
BILL ROBERSON

Colorado Springs, CO • 972.898.7176
bobcatbill22@me.com • [linkedin.com/in/bill-roberson-cos](https://www.linkedin.com/in/bill-roberson-cos)
Case Studies/Portfolio: [bobcatbill22.com](https://www.bobcatbill22.com)

CONTENT CREATION: WOODMEN VISION DEVOTIONAL

Content written by Bill Roberson for FAQs and Staff Devotional

01

BACKGROUND

Woodmen Valley Chapel transitioned to a new senior leader in 2014. As part of this transition, leadership revealed a new vision and mission for the staff and congregation. The Lead Team asked me to help present this new vision in a practical way through some FAQs as well as presenting a staff devotion.

02

NEW VISION STATEMENT

Love Well • Change Lives • Through Christ

The Lead Pastor came to me with the phrase *Love Well - Change Lives* for the new vision statement. This was a great start conceptually but I felt it needed a qualifier regarding how those things were to be done. I suggested adding the phrase *Through Christ* to complete the statement and the full vision became *Love Well • Change Lives • Through Christ*.

I also created FAQs to instruct the congregation on the new vision - a few of them are below:

Why are we changing our vision statement? After much prayer and collaboration, we believe God has given us a fresh perspective on His direction for our church community. The simple, compelling phrase "Love well • Change lives • Through Christ" gives us a biblical and compassionate way to express an active and grace-filled life of faith. We demonstrate everyone matters by loving well, and we desire to see lives changed as we grow into the image of Christ. We can do these things only through the power of Christ.

Who has God equipped Woodmen to reach? Woodmen Valley Chapel desires to reach and serve people of all ages and backgrounds. We realize with a variety of churches, programs, worship and teaching styles Woodmen may not be the right church for all. It is our sincere desire to reach and serve those who God leads us to engage with - we also hope to connect everyone to a body of believers. This model is not meant to exclude any people groups, rather it helps to serve as a focus for our efforts. We believe we are called to *attract the next generation, equip mature believers* while drawing them into the active work of discipleship, and *reach out to seekers* by doing what the body of Christ does best ... serving and meeting needs.

The staff devotional is on the following pages:

A New Name

*“Making your way in the world today takes everything you’ve got.
Taking a break from all your worries, sure would help a lot.*

Wouldn't you like to get away?

Sometimes you want to go

*Where everybody knows your name,
and they're always glad you came.”**

Along with being the theme song from a great TV show, these words speak directly to our universal desire for community and connection.

What would it look like at Woodmen if we were a place where everybody knows your name? The sheer volume of people makes it unreasonable to expect that *every* person has this kind of connection but, we *could* craft an environment where learning each other's names and stories became the norm.

What's so important about our name?

Our names begin to tell some of our story. Looking back on biblical history, it would appear God has a unique relationship with names as well. He would often use a name change to declare something about an individual ... even before it was a reality in their life.

Abram to Abraham ... Jacob to Israel ... Simon to Peter ... Saul to Paul

The bible is full of stories describing the lives of those who hoped to live up to the name God declared over them. There are times in our lives when God gives us a new name and a new story. He will draw us toward that declaration ... even before we understand it. There are generally echoes of the new name God is calling us toward even in the old ones we have borne. We know Abram hoped and desired to be a father well before God showed him the stars that would become his inheritance. Traces of rock-like strength could be seen in Peter as he walked alongside, and at times behind, Jesus in his ministry travels. As a staff here at Woodmen, God has given us a new name: ***To Love Well and See Lives Changed Through Christ***. It's not that we've historically loved poorly and have never seen changed lives. But, by declaring this new name, God is calling us toward a renewed story and drawing us into a deeper reality.

What does it mean for us as a staff to love well and what does it look like for *our* lives to be changed for His name's sake?

This is not just a nice story to tell our people ... it's for us as well. Our connect team recently came across some scripture that begins to flesh this out in chapter 13 of Hebrews:

"Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers ..." Hebrews 13:1-2

These two short verses are a great summary of how we love well and see lives changed as a staff. Verse one emphasizes our love for each other while verse two emphasizes our relationship to those we don't yet know. As a staff, we are to love one another well at the same time we are loving our brothers and sisters in Christ in our congregation. It is also our duty to welcome those who God is putting in our path in order to see Christ change their lives. We hope to see strangers and enemies of God turned toward Him because of our hospitality and care.

The next several verses include even more encouragement as they describe many ways the early believers were engaged in ministry:

Hebrews 13:4-16

- *vs 3: Remember those who are in prison ...* Thanks to our Prison Ministry Team
- *vs 4: Let marriage be held in honor among all ...* Thanks to our Pastoral Care and Men's & Women's Teams
- *vs 5: Keep your life free from love of money ...* Thanks to our Finance Team
- *vs 7: Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God.* Thanks to our entire Teaching Team and special thanks to our Children's & Student Teams
- *vs 15: ... let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God ...* Thanks to our Worship & Tech Teams
- *vs 17: Obey your leaders and submit to them ...* Thanks to our Elders and Lead Team

While this list is not exhaustive of *everything* we do here at Woodmen, it is a great reminder that we're all in this together. In light of this, we should consider what it means for us as a staff to love each other well along with what it looks like for *our* lives to be changed for His name's sake.

Even if your specific focus didn't get mentioned in the earlier list, we can all take encouragement from the last few words of verses 20-21:

"Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." Hebrews 13:20-21

May we seek to do these things in order to lean into the name and story God is calling us toward. Let us desire to be a staff and church that loves well and sees lives changed through Christ.

And if we turned into a place where everybody knows your name, that would be encouraging as well!

**Where Everybody Knows Your Name by Gary Portnoy & Judy Hart Angelo*
