision will develop a mission.

That mission might not necessarily be "religious." It might be medical, legal, engineering, teaching, administrative or whatever, but its roots will be from God. And if you follow what God designed you for, you will find great fulfillment in whatever you pursue because you will have vision, you will have mission, and you will find achievement. That type of achievement will have fulfillment rather than regret.

That doesn't mean life will be pain-free or without challenge. You will likely find times when you feel like you've accomplished nothing, but if you spend time before God and really seek him for your personal vision, you will find your vision. As you meditate on this vision that you've been designed for, you will find your mission, and from there you will be able to lay out your plans for achievement.

The lyrics to the simple song I refer to in the title are below. The tune was simple but catchy. I wish I could find a recording of it.

*Lift your vision high,
we're in a way we've never been before.
Lift your vision higher,
and you will see the glory of the Lord.*

*For without a progressive vision
we dwell carelessly.
Without a progressive vision
we dwell carelessly.
So lift your vision higher,
and you will see the glory of the Lord.*

Posted 17th April 2011 by [Steve Brewer](#)



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1.

[95Counties](#) [April 5, 2017 at 8:25 PM](#)

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Steve,

A good friend of mine tonight in our men's Bible study was reflecting on the words "without a progressive vision, we dwell carelessly" and how he was struggling to find the verse in scripture.

To help him out I googled these words and stumbled upon your blog.

Much to my friends surprise, as you described your church experience in the 1970s in Rochester, NY my friend exclaimed that he also attended the same church in 1974.

Please know that this blog meant a lot to my friend and our men's group as we enjoyed witnessing first hand how God used your story and this song to make the world just a little bit smaller.

Thank you,
John

[Reply](#)

2.

Anonymous[August 19, 2017 at 9:35 PM](#)

Steve

I too was in New York attending Elim Bible Institute 1974-1976. This song was our class song. I remember the melody very well. I thought it had disappeared into oblivion since moving to the Northwest I no longer hear it.
Denise

[Reply](#)

3.

Jane Anstey[January 22, 2018 at 9:05 AM](#)

I remember this song from Basingstoke Community Church, in the UK, in the 1980s, and I can still sing it, so it definitely didn't disappear into oblivion.

[Reply](#)

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1.

Joshua[July 15, 2018 at 6:58 AM](#)

Hello there. Would you happen to have any recording of this song or maybe sheet music or something? Some of the older people in our church want to sing this song but don't seem to remember the right tune so well. Hope someone could help out. Thank you so much!

[Reply](#)

4.



Linda Moore[February 6, 2018 at 11:29 AM](#)

Steve,

I attended Elim in Lima, NY 75-78 and today googled the words for one of my college students and found this Blog! Small World! Great Big God! Great Influential Song !!!!

[Reply](#)

5.

Anonymous[April 4, 2018 at 11:57 PM](#)

A young man, Jef D, doing outstation ministry from Elim taught us, Adams Center Baptist, that song. Jeff has gone to be with the Lord but a keen memory of him teaching us remains.

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