

# What I've Learned in 25 Years at VCNP

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## I. Intro

- A. Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV) <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

## II. VCNP Is a Great Place to Raise a Family

- A. Deuteronomy 11:18-21 (NIV) <sup>18</sup>Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>19</sup>Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>20</sup>Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, <sup>21</sup>so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.

## III. VCNP Is a Great Place to Learn to Worship God and Experience God's Touch

- A. Matthew 18:20 (NIV) *"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."*

## IV. VCNP Is a Great Place to Learn to Love Other People

- A. 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV) *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

## V. VCNP Is a Great Place to Learn to Invest Your Resources

- A. Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV) <sup>19</sup>*"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup>But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

## VI. Pastoring Is a Tough Job

- A. Hebrews 13:17 (NIV) *Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.*
- B. James 3:1 (NIV) *Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.*
- C. John 17:20-23 (NIV) <sup>20</sup>*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup>that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup>I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—<sup>23</sup>I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."*

## VII. VCNP's Best Days Are Ahead

- A. Philippians 1:3-6 (NIV) <sup>3</sup>*I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup>In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup>being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

## VIII. Closing

- A. Philippians 1:9-11 (NIV) <sup>9</sup>*And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup>so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.*