

Case Study

New Horizons Community Church was so pleased to have Jerry as their pastor. The church's previous pastor had left after a few years, complaining of burnout. In looking for a new pastor, New Horizons had wanted to find someone more ambitious to lead the church through its next phase of growth. All the members of the church's leadership team had agreed that Pastor Jerry was the best man for the job.

Pastor Jerry had an impressive presence when he spoke from the pulpit, showing a cleverness of mind that easily moved the audience to laughter. It is true that a few people found his humor to be a bit too edgy and sarcastic but after all every truly great pastor has his critics.

Pastor Jerry's greatest gift, however, was his ability to cast a vision, to make people dissatisfied with the past, anxious about the present, and to have great expectations for the future. Unlike other local churches which had settled for mediocrity, New Horizons' approach to ministry was cutting edge. Every area of the church had become more efficient at delivering high-quality programs that engaged younger people. The new video curriculum used in the junior high ministry, for example, had increased attendance by over 80%.

It is true that Pastor Jerry had a few limitations. For example, he wasn't particularly good at submitting receipts for his expenses and could get a bit irritable when asked for them.

Minor problems like this, however, would undoubtedly be resolved now that the church's leadership team had been reorganized. The members of the new leadership team were all strong supporters of the pastor, so now one could count on getting things done more quickly and efficiently. Furthermore, all the new leadership team members were professionals who were well respected in the community—doctors, lawyers, businessmen and even a famous Christian singer whom Pastor Jerry had recently consoled as she went through a messy and bitter divorce.

All in all, things were looking good at New Horizons, the church where, as Pastor Jerry says, "The sky is the limit!"