

*It helps now and then, to step back and take the 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 another 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.*

*That 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 effects 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 God'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.*

*Composed by Bishop Kenneth Untener of Saginaw, Michigan (deceased)*