



THE CHURCH (AND OUR CHURCH) IS

PLAN A

(And There is No PLAN B!)

MADE UP OF OUR PASTORS AND ELDERS • STATE OF THE CHURCH ADDRESS • SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2022

A: QUOTES REGARDING THE CHURCH

Our strength is never in our numbers or in our prosperity, but in the invincible power of our God...The Church represents the highest priority of God's agenda, and it is His blueprint for completing His work on the earth. We have embarked upon an enterprise that has God's highest priority: Success is inevitable if we stay with God's plan for the church."

- Dr. Paul Powell

That very church which the world likes best is sure to be that which God abhors.

- Charles Haddon Spurgeon

It is our earnest prayer that when the chronicles of this great church are written, it will record a people intimately a part of His story in this place, walking together as family and dear friends. We look forward to standing with literally thousands of people whose eternal destiny and lives were changed through the ministry of our church—all meeting together for the first time with Christ outside the Eastern Gate of Heaven. Our prayer is that our lives will eternally cast glory and honor to the name of our dear Savior, Jesus Christ. May the dreams and plans recommended here be quickly caught and not easily forgotten.

- SRBC Building Committee (that built the present Worship Center)

The True Church can never fail. For it is based upon a rock.

- Dr. T.S. Eliot

B: KEY PASSAGE FOR THE CHURCH

STUDY VERSE SECTION: Matthew 16:18–19, NIV - ¹⁸ *And I tell you that you are Peter* [Gk: Πέτρος (PET-ros), lit., a stone], *and on this rock* [Gk: πέτρα (PET-ra) lit., a ledge or wall of stone; most scholars believe that this word, "petra," refers NOT to Peter but to his confession, "You are the Messiah (or "the Christ"), the Son of the living God."] *I will build my church, and the gates of Hades* [both the place and activity of Hell] *will not overcome it.* ¹⁹ *I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*" [In the simplest understanding, we are to be in harmony with Heaven/Jesus.]

1 Corinthians 3:11, NIV - ¹¹ *For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

I. FOUR TRUTHS FROM THIS PASSAGE:

- 1. Christ BUILDS the church.** "*I will build my church....*"
- 2. Christ OWNS the church.** "*I will build my church....*"
- 3. Christ EMPOWERS the church.** "*I'll give you the keys...*"
- 4. Christ PROTECTS the church.** "*...Hades will not overpower it.*"

"The Church will stand at the grave of the BBC (quoting Lord Reith, it's founder).' It will! It will still stand when the BBC, CNN, and FOX as well, dwindle and die. The kingdom of God will stand when every organization and institution and empire meets its end. 'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom - Luke 12:32).'"

- Dr. Alister Bigg, *Brave by Faith*, p. 42.

II. FOUR REASONS YOU NEED THE CHURCH:

- 1. Biblical** – "*Christ loved the church and gave Himself...for her.*" - Eph. 5:25. The Church is God's 'Plan A' and is His plan for this age.
- 2. Practical** – It's the church that will strengthen you for the "last days" (eg., spiritual growth, spiritual warfare, and spiritual service).
- 3. Personal** – You'll need the church (eg., salvation, prayer, counseling, baptism, teaching, preaching, bible study, discipleship, weddings, a place to use your spiritual gifts, an avenue to evangelize, spiritual accountability, family/baby dedications/baptisms, Lord's Supper, a place to worship, fellowship, and maybe even a funeral, some day).
- 4. Eternal** – In the end, the church is *the only thing that will matter.*

C: POST COVID PLAN FOR SRBC

1. We need to get back to meeting together and being the church.

2. We need to focus on younger families.

3. COUNT ON ME! CAMPAIGN:
“We are going to implement a number of former and new ministry teams.”



There are two pivotal documents we need everyone to see.

A. THE COUNT ON ME “Volunteer Questionnaire” (if you know where you would like to serve.)

B. THE COUNT ON ME “Discovering Where You Fit In” (if you have no idea where you would like to serve.)

PERSONAL MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES:

AWANA Baptism Team Benevolence Team Bible Study
Children’s Ministry Children’s Church Coffee Ministry Deaf Ministry
Discipleship Ministry Fellowship Team
Funeral Ministry Greeting Ministry (First Touch)
Helping Hands Marriage Conference
Median Adult Ministry Men’s Breakfast Team
Ministry Team Missions Team Next Step Booth
Pastor’s Research/Prayer Team Parking Lot Ministry (First Touch)
Samaritans Purse Safety and Security Team
Snow Removal/Grounds Team Sr. Adult Ministry
“Standing in the Gap” Prayer Ministry Vacation Bible School
Visitation Team Warm Hearts Wedding Ministry
Welcome Desk/Guest Services Welcome Class Team
Women’s Ministry Women of Worth (Grief Ministry)
Worship Ministry (with AV Ministry) Yokefellow Team
Youth Ministry Young Adult Ministry

The Great Commission bids us teach the disciples to observe all things commanded. Our word “observe” has two meanings today. It may mean to behold, to look on, or to view the scene. It may also mean to adhere to, keep the rules, abide by the terms, obey the laws of an organization or society. Most Christians belong to the first category; they are balcony Christians, spectators, onlookers, non-participants. We hire a church staff to do church work, and on Sunday we sit and watch them do it. Too many are in the grandstands; too few are playing the game. It’s time for all Christians in the grandstands to get into the game and make their lives count for God.

- Vance Havner

4. We are going to completely refurbish our current lobby and worship center.

5. We are going to bring the outside of our building up to standards.

6. We are going to shade the current playground.

7. We are going to become more active online—including social media.

8. “Each One Reach One!”

“You will get out of church what you put into it.” - JKT

D: WE NEED EVERY PERSON'S INVOLVEMENT

“The Gospel is urgent because the return of Christ is imminent.”

1. We need every single person to get back to church (Heb. 10:25-26).

2. We need to count on every single person to do something.

3. We need “Each One to Reach One!”

4. We need everyone praying (7:14 AM and 7:14 PM, Wednesday Prayer Time and on Tuesday Nights—until VBS).

5. I need everyone to learn a simple gospel presentation.

Bonus: I’d love everyone to go on a mission trip and go to Israel with me.

B ut you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And [then] you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” - Acts 1:8, NLT