



**CALLED, CHOSEN,
AND FAITHFUL IN
THE 21ST CENTURY**

**Starting an Independent
Ministry or Church**

by Orvil (Ty) Tice

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In the 21st Century
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Church or Ministry**

Authored by
Orvil (Ty) Tice

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INTRODUCTION

About the Author Orvil (Ty) Tice

Ty has spent his life in the care of others. He hails from Michigan and began full time ministry with His wife, Betsy, in 1980 in San Jose, CA. He and his wife reside in Ocala, FL where he is retired, and where he and his wife spend their time writing and sharing their love of Jesus. Previously Ty presided over Full Gospel Restoration Ministers and Churches as their General Bishop until his retirement in 2014. He was also the president of Focus Bible College.

He holds a Master of Theology in Christian Counseling from Summit Bible College and a Doctor of Theology in Leadership from the same institution.

One of his greatest joys is seeing people rise to the potential that God has designed for them. He has participated in the planting of churches and ministries and helped hundreds in starting and maintaining the works that God has placed in their hands.

This book is meant to be the "starting block" in which the runner can place his feet in preparation for the "Race that is Set Before him." Hebrews

12:1-2a “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith...”

The author recognizes the fullness of the body of Christ and does not promote one doctrinal belief over another. That does not mean that he is not thoroughly convinced the way in which the Holy Spirit has directed “his walk” in the body of Christ.

CHAPTER ONE

Called or Chosen?

Matthew 20:16 *So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.*

Many are called, but few are chosen. Let's consider this verse as we begin this wonderful journey of serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Maybe you were sitting in a church or at home one day and were watching some preacher share his or her passion to an audience. From out of nowhere comes this thought, "I could do that." The seed of desire is now planted, but you long to know if your desire falls into the category of "Pride of Life" or "Passion for Christ." In other words, are you seeking the accolades of men or the accolades of the Lord?

Moses was called from the time his sister hid him in the bull rushes to his killing of the Egyptian guard before fleeing into the desert. It wasn't until he sought out why the bush was burning but wasn't being consumed in the fire that it went beyond a "calling." The point, at which he stood on holy ground, was the moment at which he was "Chosen." All of Moses' insecurities came face to face with being the chosen vessel. He could not

do it on his own. His reluctance prompted the question, “Who should I say sent me?” “I AM THAT I AM,” placed upon Moses that day His authority and His mantle.

Jeremiah was yet another that God called and chose for a task. There came a point, though, when he accused God of deceiving him, for he became an extremely unpopular man. Moses had to go against the pharaoh, but at least he had a people to follow him. What would you do if God called you to tell your own people that they were going to lose their freedom and be taken by the Babylonian army? Yet Jeremiah’s passion and God’s truth in the message were so great in his heart that he declared in Jeremiah 20:9 *Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.* You need to ask yourself these questions before pursuing the ministry call:

1. Am I willing to preach this message no matter the cost?
2. Has my life reflected a stability and tenacity to stay on course while others were distracted?
3. Do I see others and covet their ministry?

4. Am I willing to work for the Lord without monetary compensation?
5. (If I am Married) Do I have the support of my family?

These are not questions that need to be answered right now, but they are major concerns that must be addressed before formalizing a church or ministry. I once had a man who informed his supervising minister that he would not preach unless there was some form of monetary compensation. I just shook my head. Truly he was a good Christian man, even had a calling. The burning passion was not there. Why? That passion only comes from being in the presence of the Lord, knowing you are chosen, and have been baptized in fire. That doesn't mean you can't express your financial need to those requesting your ministry. If the Lord is "Sending" you, however, then your trust must be in that "He that called you, will also do it."

My brother and sister, if you are still reading this, then you, too, can reap the reward of standing with the King of kings in the greatest battle.

Revelation 17:14 *These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.*

CHAPTER TWO

Operation: Go Forth!

Starting a church or outreach ministry advances the Kingdom of God. I once had a dear sister confront me while I was planting a church in a small town in Northern California with, “Why do we need another church?” Before moving to this town I had visited the town library and looked up the demographics in the reference section. (There was no internet back in the 80’s.) This showed me the financial, racial, and age make up. I smiled at her and responded, “There are 22 churches in this town of 9,000 people. The Catholic Church has about 500 people; the 3 Baptist churches have about 400 people ... the other churches have 40-80 people each. All together they are ministering to 2,400 people. I want the other 6,600 that are not attending any church.” This answer took her back because she was expecting a doctrinal truth that supposedly wasn’t being preached in the other churches.

So many towns tend to trade parishioners from one church to the next, depending on who has the best program. The need is not a better program but a Holy Spirit-filled church where God’s Word is declared in purity and holiness.

Matthew 16:17-19 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. (18) And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (19) And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Today, He is still calling men and women of God to stand on His Word so the gates of hell will not prevail.

If the Lord has called you, then you will hear Him saying, *Matthew 9:37-38 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; (38) Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*

John 4:35-36 KJV Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. (36) And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth

fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.

Do you hear the call? Do you hear the urgency? Planting a church or ministry is like a woman with birthing pains. The labor can be excruciating, but the fruit of the labor is so rewarding. As a pastor, I have witnessed great and wondrous healing of people and deliverance of those who are tormented. Yet, when a person accepts Jesus as their Lord and Savior, tears of joy come to my eyes, like a mother seeing her child for the first time, knowing all the pain and labor were worth it.

Here is the joyous part; it is God's desire to use the church to prove His wisdom to rulers and leaders.

Ephesians 3:10-14 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, (11) According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: (12) In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him. (13) Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

*(14) For this cause I bow my knees unto
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,*

CHAPTER THREE

The Hebrews Road to a Successful Ministry

The last part of Hebrews provides God's blueprint for establishing a church or an outreach ministry.

- 1. The beginning of any ministry must be on Jesus Christ and the reverence and the total worship of Him.** He is our firm foundation. Hebrews 12:28-29 *Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: (29) For our God is a consuming fire.*
- 2. Brotherly love and entertaining strangers is critical.** I went into a church as a guest of the special singer that was doing the concert. The pastor must have walked by my wife and me three times. Never once did he extend a hand of welcome. We never went back. Hebrews 13:1 *Let brotherly love continue.*

I will share an experience that I had in the first church that I pastored. Young and full of life, I wanted to turn the world on end. Yet the Lord gave me a church with 15-20 people, the youngest being fifty-five years of age with a triple bypass heart. It was summer, and my senior citizens were in their RV's playing. Seated in the church that Sunday, were about eight people. I was discouraged and dejected. I closed my eyes for a second, and when I opened them, the Lord had brought me into His spiritual realm. Every empty seat had an angel sitting in it. I heard the Lord speak to my spirit, "My church is never empty; I would prefer to have my children worshiping Me, but my church is never empty." I came to understand that because we are the church of the living God, when we worship Him, our praise fills His House as He adds whatever accompaniment He deems necessary.

Hebrews 13:2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

3. Outreach ministries are critical to any church startup. Reaching out

and doing a jail ministry and a hospital ministry, not only did I minister to those in need, I ministered to their families also. My little church of 15-20 congregants grew to 125 in one year. When other ministers inquired as to the growth, I simply told them that I had taken the ones they didn't want. (Okay, so I wasn't very strong on wisdom in those young days.)

Hebrews 13:3 Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

- 4. Build on the family.** Too often in the churches today, the single mothers with baby-daddies missing are celebrated norms. God, however, wants us to promote marriage where we have real fathers and not some irresponsible men who have no respect for women. *Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.*

We are commanded to love those who are overcome by sin and love them into the arms of their Redeemer.

5. Don't covet another man's ministry.

All too often, we see another man's ministry in town and wish that we had their people or their facilities. A pastor friend of mine tells how he had this woman who just annoyed him to no end. If there was a problem in the church, Diane would be the source or right in the middle of the problem. He thought how nice it would be to have a church without Diane. The general overseer offered him a church that was five times larger than the one he presently pastored. The first thing he thought of was "NO DIANE." That night, he awoke in a cold sweat with the realization that in a church five times larger, the possibility of five Dianes was very probable. The next day, he called the overseer and declined the offer. Remember, beloved of God, if He is the builder, and you are the laborer, you can be assured the

Master Craftsman will delegate no more to you than what you are capable of handling. Hebrews 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. (6) So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

6. Submit yourself to Godly men and women. One of the greatest dangers in an independent ministry is the feeling of self-sufficiency. If you approach ministry like this, you have allowed Satan to lay a snare for you. If you have no one, find a ministry or organization of like faith that will hold you accountable. If that is not feasible, then find some brothers and sisters in surrounding towns that are of like faith that will meet with you regularly so you can share one another's burdens. *Hebrews 13:7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God:*

whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

7. Preach a Sound Gospel. We must build our altars (Churches and Ministries) on Jesus Christ and Him alone. There are two extremes which are prevalent in the church today in the United States. There are those churches that allow any type of sin within, without preaching against it, causing the shed blood of Jesus, our final redemptive sacrifice, to be tainted with that which is unclean. The other side of the spectrum is loaded down with legalism. Today, what passes itself off for holiness is nothing more than what man doesn't do in order to please God, rather than what he does to please God.

Our church ritual has Sunday services and mid-week services. Yet, if you read the Bible carefully, people went to the temple at different times of the day because the sanctuary was always

open, and worship in individual homes was quite prevalent.

Hebrews 13:(8) *Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. (9) Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein. (10) We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. (11) For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. (12) Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. (13) Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. (14) For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.*

8. Let the church be filled with Praise. Here is just a thought and possibility. What if the church offered Praise to the Lord every evening, and each night offered a different style of praise and worship music? In one church in which I was an associate pastor, the senior pastor allowed a midweek service of Southern Gospel Praise; yet on Sunday, the music targeted a younger audience with Contemporary Christian Praise. What if instead of a division by genre or style, one night was dedicated to healing, another to deliverance, and another for teen breakthrough, and another for senior joy night? The possibilities for Praise and Worship are endless. Hebrews 13:15 *By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. (16) But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*

9. Take correction. One of the greatest downfalls of a new minister is Pride, i.e. thinking that because he has the Holy Spirit, he as the minister, has it all together. When “Pride” enters in,

the “Holy Spirit” departs, and the minister will soon fall. When an elder comes to you in a spirit of love and correction, receive it before your ministry is destroyed. We are not referring to those who would impede your ministry because they don’t want change. Yet, consider even their ranting as possibly being from the Lord. Sometimes, God sends a message to slow you down because you are getting ahead of His perfect will. Remember even the goats give milk, so there is a purpose for God to allow them to buck you. *Hebrews 13: (17) Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

10. **Pray for those over you and those under you.** No church or ministry can survive without a relational prayer life. May I humbly suggest the ritual prayers of “Bless our

leader, bless our local authorities, bless our school and home, Amen,” have about as much affect as chanting or counting out beads on a rosary. Pray with thought and meaning. I would suggest something like this. Lord, I pray for my president. He says he is a Christian and yet goes against your Word. I believe he has confused social justice with true Christianity. Lord, you appointed him, so I lift him before you for his salvation and your saving grace. In Jesus’ name Amen Hebrews 13:(18) *Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly. (19) But I beseech you the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. (20) Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant...*

11. Made Perfect in good works.

Let your work reflect the Lord of Glory who abides within you and then

direct all the glory and honor to Him alone. Hebrews 13:(21) *Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

12. Release those who have been called elsewhere by the Lord. The hardest thing is to let go of those who have been a blessing to you. If you don't, however, release them once God has called them elsewhere, they will become as the wormwood that made the water bitter. Hebrews 13:(22) *And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation: for I have written a letter unto you in few words. (23) Know ye that our brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you. (24) Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you. (25) Grace be with you all. Amen. Written to the Hebrews from Italy, by Timothy.*

CHAPTER FOUR THE COVERING

There are many ministries that are covered by the church's covering and need no further action other than the Chosen being Faithful in their Calling. When I was a part of Church of God as an associate pastor I led a group called "New Creation Ministries," addressing addiction and the overcoming power of the Holy Spirit. Since all ministries were part of the local church, it gave this minister the liberty to focus on the ministry while other were charged with the legal administration of said group.

On the other hand, there are ministries that will share a church's space but have no affiliation with the church's overseeing group. These ministries must provide for their own administration and accountability to any required secular oversight. (Examples are a foreign language church, Boy scouts, weight watchers, AA, a private school, community play groups, just to name a few.)

I tell people I am retired. What that means is that I will continue to fulfill my Calling till Jesus comes but not involve myself in the business end of ministry. The rest of this book deals with the Biblical requirements of ministry. Later in the

book, we refer to what is required in the United States of America from secular authorities. If you minister in any other country, you must be familiar with their requirements and oversights. In many countries, the name of Jesus Christ will bring forth persecution and possibly imprisonment, and/or death. Sometimes the persecution is not from without, but from within, demanding the preacher to compromise his/her faith and beliefs to satisfy man's standards rather than God's Standards.

CHAPTER FIVE

It's a War Out There

All too many do not take note of Spiritual Warfare. This is where I must warn you, dear reader, that Satan will do his best to trip you up in doing a work for the Lord. We get this picture all too often of us standing on a hill with a Bible in our hand, and these little red-tailed demons with pitchforks scurry up the hill to take it. If only it were that easy and obvious. The devil didn't grab a fruit off the tree and force it down Eve's throat. The Scripture says he "beguiled" her. The dictionary defines "beguile" as to deceive, take away from, to distract, to pass time pleasantly, or to amuse and charm. Spiritual warfare, therefore, doesn't have to crush you; all it has to do is to move you slightly off course onto a slippery slope, and you will do the rest.

So let's look at some these distractions.

1. The Expert – there is a boat load of so-called experts who will assist you in this wonderful work if you will purchase their time or telemarketing service to reach the masses. They may come to you with great intention and assurances of success because it

worked for them in New York City; however, your work and calling may be Smithton, MO. I use that town as an example because in 2010 it had a population of 570 people. No congregation of thousands could be built from an ad campaign or telemarketing device. What worked in NYC would not be effectual in this small town. You might be saying, “But you don’t understand. I want to do something big for God.” Brother and sister, you don’t need some big city or big church of thousands to do something big for the Lord. In 1996 expectancy of what the Lord was about to do fell on a small church in this town. In three and a half years, over **250,000** people would come through this church to receive fire from heaven. There is an old song that says it all. “Little is much, when God is in it.” My point is this; there is only One Expert, and He is the One who should direct your steps.

2. The One Size Fits All Don't try to do a church that reaches everybody. The problem with this concept is that the garment never fits anyone properly. Focus your ministry on the passion the Lord has laid upon your heart. I really had a heart for the "rejected" when I planted the second church I would pastor. Like Jeremiah, I had a burning down to my bones to "Stop rejecting God's children." Ross Case showed up on my doorsteps one Sunday with a vehicle of 15 precious souls that he collected from parks and under bridges (yes, they were homeless) and brought them to church. He brought them from Ukiah, 41 miles away from the resort community I pastored in. Find your passion, and God will fill it.
3. The Rest of the Week God did not call you to a six day holiday each week. Don't be fooled. Sunday is NOT the only day the pastor works. If you are building a church, then you must be seeking out those who have your passion and will fit into your church.

For me, it was the girl who was talking to herself while sitting at the picnic table in the park, the person broken down alongside the road, or the man crying in the waiting room of the hospital. Visiting people and offering Bible studies became a daily event. For you, it may be the business owner or the banker.

4. Money Either too much or not enough money can be a real distraction. I have watched many churches spiritually die in their wealth. May I suggest, if you are controlled by the wealthy in your church, then it may no longer be God's church but theirs? On the other hand, how can you minister in a church with no utilities or the ability to pay the rent? The Bible addresses the finances, and so should you. Share the burden with your congregation.
5. The Delilah in the room. Ministry is full of rejection and discouragement. Whether you be handsome or ugly, fat or skinny, young or old, Satan will

always send along a “pretty little thing” to stroke your wounded ego. Woman of God, you are no exception either. Remember, Satan’s work is to kill the work of God. You are just a casualty in his assault on the Kingdom.

6. Kingdom Rulers This may be one or two people or families within a church. This is their domain, and whether the church grows or not must meet their approval. Never, never, never, allow anyone in the church to have position or title until they are proven works in the hands of God. If you must step out in faith and make an appointment that has not been vetted, make sure you are prayed up, and it is God’s desire for the church.
7. Gertie in the key of “Q Flat” There is always the sweetheart who wants to sing in the choir but can’t sing. Lovingly find them another position with as much importance or more. Show them how important their job is.

People want to serve, so help them
discover their true talent.

Brothers and sisters, all this to say, don't let Satan sucker punch you. Even beloved Peter in his love for the Master suggested something that was not the will of God, and the Master responded, "Get thee behind me Satan." Many messages have been preached on how Satan used Peter. Yet, my humble opinion is that when the Master spoke those words, it wasn't directed at Peter, as many suppose. I would submit it was directed through himself as the "Son of Man." Maybe for a brief moment to not have the burden of the suffering of the cross may have sounded appealing. Even in that moment of temptation to entertain such a statement, He bowed to the will of the Father and declared His freedom with "Get thee behind me Satan." He didn't say, "Get behind Peter;" He said, "Get behind Me."

CHAPTER SIX

Pastoring the Assembly

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

I cannot tell you how many times, I have heard the message of “forsaking not the assembling of ourselves together,” whenever attendance started wavering. I have often thought to myself when this was being preached; “Pastor, if you stop pointing your finger, you may find the root of the problem being yourself.” Some of the obstacles being ignored may be:

1. The pastor spent more time in bitterness than he did before the Lord.
2. The pastor spent little time in the Word and supplemented sermon notes, causing his message to be boring.
3. Programs and technical video presentations have replaced the Holy Ghost anointing.

4. Worship teams are in performance mode.
5. There is chaos and disruptions throughout the building during worship, and no one stops it. (Sometimes it can even be the leadership causing it.)
6. Preachers who think the accumulation of what the Holy Spirit showed them during the week should be disseminated in one service. I remember going to a buffet many years ago (before they were popular), and there was so much food it became overwhelming. My wife asked me if I enjoyed it. My response was, “I am not sure; all I can taste is ham.” Pastors, are your sermons like the beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12) where every morsel is a delight unto itself, or are you like Matthew 5:13 where you have packed in the buffet to such an extent that the salt has lost its savor?
7. The other end of that coin is the preacher who thinks, “Less is More.”

This foolishness comes out of man-made compromises to keep it short so we can say we've been to church.

8. Time Restraints – By the time all the traditional applications of the service have been carried out, the people are too exhausted to respond to an altar call. or none is even offered.
(Sometimes having an altar call after worship is preferable to holding it after the preaching.)
9. Preaching accusatory messages to satisfy your beef of the week. (Dear pastor, take on issues NOT people.)
10. Seeing people as elements of your ministerial success, rather than as people God put before you to love unconditionally.

I remember telling a pastor I would no longer be attending his church, but that I wanted to remain friends and get together for coffee every now and then. He looked at me as though I had two heads. He sent me a

message through social media when it was my birthday. I responded, sharing with him a prayer request because I had started a “house church” not knowing where God would take it. The pastor’s response shocked me, to say the least. He unfriended me on social media.

The assembling of ourselves together is a wonderful thing. The purpose is for exhortation and hearing from the Holy Spirit, truths that we in our own hurt and resistance may have overlooked.

CHAPTER SEVEN

What size should the assembly be?

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

When you look at the church today and the church back when this Scripture was penned, you will find a major discrepancy.

Adam Clarke expounds upon it this way: “Whether this means public or private worship is hard to say; but as the word is but once more used in the New Testament, (2Thessalonians 2:1), and there means the gathering together of the redeemed of the Lord at the day of judgment, it is as likely that it means here private religious meetings, for the purpose of mutual exhortation: and this sense appears the more natural here, because it is evident that the Church was now in a state of persecution, and therefore their meetings were most probably held in private. For fear of persecution, it seems as if some had deserted these meetings, as the custom of certain persons is. They had given

up these strengthening and instructive means, and the others were in danger of following their example.”

We see throughout scripture where Jesus would teach on a hill to 5,000 one time and 4,000 another time. We also see where He would assemble in the home of just several people and teach. After His ascension, they (120 people) tarried in the Upper Room. (This is perceived to be an upper chamber that was commonly used for devotion and prayer), until they received power from on high. Not one of His messages was more significant than another based around His surroundings. Neither did He give greater homage to one gathering over another based on its size.

Jesus makes it very simple. Matthew 18:20 *For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.* That, dear loved ones, is an assembly, pure and simple. I have been in big “churches” (buildings) where the name of Jesus was overshadowed by celebrities and performers, and the assembly sadly didn’t meet the quorum requirements. Never build beyond your finances. Here in the United States, we have bought into the idea that bigger is better. We get sucked into a corporate greed mentality.

Family farms all over America once supplied the needs of the nation. Corporations saw the profit in the farming industry and bought up small farms to create large corporate plots. They began “future trading” on the exchanges to set the price of future commodities lower than what the small farmer could sell his product for in order to squeeze out a living.

The small farmer was forced to buy larger equipment to keep up with the corporate farms. The small farmer, now with major liens against his property and equipment, would find himself being foreclosed on by the banks when one or two years of short yields would put him further in the red. Now, with the small family farmer almost extinct, the corporate farms control the market and set their own prices with little to no competition left. You see the same thing happening with the larger churches providing greater end products with nurseries, all age programs, bookstores, gyms, swimming pools, fitness rooms, Christian schools, and even coffee espresso shops in the church lobbies. These great cathedrals are usually built around Charismatic personalities. Sadly, when these same personalities are riddled with scandal of improper financial integrity or immorality, the churches end up being foreclosed on and sold off to cities for

performing art centers. One such case happened recently in Florida; the church was able to rent back its facilities from the city for Sunday and Wednesday services.

So let's take a look at the formalized church and where to begin.

CHAPTER EIGHT

The Home Church

One of the greatest places to test the waters and see if this is what the Lord is leading you to do is the Home Church. Many of the ministers from the established churches in the community will loathe recognizing you as a pastor. They may question your training, your credentials, and/or your spiritual covering. These same ministers very seldom planted their own churches but built on the foundation of someone else. They may even consider you a threat to their domain. So that said, “Hold your head up high, man or woman of God, for they loathed Paul, and he planted more churches than all the other twelve put together.” What is your desire, or better said, “What is your vision for this new gathering of believers?”

Do you want a fellowship of 5 to 12 believers where you become a “close-knit spiritual family,” or do you see this as being the core to advance the work into the kingdom? Neither answer is wrong if that is what God is calling you to do. In these beginning stages you must consider the size of your living quarters. Our living room will hold 15 people comfortably. We have had as many as 20, but I know everybody felt like sardines in a tin of oil. First things first, name your fellowship. This

gives a sense of belonging and identity.

Otherwise you will never be more than the Bible study at Greg's house. We chose our name to be "Healing Waters Church."

If you intend on limiting the growth to the size of your living room, then never invite more than 8 to 10 people to your meeting. Those eight or ten will invite a friend, a relative, or a neighbor. These will become your mission outreach.

Determine when you will have your service time. In some of the mid-western states, because of the extreme cold during the winter, the church service is held in the afternoon after the snowplows have opened the road, and the winter sun has warmed things up a bit.

Consider growing your home church by offering different service times to different groups. If you did five services on different days, you could feasibly minister to 75 people. Do, however, consider your neighborhood and the impact of the foot traffic in and out of your fellowship.

One other consideration involves the local laws, and if you are allowed to have "regular" meetings

in your home. A trickier area is offering to meet in different homes with you as the main speaker or sharing the fellowship ministry with a member of that home. Recognize you must have an order to your service.

A good platform for a home church is as follows:

1. A call to prayer. (This establishes whom it is that we have come to speak to and hear from. It quiets the heart before the Lord. Whoever is asked to pray should not begin until silence is in the room, including children.)
2. A time of singing and praise unto the Lord. You may have a keyboard, guitar, or just sing a capella. A list of songs should be compiled beforehand. This shouldn't be set in cement, but it does allow the musicians a chance to practice. Another innovative way can be utilized if the home has wireless internet and T.V. that can interface with a computer. You can set up a series of tabs in your browser, with you tube songs with lyrics to show on

the T.V. This will enable those who may not know the words to be able to sing along.

3. A time of sharing the Word.
4. A time for interactive testimonies or insights about the message.
5. An Altar call. (Always give an opportunity for salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.)
6. A time for praying for the sick and other needs.
7. Many home fellowships have lunch together with different members contributing each week.
8. You may have noticed that I did not mention taking up an offering. During whatever time is given for announcements, explain there is an offering plate or box in a place where people can give their tithe and offerings. Also, keep a journal of their giving for year-end receipts. If you do it on the computer, a simple Excel

spreadsheet or spreadsheet in

OpenOffice (<http://openoffice.org> free) will suffice. Giving should always be encouraged; you may be small, but there are still needs, and the people have a need to give. You can also pick a mission to support. There is a caution with House Churches. The person in the community that loves being the center of attention will inevitably be drawn to the House Church. Every opportunity will be taken to interject and interrupt. The leader must set the standards, prior to or half way through the praise service, as to how the service will proceed and when input from the group will be accepted. Reemphasize that we do not want to impede or hinder what the Holy Spirit is doing. If you don't do this, you will lose control of the service. It is one thing to lose control to the Holy Spirit; it is quite another to lose it to a spirit of disruption. If they still interrupt, firmly state, "Hold that

thought till the end of service, thank
you.”

Because you are being sensitive to the Holy Spirit, you may see someone deep in thought, and the Holy Spirit may draw you to ask them if the Lord just gave them something. Always be sensitive to what the Lord is doing. One of the joys of the Home Church is the intimacy that can be achieved. If God wants you to have a small church, trust me there is a reason. You are probably ministering to some with great issues, and you are God’s vessel to pour love into those individuals. Some of the large churches have no comprehension that they are totally ill-equipped to handle the ministry the Lord has given you. Remember, Shepherd, you are one that God has instructed to go and find the lost sheep. The ironic thing about this ministry is that the one that God is healing will eventually gravitate to the larger church because now they feel worthy of acceptance. Their desire is not to desert you, but have a fresh start where other don’t know their past failures. Don’t resist their leaving, unless you love drama created for the purpose of leaving.

Remember, saint, bless them as they come in, and bless them as they go out. I believe God has a

great sense of humor, and if you shun them now, they may turn out to be your neighbor for eternity. As the young people of this generation, would say, “Just Saying.”

One of the hardest concepts, it seems, for pastors to accept is “Possession is NOT nine tenths of the law.” Your flock is God’s, not yours, and it is He who determines the sheepfold to which they belong. Now, if they are just wandering in the wilderness that is a different story.

If your ministry is the House Church, another person needing restoration is right around the corner to replace the one who just left.

There is another area of the House Church that we haven’t discussed yet. This is using the House Church to build a core group to evolve into a “Mission Church.” If this is your desire, state your vision to your core group at the outset. You may lose some people in the process but you will prevent major resistance after the people are settled into the church. If everyone has your vision, their enthusiasm for growth will create expansion.

CHAPTER NINE

The Mission Church

One of the most exciting things to do for the Lord is to plant a church. This adventure comes from a burden that the Lord lays upon one's heart for a community. A couple of decades ago, I planted a church in Willows, CA, "Abundant Living Church of God." I literally rolled into town in a Winnebago and parked it at the RV-park. I had water, sewer hook-up, and within a couple of days, telephone hookup. (This was before cell phones. If you did have a car phone, it came in a case and cost a fortune.) The park manager asked me what I would be doing in Willows. With great joy I said, "In two weeks I am planting a church." She inquired where it would be, and I informed her that I had already made arrangements with the local Best Western Motel to rent their conference room on Sunday morning. Since my wife was still teaching 125 miles away, she would drive in Friday evening, and then we would drive back to Kelseyville on Sunday night. I would stay in Kelseyville till Wednesday morning and drive back to Willows for prep work in getting the church off the ground.

Barbara could see my enthusiasm and said she would come to the first service. She asked what I

would be doing Wednesday through Saturday at the park. I replied, “‘Cold Calling’ the town of Willows to invite them to a new church.” I relayed to her a story I had heard at a Billy Graham Pastor’s Conference in Anaheim, CA.

A little old lady had been put into a nursing home with a bed, dresser, and a phone. She had always served the Lord in her local church but now wasn’t mobile anymore. She prayed and sought the Lord for a new job to do. She spied the telephone book that was slipped under the telephone. She smiled, knowing God had answered her prayers. She opened it to the “A’s” and began calling each number. When a person would answer, she would simply ask them if they knew Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and could she pray with them. The pastor asked her if people weren’t rude. With an aged smile she confirmed, “Some people would just hang up on me; others cursed at me and told me to mind my own business, but some responded and prayed the sinner’s prayer with me.” The pastor replied, “That almost makes it worth the others. How many do you believe prayed with you?” With a grin and confidence that only God can give, she said, “Well, according to the journal I keep when I pray for someone, it is over eight thousand that

have said the sinner's prayer with me, and I am still not through the telephone book."

Barbara laughed and said, "Well this town doesn't even have that many people, but I can see you're going to do just fine." The first Sunday because of "Cold Calling," we had eight people. That filled half of the conference room that I had rented. As we started adding people, bigger facilities than what the motel had were needed. The Veteran's Civic Memorial Hall was available for \$15 an hour on Sunday. So we reserved 2 hours in the morning and 2 in the evening for \$60 a week. We also rented office space downtown where I could start having midweek office hours for counseling and church business.

A mission church is one where the home is no longer feasible, and the need to formally organize is becoming apparent. When the civic hall wasn't available, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, upstairs, let me use their meeting hall. (I was their chaplain and a VFW member.)

In any given town there are school facilities, conference rooms, fraternal clubs, and even churches that will rent and/or share their facilities. You have to operate within their guidelines and might be left with a mess from the night before,

but without a major layout one can truly grow a work if you are amenable. Eventually, we had a financial base to rent the old Human Resource offices for our church. The office in front created a perfect lobby with the office for the secretary and pastor's office right next door.

The other offices made for Sunday School rooms and a half kitchen which was large enough for Bible Studies and a couch. Through the back doors was the garage where food surplus for the needy had once been stored. Envisioning the possibilities, I saw the garage door removed and replaced with a wall, exit door, and stage. This created a room large enough to hold 80 to 90 people and would become our new sanctuary.

I encourage you not to despise the day of small beginnings. The only problem with most churches once they get set up and comfortable is that they quit evangelizing the community.

In these early stages of the mission church, one of your best investments will be a ten foot or larger outdoor banner sign with your church name, logo, and telephone contact number. Do not put the times of the services on the banner unless you are absolutely sure those times won't have to be modified. My contact phone was a SKYPE

number for which I paid \$30 a year. This SKYPE number could go with me wherever. In the early stages you may change buildings three or four times, and with the SKYPE number, your phone remains consistent. I know some ministers that use their personal cell phone. I guess this is ok, but I am of the old school that believes a ministry should be answered, “This is Blessings Church, and how may I help you?” Not, “You got me, whatcha want?”

It is very important in a mission church to ask people to fill a position in the church, usher, teacher, worship team member, minister of light and audio, minister of beauty (maintenance /janitorial), greeter, etc. Make these positions renewable every six months. If you don't, you may find a person who doesn't like the job you gave them, choosing to attend another church. This way it becomes their choice to maintain the course or change directions. One of the hardest jobs to fill in the church is the nursery, and these workers need to be publicly acknowledged frequently.

CHAPTER TEN

Stepping Into an Established Work

Stepping into an established work sometimes is more difficult than planting a church. I have included it because even though you have an established work, the elements of church planting are essential to the health and well-being of the church. If the old congregation is welcoming you with open arms, it may be because they themselves are broken and shattered or that they see in you hope for the church to continue to grow.

Get to know your key players in the church. If they are a draining deficit, how can you turn that into positive reinforcement of the ministry work that God has put before you?

FOLLOW-UP

When a church stops growing, you can usually trace it right back to follow-up. When a new church is planted, you can be sure when a visitor comes to a service that during the week a follow up letter, call, or visit is instigated, if not carried out, by the pastor. As churches become comfortable, they make up visitor packets with

the card inside. During the service, a brief welcome, or none, is given to the visitors from the pulpit. This approach insures this treasured visitor's card will find its way to the visitor's home, never to be heard from again.

When we visited a large, thriving UPC church in Texarkana, we were treated to a model of great follow-up. As we entered, a greeter in a circular welcome booth inquired if this was our first time to Landmark and then asked us to sign a guest book. Tuesday afternoon, a young man came to our door to welcome us and invite us back. Thursday, a letter from the pastor, welcoming us, was in the mail. The following week, a flyer with an upcoming special event was also in the mail. From a much smaller, but yet growing, Rhema Baptist church, during the week following our visit, we received a call from the pastor inviting us back and apologizing that he didn't get a chance to speak to us after the service.

These are both churches that will continue to grow. Remember the church with the website with the wrong times posted? They, too, had the visitor card in the welcome packet. Knowing what to do, we filled it out and placed it in the offering bag with our offering. That turned out to be a total waste of time. They may dream about

being an International Ministry; so far, they are not even reaching those that visit them.

So if you are a pastor taking over an established work, start the follow-up with your own parishioners. Your call and visit may heal many wounds, just by knowing that the New pastor cares about me. If you are coming into an open pulpit because of a scandal with the previous pastor, bind up the broken and wounded by teaching on forgiveness. Matthew 6:14-15.

Never jump on the diatribe of unforgiveness. If you do, you will create an environment where new visitors will feel something is wrong and out of order and will soon be gone. Remember, Pastor, when you let spirits other than the Holy Spirit reside in your church, He, the Holy Spirit, will cease to draw people to your church.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Promotion

Starting a church or ministry is not for the faint at heart, and especially not for the slothful. So many businesses, both secular and spiritual, fail within the first two years. It was not because of the product they prepared, but the failing of the business was due to a deficiency of delivery and promotion. Saint of God, you have the best product of all, the Message of Jesus Christ and His salvation for all mankind.

I can hear some say, “God’s work is a ministry, not a business.” That was my response in my younger days when a dear brother in the Lord, Pastor Rob Kee, confronted me with this concept. You may be familiar with the saying, “He was so spiritually minded, he was of no earthly good.” I knew that wasn’t my category, and I did know doing a ministry was hard work. Calling it a business, however, seemed sacrilegious. The whole subject came up when I was late for an appointment because I hadn’t written it down anywhere and had forgotten about it. He inquired if I had a business, wouldn’t I write down an appointment? I assured him that I would. His next question compelled me to reconsider the way

I did things concerning ministry. He said, “Isn’t God’s business worth our greatest efforts?”

So as you begin, I will suggest some very effective ways to proceed. Pick up the phone and the local telephone directory and begin cold calling.

THE COLD CALL

“Good morning, my name is Pastor James, and I am opening a new church in your area. May I ask if you already attend a church **regularly**?”

Some of the responses you might get and suggested answers are outlined below:

- I am not interested. Answer: Well thank you for your time and my name is Pastor James if you ever need me.
- Yes, I attend Harvest Church and we love our pastor, Burt Maxwell. Answer: I know of the wonderful work your pastor is doing and am happy that you found such great place to worship our Lord. My work tonight is reaching the unchurched. Please greet your pastor for me and pray for me as I continue my assignment. Thanks again.
- Well we were attending Frumpy Church but felt we weren’t welcomed there. So we stopped going. Answer: Well you know,

we would love to have you visit us. Can I get the correct spelling of your name along with your email address so I can send you information on our times of service and our office hours should you desire to speak to me personally? Should she give you this information, don't forget to ask for the names of the ones that might be coming with her. (In this short dialogue you have shown the person that you care for them personally along with their family and friends. You have also made yourself approachable with your office hours.)

- You're a pastor? (Crying) You have no idea what I am going through right now. I was just praying for the Lord to send someone. Answer: Well, the Lord heard your prayer. I can either pray for you now as you tell me what is going on, or my wife and I can come to your place to pray with you. [At this point, I do not care if they go to any church or not. The Holy Spirit has placed me there for that moment to be His conduit.]

I remember when a dear sweet lady in my church called me and asked if I could come pray for her. I had just been on that side of the lake an hour ago, but now I was at home and tired from a long day of church related

duties on the other side of lake, a half an hour away. My first response was, “Lord let me send the Word to her.” The Lord convicted me and said, “She asked you to come.” I told her I was on my way.

Her husband let me in, and Mabel was sitting in her recliner in tears because her left side was paralyzed. She informed me that they were calling an ambulance just as soon as I finished praying. I anointed her head with oil, closed my eyes, and began to pray. Half way through the prayer, I heard a bell ringing in my ear, and Mabel saying, “Thank you Jesus! Thank you Jesus!” I opened my eyes to see Mabel with the once paralyzed arm ringing a bell that she used to let Harry, her husband, know she needed something. What she needed to let Harry know was that God had just healed her when she raised the immobile arm in faith knowing that He would heal.

- I don't have any dress clothes. Answer: You will be happy to know we don't require a certain way to dress in this church. Jesus met people in their everyday clothes and never once sent them away to dress a different way. In fact, the only chastisement about dress in the Bible was from Paul when he told them to dress modestly. That had to do with the adornment in their hair to show how wealthy they were, never about the clothes on their body. So we welcome you if you dress up or not. We leave that to each individual.
- I quit going...(bitterness)... Answer: Listen carefully and ask the Lord for wisdom how to answer. **DO NOT MAKE JUDGMENT CALLS.** After they have had their say (Remember you are only hearing one side of the issue), you might respond with, "Well in this church, we believe in Love first and then godly correction for all of us, based on Biblical principles. God is changing me personally everyday as I take His correction for my life. I would encourage you to come and be loved on. If you desire, we can set an appointment to

bring closure to the issue with the other church.” If she declines and says she is just not ready at this time, ask her for permission to call her back from time to time just to see how she is doing. Should she agree, ask if you can have her email or address so you can send her some articles that might help her along in her search. [Then send an article and follow up in a couple of weeks.] This type of Christian love will do more to grow a church than all the marketing devices out there.

When, “cold calling,” it is NOT about how many calls you make like it is in telemarketing. It is all about building initial relationships. This is the mandate that comes straight from the Lord.

Luke 10:2-7 Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest. (3) Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves. (4) Carry neither

purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way. (5) And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house. (6) And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again. (7) And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house.

- I'm a Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, etc.
Answer: I am not that familiar with your religion, and I am not competing with your religion. I am just inviting you to a relationship with a Living God who wants to have a relationship with you. Do you know that the God of this universe loved you so much that He sent His only Son to pay the price for any and all of your misdoings? That same Son desires to call you "Friend." [Man or Woman of God, this is not the time to show how much more intelligent you are than they. Place before them Jesus.]

As you begin this task, ask the Lord to give you wisdom from on high as each telephone call is initiated. Now if you had a call with one of the

above or something similar, be sure to make up a “follow-up card.” I do mine by modifying a 3X5 recipe card in Word, where I can print them off to be saved in a recipe box. Three months from now, you may get a call with someone on the other end of the line saying, “Do you remember me?” As you get their name, a quick look at their card can refresh your memory. It is moments like this that reflect care and compassion.

THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Some of your best advertising is “Free” in writing an article for the “church page.” Special events can be promoted such as the Grand Opening of a new church with a picture of the pastor and his wife, special speakers with their pictures, free gospel concerts, pot luck dinners for Father’s day, Veteran’s day, Mother’s day, Church picnics at the local park, and so on. Whenever you do something outside, make sure that the banner is there promoting your church. It can be a fireworks sale for summer camp for the kids, a car wash to send the young adults on a mission trip, or just a family day in the park supporting church unity among the other churches.

PROMOTIONAL PENS

You can purchase promotional pens for as little as 29 cents each. I prefer the more expensive looking pens between 39 cents and 79 cents each. The pen should have imprinted on it the name of your church and the phone number or web site.

WEB SITES

The internet has become the tool for interactive social networking. Facebook is a wonderful place to create a page for your church or ministry. One caution is if you are going to do ministry on a page ... go into your setting and make it so ONLY ME can post to the page with your friends being able to comment on your post. This way your page does not become one of requests to play games, silly posters, and whine of drama people. This may be fine for a personal page but not a ministry page.

Creating a website was once very difficult with knowledge of html required. Today, there are sites that offer very attractive templates where you can just insert your categories and text. If you create a web page with service times for your church, keep it updated. My wife and I wanted to visit a local church. We looked up the church on the internet and found their web page Morning

worship was at 10:45A.M. We arrived right on time; on the door it said morning worship 10A.M. As we slipped in, the front hall was busy with people, yet no one greeted us. We slipped into the sanctuary where the pastor was teaching. (I recognized him from the photo on the web page telling of his international ministry.) Ten minutes later, he finished, put down his Bible, and walked out. People started milling around. We inquired from a couple behind us if that was the service, and they said that was the Bible teaching. An usher approached us and asked if it was our first time. We said, “Yes,” and he shoved a visitor’s packet into my hands. An older lady approached us and welcomed us. (She turned out to be the pastor’s mother.) At around 11:10A.M., the musicians took to the platform, and the REAL Worship service began.

All this to say, “BE HONEST.” Quit trying to hoodwink people into coming to your Sunday School. Visitors find it very annoying to be shuffled around when they don’t know your game plan.

WORD OF MOUTH

Never underestimate the personal invite. Whether it be a rotary club member, business friend, sports

club, American Legion, or the VFW, let them know that you are planting a church and where.

I remember a minister (sorry too long ago to remember his name, but I think he was from Santa Rosa, CA) sharing at a meeting, about planting his church. He had rented a building, advertised in the newspaper, and sent out flyers in the area. He belonged to a softball club and was sharing with his team mates after the game on Friday that he was having his kick off service on Sunday.

Sunday morning, he was in a back room praying that the Lord would bring them in. He had done all he knew to do, but he also knew Psalm 127:1 *Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.* As he rose from his knees, he opened the door to see the seats filled with his team mates and their wives.

CHAPTER TWELVE

The Faithful Reward

As a pastor who has planted churches, moved into established works, and worked as an associate pastor to a senior pastor, may I say there is no greater joy than planting the church. It is hard work and an operation of faith. If you count the cost, however, the rewards go beyond any material gain offered here on earth.

Luke 14:26-30 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. (27) And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. (28) For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? (29) Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, (30) Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

The question is not, “Can you start something?” The real question is. “Will you follow through until you stand before the Lord, and He says,

‘WELL DONE MY GOOD
AND FAITHFUL SERVANT?’”

Matthew 25:23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Little is Much, When God is In It

Song by: Kittie L Suffield (Public Domain)

In the harvest field now ripened
There's a work for all to do;
Hark! the voice of God is calling
To the harvest calling you.

Refrain

Little is much when God is in it!
Labor not for wealth or fame.
There's a crown—and you can win it,
If you go in Jesus' Name.

In the mad rush of the broad way,
In the hurry and the strife,
Tell of Jesus' love and mercy,
Give to them the Word of Life.

Refrain

Does the place you're called to labor
Seem too small and little known?
It is great if God is in it,
And He'll not forget His own.

Refrain

Are you laid aside from service,
Body worn from toil and care?
You can still be in the battle,
In the sacred place of prayer.

Refrain

When the conflict here is ended
And our race on earth is run,
He will say, if we are faithful,
“Welcome home, My child—well done!”

Refrain

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

The Legal Side

DISCLAIMER – WE ARE NOT ATTORNEYS AND WOULD ADVISE THE READER THAT THESE ARE SAMPLES THAT WE USED IN OUR STATE, BUT THE READER SHOULD CONTACT A LICENSED ATTORNEY IN YOUR STATE FOR ANY AND ALL LEGAL ISSUES. THE FOLLOWING CHAPTERS ARE THE NUTS AND BOLTS of setting up Bylaws, membership covenants, incorporation of ministry/church, constitutions etc. Remember these are only examples and should reflect your “Scriptural” understanding.

Unless the pastor wants to be fiscally responsible for the finances of the church, he or she should incorporate in the state in which they reside. When you do your incorporation pages, be VERY CAREFUL that you incorporate as a NON PROFIT corporation and not one for profit which could make you liable for state taxes and not eligible for 501(c)3 status with the IRS.

This is a SAMPLE
Articles of Incorporation

[NAME OF CHURCH] (This was the incorporation for a church in Nebraska. Check with your state and county for their requirements)

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this corporation shall be [Name of the Church].

ARTICLE II — TYPE OF CORPORATION

This corporation is a religious corporation.

ARTICLE III - PERIOD OF DURATION

The corporation shall commence business when its articles of incorporation have been filed with the Secretary of State and with the County Clerk of “insert” County, Nebraska, and shall have perpetual existence.

ARTICLE IV - PURPOSE

The sole purpose of this corporation shall be to foster and promote God’s Love and commit ourselves to establish strong principles for Christ and His Kingdom, through the united efforts of its members. For the furtherance of these purposes, the corporation shall have such powers as are permitted under the statutes of the State of Nebraska as from time to time amended. The governing documents of this corporation shall be only these articles and the bylaws of the corporation.

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP

The membership shall be those defined in these articles and the constitution and bylaws of the corporation.

ARTICLE VI - REAL ESTATE

The title to any or all real estate acquired by this congregation shall be held in the name of the [THE NAME OF THE CHURCH], a Nebraska nonprofit corporation. The officers of the corporation shall, as directed by the congregation, execute contracts relating to the purchase, sale or encumbrance of real estate and any deeds or mortgages.

ARTICLE VII - MANAGEMENT

The duly elected, qualified and acting members of the church council shall constitute the Board of Directors of this corporation.

ARTICLE VIII - LIABILITY OF MEMBERS

The private property of the members of this corporation shall not be subject to the payment of the corporate debts, but shall be exempt from liability therefore.

ARTICLE IX - MEETINGS OF MEMBERSHIP

The meetings of the membership of the corporation, including the annual meeting, shall be held at such times and places as are fixed by the articles and bylaws of the corporation.

ARTICLE X - BYLAWS

The bylaws of the corporation shall be established or amended by the congregation at a duly called regular or special meeting of the congregation.

ARTICLE XI - AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

These articles shall be amended by the congregation in the manner provided for by the Nebraska Nonprofit Corporation Act.

ARTICLE XII - DISSOLUTION OF THE CORPORATION

The corporation may be dissolved by the members at any regular meeting or a meeting called specifically for that purpose, if such dissolution is approved by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast. Upon dissolution of the corporation, the church council shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the corporation by distributing any such remaining assets to nonprofit Christian organization(s) as determined by the

church council, so long as such organization(s) at that time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law), as the church council shall determine.

ARTICLE XIII - INITIAL INCORPORATORS

The initial Incorporators and initial Board of Directors of the corporation are:

[These are the home addresses and NOT the location of the Church]

[Pastor's Name], president, [type out address, city, state zip]

[Board Member's Name], board member, [type out address, city, state zip]

[Board Member's Name], board member, [type out address, city, state zip]

The undersigned incorporators hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the statements made in the foregoing Articles of Incorporation are true.

Signature

[Pastor's Name], Incorporator

Signature

[Board Member's Name], Incorporator

Signature

[Board Member's Name], Incorporator

A CHAPTER FOURTEEN

Render unto Caesar

Jesus made it very clear when they tried to trick Him.

Matthew 22:17-21 Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? (18) But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? (19) Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny. (20) And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? (21) They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

So as we obey and follow His example, we must render the things to the government that are the responsibility of the government. Once you are in “Mission Church” mode, you must consider what the Lord requires of you, and also be compliant with the laws of the land.

If you are renting a commercial building, you can more than likely have a church in that building.

Any lease you may sign should have an exemption “as long as it is legal to perform such business, else this lease is void.”

CITY AND COUNTY –

If you rent a house, it may not be zoned for church services or it may require specialized insurance and/or parking requirements.

You may be required to pay certain city and county taxes. Some cities offer exemptions after certain forms are completed and filed.

Other requirements come from the counties. Some counties require you to have your ordination license on file with the county court house prior to performing weddings in their county. Many make it the minister’s responsibility to send in the marriage license to the county within a given amount of days for the wedding to be legal.

STATE

States may require ministry funds received for Ministries and/or Churches to be recorded with the comptroller. In the state of Texas they do not recognize you as a church unless you have 50 or more members regardless if the IRS recognizes

your church or not. Each state varies. The easy way to begin is to google your inquiry for your state and then look for those links which are official state links. DO NOT rely on Bubba's Website "You too can Preach." He may be entirely sincere and entirely wrong.

US GOVERNMENT – IRS


As of this date because of separation of church and state, if you are a church and only functioning as a church, you don't need a 501c3 exemption. The same is NOT true of para-church ministries which must have a 501c3 in order to issue to donors a tax-deductible receipt. A 501c3 is also needed if you are operating with food banks for the needy because of their requirements to only disburse through recognized organizations.

If you need a group covering for your ministry or church and don't want the hassle of the government you can check out OTHER RESOURCES at the back of this book.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

Setting up your Core Beliefs

Every church needs its own Constitution and Bylaws. **This is a sample:**
Constitution of



Preamble

We place our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, believing in the teaching and the practices of the disciples and those great distinctive principles for which they have ever stood, namely:

1. The Lordship of Jesus Christ

As Christians, we believe that Jesus Christ is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity (1 John 1:3, 4:15, 5:20). He was with God in eternity and was God (John 1:1). Jesus Christ came to earth, in human form, to redeem a lost and sinful mankind (Luke 19:10). By doing this He revealed a Holy God to sinful men (Romans 6:23).

Our Savior was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary (Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:34;

Galatians 4:4; Matthew 1:18). He was God, and He was man (I John 5:20; Luke 19:10). Jesus Christ claimed to be God (John 8:24, 58). The Jews well understood what He was asserting and attempted to stone Him for what they considered a blasphemous claim (John 8:59).

Jesus Christ taught that He should receive, and He did receive, worship that is due only to God (John 5:23, 20:28). He also claimed equality with God (John 5:18). His deity is shown to us by the divine titles that were given to Him (John 1:1; 8:24, 20:28; Romans 1:4; 1 Timothy 3:16; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:8; 1 John 5:20). He also possessed divine attributes. He lived as a man and “was tempted in all points like as we are yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). He suffered as we do in the flesh today. He knew what it was to be thirsty, hungry and tired. Because as the God-man He could not sin, He was able to be a perfect sacrifice for our sin. As God, Jesus Christ satisfied the holiness and righteousness of God. This sacrifice that He made was complete; there is no need of another; indeed cannot be another. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ upon the cross is the only hope of mankind for salvation (Hebrews 10:10-12). Therefore, as God, Jesus Christ is the Sovereign Lord of all (John 20:28; Acts 2:36).

Every believer is called by Jesus to follow and obey Him and be His disciple (Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 6:46; John 10:27; Matthew 11:28-30).

2. The Bible, The Standard of Faith and Practice

As Christians, we believe that the Bible, in its entirety, is the verbally inspired Word of God (1 Timothy 3:16). If we did not accept every word of Holy Writ as “God-breathed,” we would be put in the very inconsistent position of the modernist, who has to decide on the basis of his own intellect just what God has inspired in the Scriptures and what He has not. We do not make the inadequate, compromising claim that so many sound forth concerning the Bible today, that it “contains” the Word of God. We believe that every one of the sixty-six books of the Bible, and every word of the original documents, are equally inspired of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit, in guiding the human writers of the Scriptures, led in even the very words which they chose, and yet never over-ruled their God-given personalities. It is as if we were to pen a letter to a dear friend and should choose to use a

pen with a blunt point. The letter would, of course, show forth certain characteristics of the particular pen, but the underlying personality, message and content of the letter would be that of the author. This would continue to be true even if the author were to change pens, or from pen to pencil. The true author of the Bible is the Holy Spirit.

We believe that it is evident that both Old and New Testament writers were equally inspired of God (Deuteronomy 4:2; Acts 1:16; 1 Peter 1:10, 11; 1 Thessalonians 2:13). The Holy Spirit, being the author of the Bible, is the only one who can instruct us (1 John 2:20, 21), although many times the Spirit chooses in His sovereignty to use human instruments to impart the Word to us (Romans 1:11). We are instructed that He gives “some, apostles and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11, 12). The Bible is only an open book if we approach it with open hearts.

In summary, we believe in the Plenary, full, or complete inspiration of the Holy Scriptures. The Bible is our guide for life, and the Holy

Spirit will not lead contrary to it.

3. Believer's Baptism by Immersion

Down through the centuries believers have been known by their obedience to the commands of Jesus Christ. To the individual with even a scant knowledge of Holy Writ, there is usually some familiarity with our Savior's command to be baptized. The problem today in discussing the command of Christ to be baptized, is that many minds have been darkened and blinded through superstition, man's vain traditions, and false teachings concerning the subject.

The Bible teaches that baptism is an ordinance. Christian baptism symbolizes something that has been completely finished. No one is, or ever has been, saved by water baptism. The only scriptural and secure ground of salvation provided to mankind is unchanging; it is the shed blood of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12; John 3:16).

Only those individuals who have repented (exercised a change of mind) and have placed personal faith in Jesus Christ, having experienced the new birth, are eligible to be baptized (John 3:3, 1:12; Acts 2:38-41). God's order is always

faith first, which then produces obedience (Mark 16:16; John 15:10).

The mode of baptism is to be put under the water. Baptize means immerse. Paul's epistle to the Romans should settle the question for any honest doubters. "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death: that, like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

There is no possible way to show forth our new life in Christ properly except through immersion in water. In this manner, we can also show forth our union with Christ and His church (Romans 6:3,4; 1 Corinthians 12:13). No one was to become a member of the local church until he had been obedient in the waters of baptism (Acts 2:42). It should be said that this ordinance is one of joy to the Christian, for in it we have a scriptural way to show forth our identification with, and love for Jesus Christ.

4. Progressive Sanctification

The basic underlying meaning of sanctification is consecration, or separation, unto God. This will

result in purification and cleansing from moral evil and defilement, and a brighter image of Christ will be seen in the believer. It must be noted, however, that sanctification is not just limited to regenerated believers, for scriptures state that the prophet Jeremiah was sanctified even before his birth (Jeremiah 1:5). The furniture of the tabernacle, which in itself was morally neutral, was set apart, or sanctified (Exodus 40:10; Numbers 7:1). Jesus Christ, who had no need of cleansing from sin, sanctified Himself (John 17:19), showing us that sanctification, as it applied to Him, was a complete separation from this world to the perfect will of the Father. In John 10:36 we find the Father sanctified, or set apart, the Son for a specific purpose. If we believe our Bibles and not the ideas of men, we see sanctification is not an act to make us sinless, for who would dare say that our Savior would need such an experience (Hebrews 7:26)? We can rejoice in the truth that believers are set apart or sanctified in Him, it will result in a walk that is well pleasing to God, because the indwelling Spirit will empower us to be separate from sin and the world.

In considering what part sanctification has to play in our Christian experience, let us first of all

note the positional aspect of our sanctification. Our perfect, positional sanctification has been brought to pass by the blood of Christ and we are now in Him (Hebrews 13:12). This positional side of our sanctification is eternal and belongs to all believers regardless of maturity or lack of it, because it is based entirely upon the finished work of Christ (Hebrews 10:10; Acts 26:18). Since it is not based on man's efforts, we are set apart or sanctified forever, and this position can never be altered (Hebrews 10:14).

As a result of a believer's perfect position in Him, the child of God will be motivated to live a life of obedience to Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:2). When the believer walks by faith and rests in his Savior, he is in a position to grow in grace and be used in the service of the Lord. This brings us to the "present tense" of our sanctification.

Believers have two natures, the consequences of two births. By the new birth (John 3:3), we have a new nature, one that is perfect and cannot sin (1 John 3:9). By our physical birth, we also possess an old nature, the "old man" (Ephesians 4:22-24). This is not as sad a plight as one might think if we acknowledge these facts to be so; otherwise, we are only deceiving ourselves. A

perfect way of victory has been provided as we reckon ourselves (the old man) dead, and live in and after the Spirit by faith (Romans 6:11-23). This is the practical outworking of progressive sanctification.

In order for Christians to progress in practical sanctification, we must be filled with the Holy Spirit and in a state of complete dependence upon Him (Ephesians 5:18). Next we must use the Word of God to live a holy life (John 17:17). God's Word will continually transform Christians into the image of Christ, as the Spirit of God empowers us for a life of victory.

This then, by His Grace, will bring us to "The Day of The Lord" when we will be entirely separated, or sanctified, from the very presence of sin (1 Thessalonians 3:13; Philippians 1:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:23).

5. Soul Liberty

In order for us to have a clear understanding of soul liberty, we need to go back to the creation record. The Bible states that man is a creation of God. While man's body was brought into existence from the dust of the ground, man's life was derived directly from God, for the scriptures

tell us that God “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul” (Genesis 2:7). This soul was created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), and for fellowship with Him. Both image and fellowship were marred with the entrance of sin.

The Bible teaches that there are three parts to the nature of man: spirit, soul and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 4:12). Adam and Eve were free moral agents, with innocence and holiness of nature. They had the power of choice, and after a time of testing, Adam and Eve, yielding to Satan, fell into sin. The power of choice is still given to mankind today. It is man’s responsibility to make choices in harmony with God’s will as revealed in the Bible. God is sovereign and the areas and limitations of our exercise of soul liberty have been established by Him.

For the believer, the exercise of soul liberty may be in the positive or negative choices concerning God’s perfect way of service or a separated life. This sometimes can become complex, depending on individual circumstances; however, the believer must wholly rely upon God’s Spirit and His Word.

The issues concerning soul liberty, as exercised by the non-believer, are not so complex from the standpoint of detail, but the stakes are high. Using his soul liberty, the unbeliever may exercise negative volition, keeping him under God's condemnation and severed from fellowship with his Maker. If this negative reaction to eternal truth is exercised until death, it means a Christ-less eternity for that individual. On the other hand, if soul liberty is exercised to the point of faith in Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior, it will result in everlasting life (John 3:16, 1:12).

6. Theocratic Government

In order for believers to have a scriptural concept of theocratic government, we must understand something of the doctrine of the church, as taught in the Bible. First of all, it is necessary to distinguish between the universal church and the local church.

The universal church, which is His body, is an organism that includes all born again believers, from the day of Pentecost until the rapture of the church. It consists of the called-out ones from this world and is distinguishable from Jews and Gentiles (1 Corinthians 10:32). Although this

church was in the mind of God before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:3-5), its actual beginning was on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4).

As believers and members of the same body, we are all equal, but possess different gifts and have various functions (1 Corinthians 12:4, 5; Romans 12:4, 5; Ephesians 4:11). The above must be clearly understood before we consider theocratic government in the local assembly.

The meaning of the word “church” in the New Testament is “called-out ones,” or an “assembly.” This term is used 117 times in the New Testament. In 85 or more times, it applies in the direct sense to the local church or, if you prefer, local body of believers (Acts 2:42-47, 5:11, 11:22, 13:1; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Timothy 3:15). When we speak of theocratic government, it is that form of government exercised within the whole church body. This brings us to our subject for consideration.

In this age of grace, an organized group of baptized believers make up the local church (Acts 2:41-47). This group is God’s ordained

way of reaching the world today. The local church should be guided by the Word of God and the principles set forth therein. A true New Testament local church is sovereign and falls to, the authority of the church priesthood. There is no higher authority made up of men that should exercise authority over the local church. Every member of the local assembly has the privilege and responsibility to yield only to “God” and “His Word” in matters of policy. As each member assumes his responsibility, he will carry forth his duties and obligations in a scriptural manner. It is the duty of every individual member to help govern his church. Each qualified member in good standing has the power of voting on issues brought before the body. Each vote is of equal value as that of another member. New Testament churches were run in a theocratic way.

The local assembly (under the Holy Spirit’s leadership) is responsible to elect its elders and to determine its own course of action (see above). The scriptural officers in our local church are pastor and elders. It is the duty of the members to submit to those who have the authority (by proper means) in the assembly (Hebrews 13:17).

In other words, as fellow believers, we are the ones who are responsible to the Lord to maintain New Testament Bible-believing churches. The challenge is to the church, but when God says "Church," He means you.

7. Separation of Church and State

Church and State are two separate institutions according to the Word of God. The Church of Jesus Christ consists of those individuals who have been called out of the world (lost humanity) and made citizens of a Heavenly Kingdom. The principle of separation of Church and State is taught in the New Testament. Romans 13 informs us that the State is of divine origin; and Matthew 16 tells us that the Church is likewise of divine origin, but both are to serve in separate capacities.

Law and order that are in harmony with God's moral law must be maintained. This is the duty of the State. The Church, on the other hand, provides a means of fellowship for the saint, and an effective outreach in the proclamation of the Gospel.

As individual Christian citizens, we are to pay taxes that are due to governmental powers. We

are also instructed to respect our leaders and to pray for them (Romans 13:7). As believers, **we should do all in our power to keep our society free, that we may have liberty to worship and serve our Savior.** When the Church and State are kept separate, they are both enabled to be the blessings to mankind that God has ordained for them to be. The Church permeates society with the moral righteousness that it must have in order to survive. The State, in turn, protects the individual and provides him the opportunity to worship God in his own way.

We, therefore, band ourselves together as a body of immersed believers in Jesus Christ and adopt, ordain, and service the following statement of faith, covenant, constitution and by-laws (and we here-by revoke all previous constitution and by-laws and actions contrary to this constitution, by-laws, and standing rules).

Statement of Faith

The Holy Scriptures (The Bible)

We believe that the Bible is the verbally inspired word of God, that it was written by men who were divinely and uniquely inspired and that it was without error in its original writing. It is complete, absolutely trustworthy, and has supreme authority in all matters of Christian faith and conduct (II Timothy 3:15-17; II Peter 1:20, 21; John 16:12-13; Revelation 22:18- 19).

The Godhead

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and with the same attributes and perfection.

God the Father

We believe in God the Father, perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power. We rejoice that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from the penalty of sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ (John 3:35; John 5:26; John 6:46; John 10:29; Matthew 11:27).

God The Son - Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ, the eternal and only begotten Son of God. We believe that in His mortal life He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men. Becoming a man without ceasing to be God, He lived a sinless life and accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross, a vicarious sacrifice for our sins. We believe in His bodily resurrection from the grave and that He ascended into heaven where He is now exalted on the right hand of God the Father, interceding for us as our great high priest. We believe in His personal, imminent, physical return to rapture His church, and His subsequent return to the earth with His saints to establish His millennial Kingdom (Phil. 2:5-11; Matthew 1:18-25; I Peter 2:24; John 3:16; Luke 24:1-53; Hebrews 4:14-16; I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

God the Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. He regenerates, sanctifies and comforts those who believe in Jesus Christ, indwelling and sealing them until the day of redemption. He is the Divine

Teacher, who guides us into all truth, and by His filling He strengthens us (John 14:16; John 15:26; John 16:7-14; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 1:13, 14).

The Nature of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin, man fell, thereby inheriting a sinful nature and becoming alienated from God. This resulted in not only physical death, but also spiritual death which is separation from God. By choice we sin; and, of ourselves, we are unable to remedy our lost condition (Genesis 1:26, 27; Romans 3:10; Romans 5:12; John 3:5).

Salvation

1. Salvation is by grace alone through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Believers are saved and fully justified before their faith ever produces a righteous work (Ephesians 2:8-10).
2. The natural man (Romans 3:23) is spiritually dead and cannot earn salvation or favor with God (Romans 8:7-9).
3. Salvation is all God's work. Those who believe are saved utterly apart from any effort on their own (Romans 10:9-13; I Timothy 1:15-16; Titus

3:5). Eternal life is a gift of God (Romans 6:23).

4. Salvation is brought about by the convicting work of the Holy Spirit and by the Word of God. The lost person is convicted of his sin and is convinced of his need of Jesus Christ, the Savior, to save him from sin (John 16:8-9; Acts 2:37; Romans 1:16-17; I Peter 1:23).

5. The natural man is called by God to a single act of repentance and believing. Repentance is a change of mind, turning to Christ from sin, trusting and believing in Him as personal Savior in regard to the Gospel message (Luke 24:47; John 3:16; Acts 2:38, 11:18, 17:30, 20:21; Romans 2:4; II Timothy 2:25; II Peter 3:9). Both faith and repentance are a gift from God.

6. The object of faith is Christ Himself, and trusting Him begins the process of Christ changing a believers life (John 3:16; II Corinthians 5:15, 17).

- Obedience to Christ's Word is a demonstration of salvation (I John 2:3-6).
- Salvation includes a transformation of the inner person (Gal. 2:20).
- The believer receives a new nature (Romans 6:6).

A continued life-style of willful sin is not consistent with a person who trusts Christ (I John 3:9-10).

7. Jesus is Lord of all and faith in Him leads to a yielding of oneself to Christ. (Romans 6:12-13, 6:17-18, 10:9-10, 12:1-2)
8. Believers are kept by the power of God (John 10:28-29; I Peter 1:3-5).
9. Believers stumble and fall but persevere in the faith (I Corinthians 1:8) and will be restored to fellowship by confession of sin (I John 1:9).
10. Assurance of Salvation is based on the promises of God. (I Peter 1:23; I John 5:11-12)

The Church

We believe that the universal church of Christ is a living, spiritual body of which Christ is the Head, and of which all regenerated people are members. We believe that the local church is a company of believers in Jesus Christ who have shared their profession of faith, and voluntarily associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper were committed to the local church for perpetual observance, and that God laid upon the church the task of proclaiming to a lost world the acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (Col. 1:18; I Peter 2:5; Matthew 28:18-20).

We believe the church has two ordinances:

1. Baptism is the immersion of the believer in water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, which was revealed to us as Jesus Christ, and symbolizing the believer's previous experience of the new birth through faith and his union in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ as set forth in Romans 6:3-11.

2. The Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ as a memorial to His atoning sacrifice. In the observance of this Supper, believers remember Him: they show forth His death until He comes, and they function as worshipping priests before God (Luke 22:14-20; I Corinthians 11:23-24).

We believe the local church is independent and autonomous and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority, and therefore church and state must be kept separate, each having different functions (Luke 20:19-26; Romans 13:1-7; Titus 3:1).

We believe that the Holy Spirit gives each believer one or more spiritual gifts and that Christ, our Risen Head, has especially set apart the gifts of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and

teachers in order to help the saints in their work of service and to build up the body of Christ.

We believe that as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority established that the need for miraculous signs still remained. Some believe the close of the cannon was the completion of signs and wonders. We Do Not for they are still necessary to validate our faith or to authenticate the Scriptures. God has not changed.

We believe in the power of prayer. God does hear and answer the prayer of faith in accordance with His sovereign will (John 15:7; I John 14, 15).

The Eternal State

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28, 29; John 11:25, 26; Revelation 20:5, 6, 12, 13).

We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss, they await the

first resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 16:19-26; Matthew 25:1-46; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6, 7; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:11-15).

We believe that Satan is real, the author of sin and the cause of man's fall. We believe that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man, and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Job 1:6, 7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10).

"You therefore, beloved, since you know these things before hand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. AMEN."
(II Peter 3:17-18)

Covenant

We believe that we have been led by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through our community and all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to train our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord; to seek the salvation of our family and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our conduct; to avoid all gossip,

slander and excessive anger, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the gospel of our Lord and Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the principles of our Savior, to secure it without delay. We agree that if we move from this geographical area, we will as soon as possible unite with another church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

ARTICLE 1 – NAME

The name of this organization, by church charter, shall be [THE NAME OF YOUR CHURCH]

Article 2 – Object

The object of this organization shall be to promote:

- 1. The preaching of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in order to win people to a personal faith in Him as Savior.
- 2. To provide for the worship of God, the teaching and preaching of the Word of God, to administer the ordinances of the New Testament, to seek the spiritual improvement of our members, to maintain a Church to minister within our own community, and to support the ministry of the gospel unto all the earth Independent.

Article 3 – Membership

The membership of this church shall consist of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ who have been immersed; acknowledged substantial agreement with the faith, practice, and covenant of this church; and have been received into the fellowship by regular attendance to the church.

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Article 4 – Officers

The scriptural officers of *this* church are Pastors and Elders, and the by-laws shall determine their election, term, and succession. The church shall elect and appoint to the various forms of service

indicated by their titles, and as defined in the by-laws, such officers as are deemed advisable.

Article 5 – Meetings

Meetings for worship, prayer, praise, fellowship, business, and special purposes shall be held as set forth in the by-laws.

Article 6 – Relationships

Believing in the sovereignty of the local church as an autonomous body of believers under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, this church by official action shall determine the maintaining of fraternal fellowship and cooperation with churches of like faith and practice; or with organized groups of inter-church relationships; when our cardinal beliefs will not be compromised. To such groups this church may send statistical reports and may be represented in their meetings. No financial support is to be given to a work or workers whose doctrinal position is not in keeping with the preamble of this constitution.

Article 7 – Amendments

This constitution may be amended by a “Constitution & By-Laws” meeting, called by the

pastor with consensus of the elders, provided such amendments have been submitted in writing, to the church body, thirty (30) days in advance of that meeting.

[YOUR CHURCH] BY-LAWS

Article A - Membership

Section 1 - Qualifications

This church shall be comprised of, and consist of, baptized believers in Jesus Christ who accept and place their faith and practice in the New Testament. Accepted baptism is to be by immersion of the believer upon his confession of faith.

Section 2 - Inactive Status

All members who remain absent from the church services and activities for a consecutive period of 120 days without just cause, without contact or without demonstrated interest in the church, or interest in the support of the church, may by

cause to be declared by the Pastor and Elders as being inactive. Should this action be deemed necessary by the Pastor and Elders, such person or persons shall be considered inactive and shall forfeit all rights of membership.

Section 3 - Admission

Membership may be by letter from another church; by statement of Christian experience, having been baptized by immersion as a believer; or, on profession of faith and baptism. Prospective members are to be approved by the Pastor and Elders after completing such requirements as established by the Pastor and the Elders for membership.

Section 4 - Grievances

Should there be grievances among members, then such grievances shall be considered and handled in accordance with the rules set forth in Matthew 18. There shall be no public complaint, and none shall be heard, until the provisions in Matthew 18 have been applied. Should there be any charges made by anyone, they must be lodged in written form and signed by a minimum of two members of regular attendance and of good standing, which in turn shall be filed

directly with the Pastor and elders.

Section 5 - Transfer or Dismissal

Members may request a letter of recommendation, with the approval of the Pastor and Elders of this church, when transferring to the fellowship of another church, or may be dismissed by action of the Pastor and Elders for just cause in accordance with Section 4 herein, or by a member's own request.

Section 6 - Voting

Voting rights shall be granted to members who take an active role in the church, and further provided that they have attained their eighteenth birthday.

ARTICLE B - Elders

Section 1 - Elder Qualifications

To be placed on the ballot for election or to serve as an Elder, a man must be a member in good standing of our church and be at least twenty-one years of age, having demonstrated an unquestionable Christian testimony and further meeting the requirements as recorded in I Timothy 3:1-13.

Section 2 - Removal of Elders

An Elder may be removed from service on the board by vote of the board if he fails to maintain the qualifications of “Section 1 - Elder Qualifications,” as shown above.

Section 3 - Number of Elders

The number of Elders shall be proportional to the existing congregational size, with approximately ten families per Elder. Elected terms shall be for a period of three years, but shall be on a rotating basis in order that one-third of the Board is elected each year. An Elder may be re-elected for a following three-year period but no one is eligible to serve more than two consecutive elected three-year terms.

- That Pastor _____ will be the Chairman
- That _____ will be Secretary / Treasurer
- That _____ will be Board member

Section 4 - Responsibilities of Elders

- **A.** The Pastor shall be Chairman of the board of Elders. The Vice Chairman, and Secretary shall be elected (if numbers necessitate) at the first Elder’s meeting following the Annual Business Meeting, but no later than December 31.

- **B.** The responsibility for governing the church shall be vested in the Board of Elders.
- **C.** The directorship of this church, and the corporation, and legal trusteeship of the church property shall be the responsibility of, and entrusted in, Pastor, treasurer, and secretary as prescribed by the church charter.
- **D.** Regulating and organizing the function of all auxiliaries of the church shall be the duty of the Board of Elders.
- **E.** Meeting of the Board of Elders shall be held at intervals, but in no event less than one meeting each year.

ARTICLE C – Ministers / Pastors

Section 1

The church shall have one Senior Pastor, one Pastor, and any number of Associate Pastors as may be deemed necessary by the Elders. Jesus

Christ shall reside as Senior Pastor. _____ shall reside as Pastor. Associate Pastors must be either Licensed or Ordained Ministers.

Section 2 - Senior Pastor

Jesus Christ shall be the Senior Pastor and shall by His spirit guide all activities in the Church.

Section 3 – Pastor

The Pastor shall be the leader of the church, in all of its activities, preach the gospel, administer the ordinances, execute all resolutions, function as Chairman of the Elders and all departments, appoint all committees and ministry teams, watch over the membership with spiritual interest of the church, organize and develop its strengths for the best possible service, be Administrator of the Church Organization and the Executive Officer of the Staff, and the Moderator over business meetings.

Section 3 - Associate Pastors

The Associate Pastors shall be under the direct supervision of the Pastor.

Section 4 - Calling of Ministers

- **A. Pastor**

The Pastor shall serve for an indeterminate term.

B. Associate Pastors

Associate Pastors may be called upon recommendation of the Pastor and the Board of Elders. The Pastor shall have full authority, with the approval of the Elder Board, to discontinue the services of any or all Associates.

Section 5 - Resignation of Associate Pastors

When, and if, a new Pastor assumes his duties, it shall be required that all Associate Pastors offer their individual resignation for his consideration and evaluation, not to exceed six months.

ARTICLE D - MEETINGS

Section 1 - Church Meetings

- **Church Business Meeting**

On the last Sunday in January of each year, a business meeting shall be held for the purpose of electing Elders, adoption of annual budget, and for any other purpose set forth by the Pastor. Elections shall be by written ballot. Those elected to the Board of Elders shall take office on the first day of the following January.

B. Special Meetings The Pastor or Board of Elders may call a special meeting at any stated time. Thirty or more members of the church in good standing may, with just cause, call a special meeting at any stated time.

Should a special meeting be called, it must first be announced to members present from the pulpit at any regular meeting prior to the time such special meeting is to be held, stating in general terms the nature of the issue or issues to be discussed at such meeting.

C. Board of Elders

There shall be a written agenda setting forth of all items of business to come before the Board. Members of the church desiring to present items for Board consideration must first contact the Chairman of the Board at least one week prior to a regularly scheduled meeting requesting permission to place the written item of business on the agenda.

Section 2 - Types of Official Church Meetings

Meeting Quorum Approval Church Business
meeting 10% of Voting Membership Majority
present Special Meeting 10% of Voting
Membership Majority present Board of Elders 2/3
of Voting Membership Majority present Calling
an Associate Pastor 20% of Voting Membership.
Calling a Pastor requires 85% of Majority Present.

ARTICLE E - CHURCH YEAR

**The fiscal year of the church shall be on the
calendar year basis.**

ARTICLE F - Rules of Order

The most recent revised publication of *Roberts'*
Rules of Order
shall be the voluntary manual for church business.

OTHER RESOURCES

Full Gospel Restoration Minister & Churches
(IRS Group Covering for Qualified Ministries)
<https://www.fullgospelrestoration.com/>

Focus Bible College (Ministerial preparation)
<https://www.focusbiblecollege.org/>

Independent Assemblies of God
<https://www.independentassemblies.org/>

United States application for Non Profit
Organizations
<http://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits>
(Application for 501c3 Tax Exemption.)

Apply for a 501(c)3 Exemption

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/application-for-recognition-of-exemption>

(IRS LINKS to Official Links for Non-Profits
requirements)

OTHER BOOKS BY TY & BETSY TICE

If you found this book useful, we recommend the following for your consideration:

Counseling through the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
By Orvil (Ty) Tice

<https://www.amazon.com/Counseling-through-Gifts-Holy-Spirit->

EYEWITNESS TO HIS MAJESTY

By Elizabeth (Betsy) Tice

[Eyewitness To His Majesty](#)

**LIVING LIFE IN YOUR
PARALLEL UNIVERSE**

By Elizabeth (Betsy) Tice

<https://www.amazon.com/Living-Life-Your-Parallel-Universe->

AVAILABLE THROUGH

Thebookpatch.com Bookstore or

Amazon.com in softcover and kindle

ENDNOTES

<http://thefreedictionary.com>

Suffield, Kittie, *Little is much when God is in it*,
(song & lyrics, Public Domain)

Adam Clarke, Commentary of the Bible,(Public
Domain)Vol VI

AUTHOR'S WEBPAGE

<https://www.eyewitnesstohismajesty.org/>

EMAIL ADDRESS

bishoptice2@gmail.com

to request being added to our list for our
devotionals and new books