

*happy new year*



*January 2018*

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Upcoming

L2L VISION



## How Big is Your Vision for 2018

*“The real qualities of leadership are to be found in those who are willing to suffer for the sake of objectives great enough to demand their wholehearted obedience.”* Spiritual Leadership, Oswald Sanders.

A friend of mine who consults CEO's of small companies tells me that over 90% of these firms operate on a re-active rather than pro-active basis. In other words, they simply respond in a knee jerk fashion to market conditions: No great vision. Just daily...grinding...survival.

Aim at nothing and you are sure to hit it.

Many people circumscribe their lives to the same aimless, reactive, blandness: Putting out fires. Solving problems. Oiling the wheel that squeaks the loudest. Oppressive...boring...survival.

Bound to the tyranny of the urgent.

Perhaps our problem is that our vision is so small that it only merits a mediocre response.

One impassioned writer cried out against this mind numbing, vision-less level of subsistence:

*“Give me men to match my mountains:*

*Give me men to match my plans:*

*Men with empires in their purpose:*

*Men with eras in their brains.”* Sam Walter Foss

Christ has an objective great enough to demand His wholehearted obedience: Your salvation.

*“Jesus...who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame...”* Heb 12:2

The “joy set before Him” was His vision of your redemption...Which resulted in His wholehearted obedience to the Father’s will: The cross.

Tell me, do you have an objective in your life that is “great enough to demand your wholehearted obedience”? If not, life must be pretty stale stuff.

May I suggest that unless you have a vision-a dream-an objective that;

1. Is bigger than your life
2. Is linked to God’s eternal purposes and
3. Demands faith and sacrifice, you are already dead.

They just haven’t set the date for the funeral.

**Facts of the Matter Daily Devotional. ... Dwight Hill**

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## 2017 L2L Annual



What a blessing for those of us who gathered at Ippolito’s Restaurant once again for the annual L2L Christmas Banquet. Paul & Dina Provenzano were the featured speakers this year and did a marvelous job sharing their story together in front of a group of 70 guests. The genuineness of their story, especially on the issue of forgiveness, moved everyone in attendance.

Paul opened up with an anecdote many men could relate to concerning the desire to win his father’s approval by being a star athlete (as his father had been in his younger years). He was successful enough in that effort that he earned a scholarship to play football in college. With college came all kinds of activities that Paul had abstained from during his high school years. (Again, a common narrative for many in the room.) After that came the love story with Dina, eventually leading to marriage, career, travel, and much more, including kids.

Dina's story included some similar themes, plus an overwhelming desire to be noticed. As the youngest of three girls (and with the older sisters being twins), she had a sense that no one really cared about her. To cope with these feelings she did everything she could to be noticed. She dated the captain of the high school football team for six years and worked hard at "being cute." An eventual break up with the boyfriend just sustained those feelings from childhood. Then Paul came into her life (who, by the way, had the locker next to her ex-boyfriend's on their college football team.)

While living in Florida during the first few years of marriage, Dina's sister (whom she had once shunned) began to talk about a relationship she had with Christ. As she shared more and more, Dina's eyes and ears were opened to the message of hope, and she began her own relationship with Christ. Paul's career then brought them to Atlanta, and that's when they began to attend church. A man came alongside Paul, and on a ski trip with this man and friends Paul's ears were opened to the Gospel.

Fast forward a few years and some of the habits Paul picked up in college caught up with him and came to Dina's attention. For Dina, all those old feelings of rejection, from childhood to the break-up with the former boyfriend, flooded back into her life. Feeling crushed but also furious, Dina heard a message on forgiveness around the same time, and despite her feelings she realized she had to obey the prompting. Meanwhile Paul was shattered by the destruction his decisions had caused and knew that only God's mercy and grace could bring about the transformation necessary to restore the marriage.

The two of them submitted to God's word and sought faithful men and women to come alongside them in their darkest hours. God blessed their humility and brokenness by slowly bringing about renewal in their marriage. He demonstrated His love by blessing them with a new son. God was true to His word, "what the locusts have destroyed I will restore." We give thanks to Paul and Dina for sharing their story, and we thank God for His everlasting love and mercy.



## Yearly Bible Reading Plan

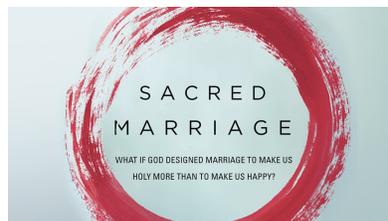
*"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." [Matthew 7:24](#)*

Reading through the Bible is a rewarding experience, and these plans can help you do

it! Click Here: <https://www.biblegateway.com/reading-plans/?version=NIV>

<http://www.christianity.com/bible/year/>

**May God's enduring word enrich your life in 2018.**



**Friday, Feb 9**

**7:30pm-9:30pm Welcoming**

**Saturday, Feb 10**

**9:00am - 12:30pm Morning Session**

**12:45pm - 6:45pm Free time**

**7:00pm - 9:30pm Evening Session**

**Sunday, Feb 11**

**8:30am-11:45am Morning Session and close**

**Cost: \$265.00 per couple**

**(Includes the event, room, snacks and parking costs)**

**Meals are extra.**

**[Click here to RSVP](#)**

**[2018 L2L Valentine's Couples Getaway](#)**

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