A Vision of Growth:

An Introduction to the Five Year Plan

Notes and Script
for PowerPoint Presentation

These notes are designed to accompany the PowerPoint program on *A Vision of Growth: Introduction to the Five Year Plan*. The slide show uses vivid images and authoritative text to present a clear overview of the Plan. Topics include: the two major processes at work in the world today, the Dec. 27th letter of the House of Justice, the central aim of the Plan, the two essential movements and four core activities, *community of interest* defined, children and junior youth, the importance of teaching, and the critical role of the Bahá'í Faith. This program has been updated to include the 2008 Ridván Message, and is approximately twenty minutes long.

BONUS! Lyrics for the original "Five Year Plan Song" are included free with this download.



This packet includes notes to the presenter, a list of slides, and a script for the narration.
A study guide is included separately and can be used before, during or after the slide presentation.

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Materials developed by

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PRINTING: To print from PDF file to 8½ x 11-inch paper: type <Control> <P>, then select Page Scaling > None. For other paper sizes, you may need to run a test print after selecting different paper sizes or scaling options.

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A Vision of Growth

Notes to the Presenter

This program is the first in a series of PowerPoint presentations produced by UnityWorks on the Five Year Plan (2006-2011). The accompanying narration can be read as a script or you can use your own words as desired. The study guide is designed to reinforce learning and to stimulate discussion after the presentation.

To view the program: This slide show was created in PowerPoint 2007. If you do not have this version of PowerPoint on your computer, you can download the PowerPoint 2007 Viewer free from Microsoft (see Read Me file provided with this download). Follow these three easy steps:

1. Install PowerPoint Viewer 2007.
2. Open the Viewer and type "VisionGrowth" in the File Name box.
3. Click "open" and begin the show.

Duration: The presentation is about 20 minutes long. Additional time may be needed to allow for questions or discussion.

To jump to a slide: During the presentation, to jump forward or backward to a particular slide, type the slide number and press "enter". There is a list of slides on page 4 of this packet.

To darken the screen: Press "b" for "black" to darken the screen and pause the presentation. To resume, press "b" again.

Before the Presentation

Practice: Practice the presentation until you can do it comfortably. Check the pronunciation of unfamiliar names and terms. Use a strong, clear voice to communicate with your audience.

Visit the Site: Visit the site of your presentation beforehand if possible. Check for location of the outlets, placement of the screen, availability of a projector and stand, a table for your laptop, a microphone if needed, lighting and seating arrangements. On the day of the talk, arrive early to set up and test the equipment.

Checklist of Materials

- ❑ Computer, laptop or thumb drive
- ❑ PowerPoint program
- ❑ PowerPoint 2007 Viewer (if needed)
- ❑ Printed list of slides
- ❑ Script for narration
- ❑ Digital projector
- ❑ Table for the projector and laptop
- ❑ Microphone and amplifier
- ❑ Extension cords and/or power strip
- ❑ Study guide with copies for all





A Vision of Growth

Introduction to the Five Year Plan

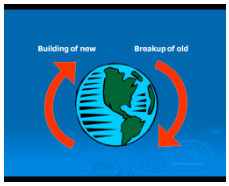
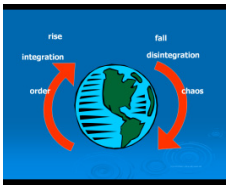
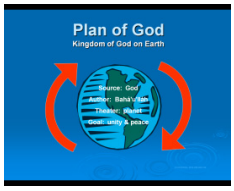
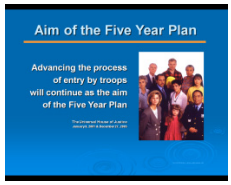
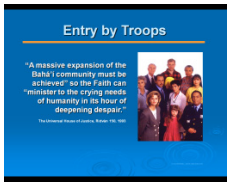
List of Slides

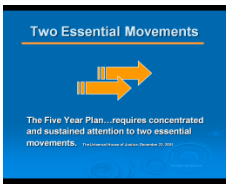
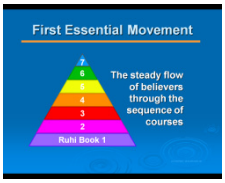
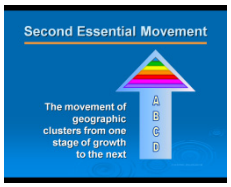
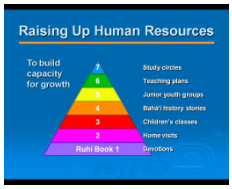
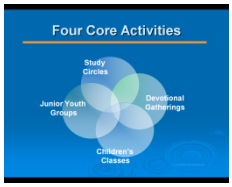
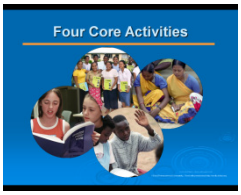
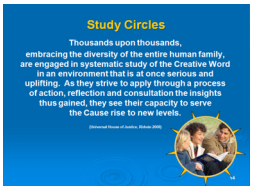
1. A Vision of Growth (title slide)
2. Two Major Processes…
3. Rise and Fall…
4. Plan of God
5. Plan of God (Dec. 27)
6. Aim of the Five Year Plan
7. Entry by Troops
8. Two Essential Movements
9. First Essential Movement
10. Second Essential Movement
11. Raising Up Human Resources
12. Four Core Activities (circles)
13. Four Core Activities (photos)
14. Study Circles
15. Devotional Gatherings
16. Home Visits
17. Children's Classes
18. Junior Youth Groups
19. Community of Interest
20. Importance of Teaching
21. Obligation to Teach
22. Teach the Cause
23. Children & Junior Youth
24. Plan of God (boats)
25. The Bahá'í Faith
26. Our Activities Are…
27. To the Bahá'ís of the World
28. The Way Forward is Clear
29. Above All (end slide)
30. Black Slide
31. Copyright and Publisher
32. List of Slides

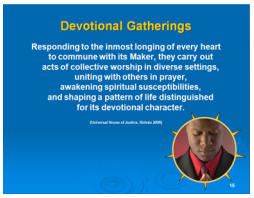
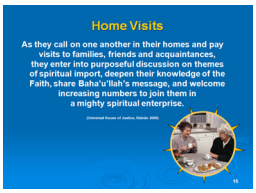
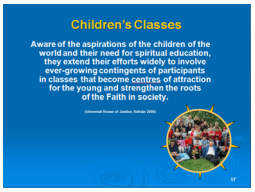
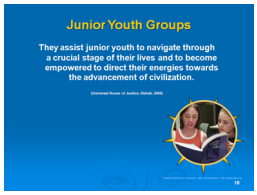
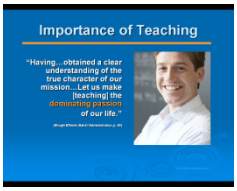
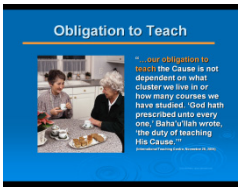
Note: All of the slides in this program contain custom animations. Some animations are activated by mouse click, while others are on a timed delay and you need to wait a few seconds for the effect to begin. It is recommended that you rehearse the presentation until you have a feel for the timing of each slide.

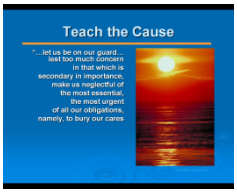
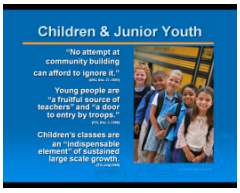
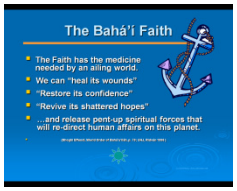
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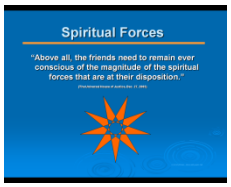
References: ADJ = Advent of Divine Justice; ITC = International Teaching Centre, WOB = World Order of Bahá'u'lláh

Slide 1		■ = click Narration for ■ A VISION OF GROWTH **An Introduction to the Five Year Plan (2006-2011)** © UnityWorks LLC – www.unityworksstore.com
Slide 2		■ There are two major processes at work in the world today: ■ the breakup of the old world order, and the building of the new. One is tearing down barriers to unity; the other is laying the foundation for the Kingdom of God on earth.
Slide 3		■ At the same time, we are witnessing the "rise and fall," "integration and disintegration," "order and chaos" predicted by the Guardian, "with their continuous and reciprocal reactions on each other…" (Shoghi Effendi, ADJ, p. 73)
Slide 4		■ These, he said, "are but aspects of a greater Plan, one and indivisible, whose Source is God, whose author is Bahá'u'lláh, the theater of whose operations is the entire planet, and whose ultimate objectives are the unity of the human race and the peace of all mankind." (Shoghi Effendi, ADJ, p. 73)
Slide 5		■ Spearheading this process of integration and unity is Bahá'u'lláh's Army of Light. ■ On Dec. 27, 2005, The Universal House of Justice sent a letter to the soldiers in this Army, with the details of our new global Plan. The letter sums up our learning to date, and outlines the Five Year Plan—a framework for action for the next five years.
Slide 6		■ What is the aim of the Five Year Plan? *(Ask the audience.)* The House of Justice calls on us to harmonize our diverse talents into one forward movement: ■ **ADVANCING THE PROCESS OF ENTRY BY TROOPS**. This will be the focus of the Bahá'í world through 2021—the first century of the formative age. (UHJ, 27 Dec 2005)
Slide 7		■ Why is entry by troops important? *(Ask the audience.)* ■ "A massive expansion of the Bahá'í community must be achieved" so the Faith can "minister to the crying needs of humanity in its hour of deepening despair." (UHJ, Ridván 150, 1993)

Slide 8		■ To advance the process of entry by troops, the Five Year Plan "requires concentrated and sustained attention to two essential movements." (UHJ quoted in Building Momentum, ITC, Apr. 2003) ***(wait for arrows)*** *(Ask: Who knows what they are?)*
Slide 9		■ "The first is the steady flow of believers through the sequence of courses offered by our training institutes, for the purpose of developing the human resources of the Cause." (UHJ, 22 December 2001)
Slide 10		■ "The second, which receives its impetus from the first, is the movement of geographic clusters from one stage of growth to the next." (UHJ, 22 Dec 2001) A "D" cluster, for example, has no Bahá'ís. An "A" cluster has a thriving, active and growing community.
Slide 11		■ The training institute is our "engine of growth". (UHJ, Ridván 2004) As we move through the institute courses completing the practices, we gain the skills and confidence needed to reach out to our family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and others with the Message of Bahá'u'lláh.
Slide 12		■ The institute courses prepare us to hold these four core activities: ■ devotional gatherings, children's classes, junior youth groups and study circles, which are not just for Bahá'ís, but are open to all.
Slide 13		***(no click)*** Don't be fooled by the simplicity of these core activities. It's not just a weekly prayer meeting or a children's class, but a brick in the foundation of a global civilization. (Photographs © Bahá'í International Community. Used with permission: http://media.bahai.org)
Slide 14		■ **<u>Study Circles:</u>** "Thousands upon thousands, embracing the diversity of the entire human family, are engaged in systematic study of the Creative Word in an environment that is at once serious and uplifting. As they strive to apply through a process of action, reflection and consultation the insights thus gained, they see their capacity to serve the Cause rise to new levels." (UHJ, Ridván 2008)

Slide 15		■ **Devotional Gatherings:** "Responding to the inmost longing of every heart to commune with its Maker, they carry out acts of collective worship in diverse settings, uniting with others in prayer, awakening spiritual susceptibilities, and shaping a pattern of life distinguished for its devotional character." (UHJ, Ridván 2008)
Slide 16		■ **Home Visits:** "As they call on one another in their homes and pay visits to families, friends and acquaintances, they enter into purposeful discussion on themes of spiritual import, deepen their knowledge of the Faith, share Bahá'u'lláh's message, and welcome increasing numbers to join them in a mighty spiritual enterprise." (UHJ, Ridván 2008)
Slide 17		■ **Children's Classes:** "Aware of the aspirations of the children of the world and their need for spiritual education, they extend their efforts widely to involve ever-growing contingents of participants in classes that become centres of attraction for the young and strengthen the roots of the Faith in society." (UHJ, Ridván 2008)
Slide 18		■ **Junior Youth Groups:** "They assist junior youth to navigate through a crucial stage of their lives and to become empowered to direct their energies towards the advancement of civilization." (UHJ, Ridván 2008)
Slide 19		■ As we reach out to the people in our cluster and expand our circle of contacts, some will already be searching and will want to come to firesides, Holy Days and other Bahá'í activities. ■ Others will be ready to join in our core activities. By definition, this is our **community of interest**.
Slide 20		■ Shoghi Effendi encourages us with these words: "Having…obtained a clear understanding of the true character of our mission…let us arise to teach His Cause with righteousness, conviction, understanding and vigor. Let this be the paramount and most urgent duty of every Bahá'í. Let us make it the **dominating passion** of our life." (Shoghi Effendi, Bahá'í Administration, p. 69-70)
Slide 21		■ "…our obligation to teach the Cause is not dependent on what cluster we live in or how many courses we have studied. 'God hath prescribed unto every one,' Baha'u'llah wrote, 'the duty of teaching His Cause.'" (ITC, 28 Nov 2004)

Slide 22		■ "…let us be on our guard… lest too much concern in that which is secondary in importance, make us neglectful of the most essential, the most urgent of all our obligations, ■ namely, to bury our cares ■ and teach the Cause, delivering far and wide this Message of Salvation to a sorely-stricken world." (Shoghi Effendi, Bahá'í Administration, p. 42)
Slide 23		■ We are also urged to pay special attention to children and junior youth. The House of Justice says that: ■ "No attempt at community building can afford to ignore it." (27 Dec 2005) The International Teaching Centre calls young people ■ "a fruitful source of teachers," and "a door to entry by troops," …and they state that ■ children's classes are an "indispensable element of sustained large scale growth." (ITC, July 2000)
Slide 24		■ As we pursue our Divine mission, the House of Justice reminds us: "…the forces of disintegration are gaining in range and power." (UHJ, Ridván 2006) "A chaotic international society, torn by conflicting perceptions and interests, is assailed by rising terrorism, lawlessness and corruption, and eroded by economic failure, poverty and disease." (UHJ, Ridván 2004) In other words, ■ the ship is going down. In the midst of this disintegration, "the Bahá'í community is becoming increasingly visible, ■ inspired by a divinely revealed vision, building on solid foundations, growing in strength…" (UHJ, Ridván 2004)
Slide 25		■ The Bahá'í Faith has the medicine needed by an ailing world. ■ We can "heal its wounds" ■ "Restore its confidence" ■ "Revive its shattered hopes" (Shoghi Effendi, WOB, p. 79) ■ …and release pent-up spiritual forces that will re-direct human affairs on this planet. (Ref: UHJ, Ridván 1996)
Slide 26		■ Our activities are: "The one integrating process," ■ "The one hope of a stricken society," ■ "In a world whose institutions, secular as well as religious, ■ are for the most part dissolving" (Shoghi Effendi, WOB, p. 194-95; quoted in UHJ letter of Dec. 27, 2005)

Slide 27		■ "Let them not underestimate the power inherent in the system they are putting in place…nor mistake the true purpose of the global enterprise on which they have embarked." ■ "That they may recognize the profound implications of their mission is our fervent hope. That they may not falter in accomplishing their ambitious goals, no matter how severe the crises engulfing the world around them, is our most heartfelt prayer at the Sacred Threshold." (UHJ, 20 Oct. 2008) ***(wait for globe)***
Slide 28		■ The way forward is clear (UHJ, 27 Dec 2005) ■ Follow the Plan ■ Prioritize our lives ■ Advance the process of entry by troops ■ Develop an outward-looking orientation and… ■ Maintain a confident vision of growth. Remember: Entry by troops is a process. Our task is to build the system and invite others to join with us. (Photo © Bahá'í International Community. Used with permission: http://media.bahai.org)
Slide 29		■ In all our endeavors, let us call to mind the closing words of the Universal House of Justice from their Dec. 27th letter: ■ "Above all, the friends need to remain ever conscious of the magnitude of the spiritual forces that are at their disposition." (UHJ, 27 Dec 2005) ■ May this generation bring the healing Message of Bahá'u'lláh to all mankind.
Slide 30		■ black screen
Slide 31		■ Copyright and publisher
Slide 32		■ List of slides

References: ADJ = Advent of Divine Justice, ITC = International Teaching Centre, WOB = World Order of Bahá'u'lláh

PowerPoint Firesides Available From UnityWorks

1. ***The Bahá'í Faith: An Introduction*** explains the concept of progressive revelation, followed by a brief overview of the Bahá'í Faith. (30 slides; also in Spanish)

2. ***Central Figures of the Bahá'í Faith*** introduces Bahá'u'lláh, the Báb and 'Abdu'l-Bahá. (54 slides)

3. ***The Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh*** introduces Bahá'u'lláh's tablets to the kings and rulers of the world. (34 slides)