

# Prophets of a Future Not Yet Our Own

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.  
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,  
it is even *beyond our vision*.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction  
of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.  
Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying  
that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said.  
No prayer fully expresses our faith.  
No confession brings perfection.  
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.  
No program accomplishes the church's mission.  
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.  
We plant the **seeds** that one day will grow.  
We **water** seeds already planted,  
knowing that they hold future promise

We lay foundations that will need further development.  
We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of **liberation**  
in realizing that.

This enables us to do **something**,  
and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning,  
a step along the way,  
an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results,  
but that is the difference between the master builder  
and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.  
***We are prophets of a future not our own.***