

THE HEART OF A
Builder





"From him the whole body,
joined and held together by every
supporting ligament, grows and
builds itself up in love, as each
part does its work."

EPHESIANS 4:16 NIV

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Introduction

For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.

– **Hebrews 3:4 NIV**

God is always building. Even in our weakest moments, he will lay a foundation of faith, hope, and love in our hearts, working every detail of our lives into something good and beautiful. He works through each of us to build his church into a beacon of light in a dark world that everyone can stream to and find hope ([Isaiah 2:2](#)).

Never in our lifetime has our world been more in need of hope than these last two years. In these moments, we can draw inspiration from one of the greatest builders in the Bible, Nehemiah:

Then I said to them, "You can see the trouble we have here: Jerusalem is a pile of ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let's rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. Then we will not be ashamed anymore." I also told them that my God had been kind to me...Then they answered, "Let's start to work, now!" So we began this good work.

– **Nehemiah 2:17-18 ERV**

Nehemiah and his people knew what it felt like to spend years in trouble and fire, but they didn't give in to despair. Instead, they got to work. As each person played their part, they built something together that they never could have built alone.

With this year's Special Contribution, we want to adopt the spirit of Nehemiah and his people. Despite walking through the fire of the last two years, we too can have the "Heart of a Builder."

Now is the time to build the world we want to see, each of us laying bricks day by day, trusting God to build them into something bigger than all of us.

With this ebook, we hope to share just a few aspects of what it means to have the "Heart of a Builder." Each section will include a blurb from one of our ministry, digital, or administrative staff, who describe the impact of Special Contribution in a certain area, along with a person in the Bible that shares this conviction to build.

We are so grateful for everyone who gives this year and in the years ahead, and can't wait to see how God will move when we come together to build!

Chapter 01

Building Family

I could tell Christians were different the first time I met them. They seemed genuinely interested in getting to know me.

I gradually opened up to them about things in my life I wasn't proud of—my sins, mistakes, and weaknesses. Much to my surprise, they still liked me and accepted me. Knowing that people could love and accept me at my worst helped me believe that God could too.

Love is powerful, and love changes lives, just like it changed mine. That's why one of the most important "materials" we can use to build God's church is love:

What is really needed to build the church is love.
– **1 Corinthians 8:1 TLB**

When I think about "building," I usually think about hard work, like hammers, nails, and backbreaking labor. But when it comes to building God's kingdom, having the heart of a builder actually means having a heart full of God's love. This is what Jesus taught and how Jesus built:

"And so I am giving a new commandment to you now—love each other just as much as I love you. Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

– **John 13:34-35 TLB**

This helps me understand that every decision I make to love God, love my family, and love other people matters. God is loving, and as we build loving homes and loving relationships, we bring God's love to the world around us.





Building loving homes and house churches

One way we can give our friends, family, and neighbors the opportunity to experience the love of God is by building loving homes and house churches in every neighborhood around the Bay.

This year, we transitioned from large midweek services to local [“Let’s Talk Nights,”](#) where groups of friends meet in houses and backyards every week to read the Bible and build each other’s faith.

“Let’s Talk” Nights and house church relationships provide opportunities to invite friends into God’s family, and to work together to serve our communities in our own unique way.

Why love matters so much

The pandemic has worsened what many already considered a loneliness epidemic in America; a [2021 study from Harvard](#) found that 36% of American adults feel “serious loneliness,” including 61% of young adults and 51% of mothers of young children.

Statistics like these help me understand why Jesus commanded us to love. As a mother of a young child myself, it moves me to think that half of the mothers I see at playgrounds and restaurants feel serious loneliness. I may not have solutions to the world’s problems, but one thing I can do is make someone not feel lonely.

People need love. As we love one another the way Jesus loved us we shine a bright light in a lonely world, ultimately guiding people to the source of this genuine love—God himself.



Builders in the Bible:

Priscilla & Aquila

For some inspiration about building the Kingdom by building family, check out the story of Priscilla and Aquila in the book of Acts.

They played a significant role in building the early church because they had a loving home and loving relationships. They opened their home to the apostle Paul as he brought the message of Jesus to the city of Corinth, and later they used their home as a place the church could come together. As a married couple, they were always mentioned together in the Bible—teaching us that their love for others flowed from a loving marriage.

For more on Priscilla and Aquila, check out the following passages of the Bible: ([Acts 18](#), [Romans 16](#), [1 Corinthians 16:19](#), [2 Timothy 4:19](#)).

"The churches in Asia Minor send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly because of the Lord's love. So does the church that meets in their house."

-1 Corinthians 16:19 NIV

Amy Query

BACC Digital Team





Chapter 02

Building Inclusion

Upon discovering my son had special needs, I remember struggling to embrace my new reality. I didn't feel like I had the character to be the parent my son needed me to be. At this pivotal time for my family, an empathetic parent reached out to me and shared a life-changing truth I've never forgotten: "The testing and difficulties you're going through are because God has a great destiny and dream for your son."

At that moment, my perspective changed. My son's diagnosis became an essential part of the dream God had in store not only for my son, but also for my entire family.

"Until the time came to fulfill his dreams, the LORD tested Joseph's character."
– **Psalm 105:19 NLT**

In Genesis 37-50, we learn that God built Joseph's life and character through many uncertain and unpredictable moments. My journey has not been nearly as difficult as Joseph's, but this verse helped me understand that God was setting me on a pathway to build and strengthen my character in preparation for his dream of inclusion to come true for my son, my family, and so many others in the special needs community.

Why inclusion matters

[Inclusion](#) is “the action or state of including or of being included within a group or structure.” It’s about involving another life in our lives—regardless of that person’s abilities, age, background, or differences— so that together we change the world.

Individuals with disabilities are a population that experiences many [barriers to inclusion](#), which can have a significant adverse effect on their lives. They experience poverty at a much [higher rate](#) than individuals without disabilities. In California, adults with disabilities are much more likely to [experience depression](#) and other health challenges than their neurotypical peers. Children with disabilities are [almost four times more likely to experience violence than children without disabilities](#).

In light of this, I’m grateful to be part of a church and community that is passionate about championing inclusion both locally and globally.

However, inclusion is not just about helping those with disabilities. The pandemic has given us all a taste of the exclusion and isolation those with disabilities often experience, helping us understand that everyone needs accommodation and inclusion, not just those with special needs.

Without having a son with special needs and friends in the special needs community around me, I would never have been able to see my need to develop empathy, awareness, understanding, and compassion. My son opened my eyes to greater opportunities to connect with other families and understand their unique needs. This gave us a desire to make an impact in the community through inclusive programs such as [E-Sports](#) and especially E-Hoops in San Francisco. As we have served in these programs, we have been able to inspire and change lives I would have never encountered had it not been for my family’s needs.



How we're building inclusion

*How deeply intimate and far-reaching is his love! **How enduring and inclusive it is!** Endless love beyond measurement that transcends our understanding—this extravagant love pours into you until you are filled to overflowing with the fullness of God!*

– **Ephesians 3:18b TPT**

Inclusivity is an enduring and exceptional hallmark of God's love and heart for people. For every Christian, inclusion is a lifestyle of embracing God's loving heart.

This is why we are so compelled as a church to support **Exceptional Sports (E-Sports)**. The "E" in E-Sports stands for "exceptional," which reflects our belief that all people, both with typical and special needs, are exceptional. The "E" also implies "education," reflecting our mission to keep learning and growing as we serve this community of families.

The incredible volunteer base of the Bay Area Christian Church helped launch E-Sports in 2000, and the BACC is currently an official sponsor of E-Sports programs in the Bay Area. Every week, over 600 children participate in E-Sports, along with over 500 volunteers. Over 2000 families have been served by E-Sports since the inception of the program.



Inspired by E-Sports' work promoting inclusivity throughout the Bay Area, the Golden State Warriors have partnered with E-Hoops since 2018, inviting participants to promote inclusion at their halftime and "primetime" exhibitions and games. E-Sports has also made a difference for special needs and typical families by partnering with organizations like Major League Soccer's San Jose Earthquakes and expanding globally to Kenya, India, China, and the Philippines.

In recent years, our E-Sports volunteers have expanded the program's inclusive mindset into other innovative programs. E-Dance, E-Surf, E-Art, E-Game Social, E-Fitness, E-Gardening, and E-Photography are bringing inclusion to the whole person no matter their life stage, so that every individual can live an exceptional life!

Builders in the Bible:

Paul

For even greater inspiration about building the Kingdom through building inclusion, check out Paul's story and outlook in [2 Corinthians 12:1-10](#) of how God's power and strength were perfected when Paul both experienced and embraced limitations.

Ray Kim

San Francisco Lead Minister



Chapter 03

Building a Strong Foundation

Let me describe the one who truly follows me and does what I say. He is like a man who chooses the right place to build a house and then lays a **deep and secure foundation**. When the storms and floods rage against that house, **it continues to stand strong** and **unshaken** through the tempest, for it has been **wisely built** on the **right foundation**. [49] But the one who has heard my teaching and does not obey it is like a man who builds a house without laying any foundation whatsoever. When the storms and floods rage against that house, it will immediately collapse and become a total loss. **Which of these two builders will you be?**

– Luke 6:47-49 TPT

As Jesus shows us in this parable, there is more than one way to build, but one of these methods ends in collapse and total loss. I think it's safe to say that no one builds with the goal of seeing all their work destroyed, but that can be the unintended consequence of taking shortcuts and not valuing and investing in a strong foundation.

As a member of the Bay Area Christian Church's administrative team for the last 26 years, I have seen firsthand how important investing in a strong foundation for God's church has been to weathering storms and creating a path toward incredible growth, expansion, and spiritual victories.



Building God's church with great care

*Like a skilled architect and master builder, I laid a foundation based upon God's grace given to me. Now others will come along to build on the foundation. Each serves in a different way and **is to build upon it with great care**. There is, in fact, only one foundation, and no one can lay any foundation other than Jesus the Anointed. As others build on the foundation (whether with gold, silver, gemstones, wood, hay, or straw), the quality of each person's work will be revealed in time as it is tested by fire. If a man's work stands the test of fire, he will be rewarded. If a man's work is consumed by the fire, his reward will be lost but he will be spared, rescued from the fire.*

- 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 Voice

I've had the privilege of working in administration for the Bay Area Christian Church since completing graduate school and obtaining my master's degree in finance.

Using only the best materials, our goal was to lay a foundation that would allow the church to stand the tests of fire while also maintaining vision for a vibrant, impactful future that will remain long after we are gone.

For the last 25 years, the BACC has undergone an annual financial audit with two of the top accounting firms in the world, PriceWaterhouseCoopers and Grant Thornton. Each and every year we have received an unqualified opinion. This is the best rating you can receive and it means that from an outside, professional perspective the church's financial statements are reliable and verifiable.

We are proud of the work we do to maintain the highest level of quality and integrity for God's church. God has blessed these efforts by helping us develop a great reputation and long-term relationships with our audit firms.

In the last two years alone, while weathering the storm of a global pandemic, we have been amazed by how God has used this strong foundation to create opportunities to change lives in ways we could not have even imagined:

- **Digital Impact** - Building a growing platform of over 500 devotionals, podcast episodes, videos and other spiritual tools that are accessible to anyone, anywhere, who would like to learn how to walk with God.
- **E-Life** - Sponsoring the expansion of inclusive programs into more areas and stages of life, including E-Gardening, E-Photography, and coming soon, E-Academics and E-Theater.
- **E-Hoops and E-Soccer** - Serving our community by promoting inclusion and building long-standing partnerships with the Golden State Warriors, University of San Francisco, and the San Jose Earthquakes.
- **Leadership Development** - Hiring and training 27 young, new leaders through BACC's Scholar and Intern programs.
- **Common Ground** - Opening a new youth and inclusion center in Sunnyvale, providing teens and campus students with a great location for year-round events, leadership development, and community service along with two weekly church services.
- **East Bay Building** - Establishing permanence in the communities we serve on the East Bay by seeking to purchase a building.

At a time when, statistically, most churches are [aging](#) and [dwindling in number](#), we have seen God bless the Bay Area Christian Church abundantly with increased reach and impact, baptisms, and the financial ability to hire and train talented young people who have hearts to build God's church for the next generation.

Builders in the Bible:

Joseph

One of the best examples in the Bible of the impact of faith, integrity, and the power of building a strong foundation is the story of Joseph. Joseph had to weather significant challenges in order to become the spiritual man God would one day use to lead Egypt through a famine and save millions of lives:

When Joseph was taken to Egypt by the Ishmaelite traders, he was purchased by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer. Potiphar was captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. [2] The LORD was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master. [3] Potiphar noticed this and realized that the LORD was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did. [4] This pleased Potiphar, so he soon made Joseph his personal attendant. He put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned. [5] From the day Joseph was put in charge of his master's household and property, the LORD began to bless Potiphar's household for Joseph's sake. All his household affairs ran smoothly, and his crops and livestock flourished. [6] So Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn't worry about a thing—except what kind of food to eat!
– **Genesis 39:1-6 NLT**

The journey from being a 17-year-old shepherd to becoming the most powerful man in Egypt, second only to Pharaoh, was a process that took many, many years. Joseph endured disappointing setbacks and moments that forced him to shore up his foundation by fighting for vision and faith in the midst of despair and hardship.

Joseph shows us that even in the most difficult, unfair circumstances, God has a plan. If we maintain a strong foundation of faith and trust in God, he will guide us through storms and use our pain to build something we could never have imagined.

For more on Joseph, check out the following passages of the Bible:

- [Genesis 37 to 50](#)
- [Deuteronomy 33:13-17](#)
- [Psalm 105:16-24 MSG](#)
- [Hebrews 11:22](#)

Building a strong foundation takes a lot of hard work, focus, sacrifice, vision, faith and prayer. BACC's administrative team is incredibly grateful for the honor and responsibility of managing the finances and operations of God's church. We want to be proven faithful with the small things because the big things, the eternal treasures of the spiritual world, are the reward we have set our hearts and minds toward.

Monica Williamson

Human Resources Manager & BACC Board Member





Chapter 04

Building Our Community

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

– John 13:34-35 NLT

People will recognize us as true followers of Jesus by our love. Jesus helped, healed, and served people everywhere he went, regardless of whether or not they decided to follow him. This love made an incredible impact, as people could tell he genuinely loved them and wasn't just trying to get a following for himself.

We believe that as his followers, we should imitate Jesus and simply care about people everywhere we go. We are grateful to be part of a church that values serving the community around us and Special Contribution helps us do that.

The results have already been incredible, with many of you doing more good in more neighborhoods than we could have as a single organization.

Find your passion and do good

One way we build our community is through the Doing Good Fund (DGF), which was started with a goal of inspiring people to find their passion and do good. As a result people have committed their time, resources and talents to doing good in their neighborhoods.

The DGF enables us to serve our community in many key ways:

- Offering **one-time grants** to established local community service projects who want to expand their impact.
- Providing **benevolent assistance** to members of the church who experience sudden financial need.
- Continuing our ongoing partnerships with **inclusive organizations** that serve the community like E-Life and the [Hope Technology School \(HTS\)](#).
- Funding for **global relief efforts** as needs arise worldwide.

An unofficial motto of our Doing Good Fund is "Find Your Passion and Do Good." An awareness of our own needs, those of our families, and those in the communities around us has produced a variety of community service projects driven and sustained by the passion of our members:

- **Annual Toy Drive:** Our community of parents who have adopted children inspired our annual Toy Drive. Since it was started in 2009, the Toy Drive has given over 20,000 toys and thousands of dollars in gift cards to children in foster care and underserved communities. It has also led to an ongoing collaboration with many Bay Area organizations (like [A Better Way](#)) that specialize in supporting this segment of the population.

- **Partnerships with the Boys & Girls Clubs:** Members of the church in underserved communities inspired our support for the [Boys & Girls Clubs](#). In addition to our annual Toy Drive collaboration, BACC has supported them with summer scholars who volunteer 15-20 hours per week to learn to serve as part of their leadership training.
- **Local initiatives:** Other groups in the church regularly serve at food banks, tutor students, and supply food baskets to local shelters for the unhoused.

The Doing Good Fund allows us to make an impact in our community that goes far beyond what we could do as a single organization.





Changing the world, one community at a time

A strong sense of community adds real value to our lives and the world around us. According to the [Pew Research Group](#), a majority of Americans feel their trust in one another is shrinking and that this declining trust makes it difficult to solve the nation's key problems. However, they also believe that their neighborhoods have the power to turn this around:

“Fully .. 86% think improvement is possible when it comes to the confidence Americans have in each other... Some believe their neighborhoods are a key place where interpersonal trust can be rebuilt if people work together on local projects, in turn radiating trust out to other sectors of the culture.”

Our local communities matter. While we also believe deeply in serving our global community (and we'll share more about our global efforts in the weeks to come), we know that the difference we can each make by being a bright light in our neighborhoods is substantial.

Real communities help us feel a part of something real, integrated, tangible. They deepen and refine our sense of place, bring out the best in us, and help us recognize, unquestionably, that we belong.

Community Builders in the Bible

The early disciples in Acts 4 illustrate for us what it means to be devoted to community. They demonstrate the heart of putting aside their private self-interests for the good of meeting others' needs and building up the whole.

During those days, the entire community of believers was deeply united in heart and soul to such an extent that they stopped claiming private ownership of their possessions. Instead, they held everything in common...

Not a single person in the community was in need because those who had been affluent sold their houses or lands and brought the proceeds to the emissaries of the Lord. They then distributed the funds to individuals according to their needs.

– Acts 4:32, 34-35 Voice

This kind of love will not go unnoticed; as we love each other deeply, we help those around us see God:

No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

– 1 John 4:12 NLT

We look forward to continuing to develop the heart of a builder and serving our communities together!

Greg Bodzioch

E-Sports Director

Stone Cleazer

President of the Board



Chapter 05

Building Faith Everywhere

*Publish his glorious deeds among the nations.
Tell everyone about the amazing things he does.*

– Psalm 96:3 NLT

When you're excited about something, you want to tell everyone about it.

When I was nine years old, I received a Super Nintendo Entertainment System for Christmas. I made it my mission to ensure that every single friend I'd ever made was aware of the fact that I was in possession of the single most extraordinary object ever to reach

our shores. Countless pizza and candy-fueled game nights ensued.

We should feel about God how nine-year-old me felt about my Super Nintendo: excited to share with the world about him and passionate about making sure as many people as possible can experience a relationship with him.

In today's modern era, we have the tools at our fingertips to do just that.



Why building faith everywhere matters

Unfortunately, as I'm sure you're well aware, the online world is not exactly a virtual utopia:

- A majority of teens [59%] have experienced some form of cyberbullying ([Pew Research](#))
- Seven out of 10 heavy social media users, 71%, reported feelings of loneliness, up from 53% a year ago. That compares to 51% of light social media users feeling lonely, up from 47% a year ago. ([Cigna](#))

Although being online can be emotionally taxing, our usage of it is unlikely to decrease:

- About three-in-ten U.S. adults (and nearly half of teens) say they are 'almost constantly' online. ([Pew Research](#))
- 72% of the American public uses some type of social media ([Pew Research](#)).

At the same time, [78% of Americans](#) say religion is losing its influence on American life. Confidence in organized religion has [plummeted](#) in the last two decades, and more than a third of Gen Z identifies as [religiously unaffiliated](#).

We take away from these data sets that people are in need and are constantly online.

While there's nothing flawed about meeting the needs of your local community with a brick-and-mortar location (we're doing that, too!), the fact is that people are being influenced more frequently by what they encounter online than by in-person church events. If we stick to the old playbook, we'll find ourselves among the other churches losing influence as the world becomes increasingly online.

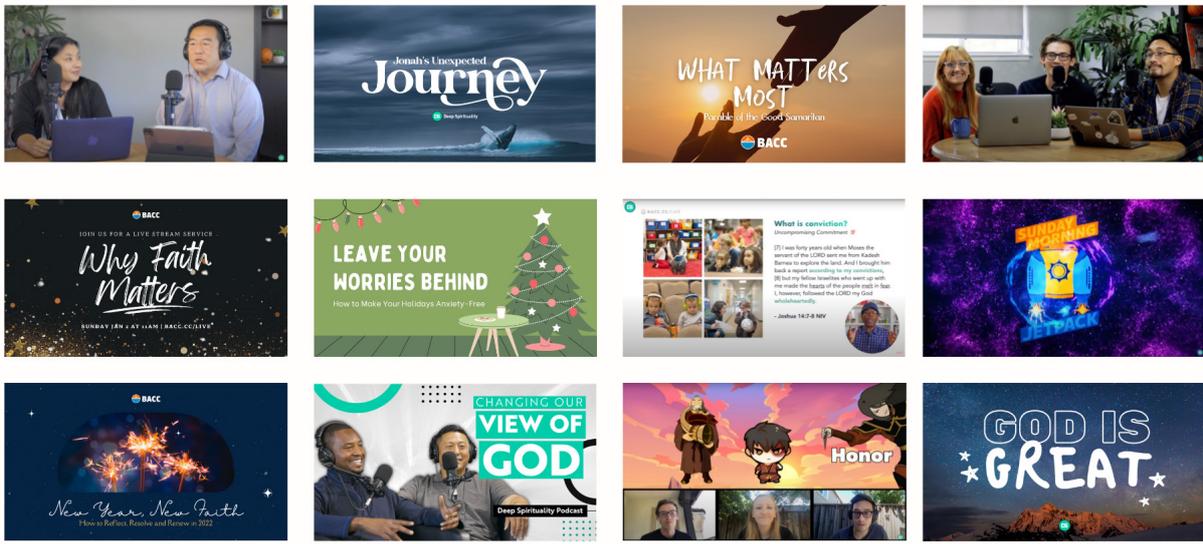
We need to meet people where they're at and provide an alternative when scrolling or searching.

I mean that you should use every opportunity you have for doing good, because these are evil times.

– **Ephesians 5:16 ERV**

We have an opportunity to meet the spiritual needs of people in the Bay Area and around the world in a way we never could before. By providing tools and resources to make God attractive and accessible, we can supplement our local ministry efforts while reaching people who may not have otherwise been open to him.





How we're building faith everywhere

We are confident that God is able to orchestrate everything to work toward something good and beautiful when we love Him and accept His invitation to live according to His plan.

– Romans 8:28 Voice

When the pandemic hit, and we were all stuck at home for what felt like an eternity, your generosity gave us the resources needed to offer a weekly live stream worship service. In that nearly two-year period mostly devoid of in-person gatherings, God moved in ways we certainly couldn't have anticipated:

- Our [video catalog](#) of live stream services and other content (nonexistent before the pandemic) was viewed 665,000 times, with a total watch time of 116,000 hours.
- [Deep Spirituality](#), an online publication run by our digital team, grew its audience to over 60,000 monthly users and over 10,000 [email subscribers](#) (a 752% and 597% increase, respectively).
- At present, Deep Spirituality offers a free catalog of over [350 devotionals](#), [100 videos](#), [100 podcast episodes](#), and [25 email courses](#), [ebooks](#), and [study plans](#).

Our church uses these tools in several ways; personal Bible studies, church services, student

devotionals, special events, and our [Let's Talk Nights](#) all make use of our catalog to deepen our Biblical convictions and spur spiritual discussion. At the same time, our growing audience is reading, listening, and watching consistently.

What started as an emergency/temporary production evolved into a full-fledged digital operation. Staffed by workers in hybrid roles (everyone on our digital team also serves in a leadership role in their ministry), our team is doing everything possible to enhance our local programs while reaching more people globally with free spiritual content.

My job was to plant the seed, and Apollos was called to water it. Any growth comes from God, so the ones who water and plant have nothing to brag about. God, who causes the growth, is the only One who matters.

– 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 Voice

Almost every day, we receive emails from people expressing gratitude for how something they found online has helped them. We may never build relationships with these people, but we are excited because the seed that is God's Word was planted. Through this, God may use these connections to bring more people into a relationship with him.

Wrapping up

By creating a growing library of relatable and accessible spiritual content, we have a chance to help more people than ever hear about the amazing things God has done and how they can develop a personal relationship with him.

We also believe these resources will continue to help our church grow. And while we're amazed by what God has been able to do so far, we're sure that what comes next will be even more special.

Mike Query

BACC Digital Team



Builders in the Bible:

Apollos

To learn more about developing a heart that wants to build faith everywhere, study the Bible character Apollos in the book of Acts. Apollos was passionate about making God known to people everywhere. He traveled country to country boldly teaching about Jesus, making an impact wherever he went. He was willing to learn from others and adapt—just look at how he listened to and learned from Priscilla and Aquila.

Read about Apollos in:

- [Acts 18:24-19:1](#)
- [1 Corinthians 1:12; 3:4-6, 22; 4:1, 6; 16:12](#)
- [Titus 3:13](#)

Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.

—Acts 18:24-26 NIV



Chapter 06

Building the Future

Building our future is about **taking steps now to increase our reach in the long run**. This means that today we make sacrifices of our time, money, and other resources to assure that the long term purposes of God are fulfilled. Abraham and his family made this sacrifice, because he believed in what God was building in the future.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. Abraham was confidently looking forward to a

city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.

– **Hebrews 11:8, 10 NLT**

Abraham's faith made him listen to God and build for the future, even though he couldn't see what was coming. Today, we can listen to God and build for the future by investing in a strong foundation for his church in the generations to come.

"The only way you can predict the future is to build it."

– **Alan Kay**

Why is building the future important?

In recent years, [more churches have been closing than opening](#), and this trend is only expected to accelerate. According to Founder and CEO of Lifeway Christian Resources Thom S. Ranier, there are [clear signs](#) that a church is in danger of closing: having an aging membership comprised mostly of senior adults; resisting change (including the use of technology); focusing on the past more than the future; and using an inward-focused budget that allocates few resources to missions and ministry.

As we read these signs, we are grateful for the ways God has guided us to build a visionary and forward-thinking fellowship where we focus on doing everything we can to bring more people to Christ.



How we're building the future

Hiring young leaders who can build our teen, campus, and singles ministries is an investment. From a financial perspective, the youngest of our church don't tend to make the biggest contributions. When trained, however, they will make some of the biggest contributions to the church's future.

This is why 7x of our Special Contribution this year is going to paying new staff. We have been able to hire 17 new interns and scholars this summer who have been hard at work serving the teen and campus ministries as well as building the BACC digital team.

Building the future is not limited to the young, though. Those of us who are not directly involved in a teen, campus, or singles ministry can still play a crucial role in building the future of God's church. We can not only invest financially in future generations through Special Contribution, but also mentor young leaders by providing stability and passing on the wisdom that's been given to us over the years.

Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

- Ephesians 4:12-13 NLT

We each have a special role in building God's church. When it comes to thinking about the future, the heart of a builder is one that looks for ways to contribute to the growth of others rather than promoting itself. This is the heart we see in Paul, the apostle who was instrumental in building the early church.

Builders in the Bible:

The Apostle Paul

Paul was an expert builder. He changed lives by investing in young leaders, two of which were Titus and Timothy. He multiplied his convictions by investing in and passing them on to inexperienced leaders who would learn and imitate these convictions so they could continue the work of advancing the gospel.

For more on Paul, check out the following passages of the Bible:

- [I Corinthians 3:10-12](#)
- [Acts 26:17-19](#)
- [Philippians 2:19-20](#)
- [II Corinthians 8:16-17](#)

Building the future is exciting, and we can't wait to see the impact God makes on the world as we work together to inspire generation after generation to walk with him.

Sam and Tenea Manuel

East Bay Lead Ministers



Chapter 07

Building on Compassion

In an article called "[The Importance of Compassion](#)," author Emmaline Soken-Huberty says, "Compassion is what you get when you combine empathy with action. Compassion drives people to do something about another person's situation. It motivates them to help others, especially the most vulnerable in society, without expecting a reward."

In the BACC, we are committed to building on compassion. This means when we see a situation where vulnerable people are hurting, we are motivated to take any possible action to meet those needs. This is the core of who God is and how Jesus lived, and it is how we are determined to build God's church.

"So imitate God and be truly compassionate, the way your Father is."

– Luke 6:36 Voice



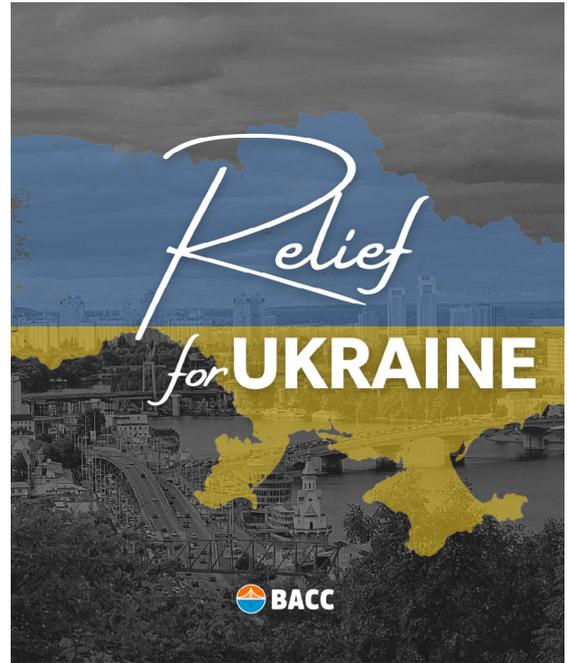
The global impact of building on compassion

In recent years, we have seen God move in powerful ways not only in our local communities but also around the globe when we let ourselves be motivated by compassion.

The Ukraine Relief Fund

One great need that has arisen in the world in the past year is the Ukrainian humanitarian crisis. Through the [Doing Good Fund](#) and the overwhelming generosity of the members of the BACC, we were able to provide immediate financial assistance to Christians in Eastern Europe.

We partnered with Christian Ray Flores, who has been a church builder in both Russia and the Ukraine and is currently a leader in the Austin Church of Christ. He founded the [Ukraine Relief Network](#), an on-the-ground effort to deliver aid to those who were not able to leave Ukraine. We also connected and worked with Val Koha, an elder in the Boston Church of Christ and the president of the [European Missions Society](#), to both provide immediate relief and to develop a long-term plan to maintain support for those in our family of churches in Eastern Europe.



Support for Covid-related job losses in the Philippines

Building on compassion has also led us to support our spiritual family in the Philippines this year. Christine, a member of our church in Silicon Valley, heard from her mother who was in the Philippines that many in her church had lost jobs and were struggling financially due to the impact of Covid-19 on their community. We reached out to the [Mindoro/Metro Calapan Christian Church](#) and provided 13 disciples and their families who had lost jobs with living expenses for a period of three months.



Connections with the church in Panama

Nicole, a member of the church in Silicon Valley, had been sharing resources like BACC live stream services and Deep Spirituality devotionals with Christians in Panama through her family connections. As they watched the live stream services, the women in the church in Panama heard about Girls' Night Out and they expressed that they wanted to be a part of it. Nicole teamed up with other Spanish speakers to [meet virtually with the women in the Panama church and their friends to celebrate, listen to the message, and share their lives.](#)

These amazing examples show us that building on compassion not only meets the needs of people but also connects and builds relationships that would otherwise never have been possible.



Why it matters to build on compassion

The last two-and-a-half years of the pandemic have been difficult for all of us. It is easy to shut out the rest of the world and only focus on our own problems and challenges, but building on compassion makes us look outside of ourselves for ways we can help others in the world who are hurting.

We have found that having compassion and building an others-centric church is what makes us all rely more on God and therefore become stronger as a church.

“When we focus on others, our world expands. Our own problems drift to the periphery of the mind and so seem smaller, and we increase our capacity for connection - or compassionate action.”

– Daniel Goleman, [Social Intelligence: The Revolutionary New Science of Human Relationships](#)

Jesus teaches us that showing compassion and generosity to others, both individually and collectively, makes our hearts pure and will ultimately make us the most happy.

If you free your heart of greed, showing compassion and true generosity to the poor, you have more than clean hands; you will be clean within.

– Luke 11:41 TPT

Builders in the Bible: Timothy

Timothy is one of the people in the Bible I have found to be inspiring and someone who exemplifies what it means to build on compassion. He was one of the most significant leaders and builders of churches in the Bible. As Paul describes, Timothy’s impact came from his heart of deep concern and compassion.

There is no one like Timothy. What sets him apart from others is his deep concern for you and your spiritual journey. This is rare, my friends, for most people only care about themselves, not about what is dear to the heart of Jesus the Anointed.

– **Philippians 2:20-21 Voice**

For more on Timothy, check out the following passages of the Bible:

- [1 Timothy, 2 Timothy](#)
- [Acts 16:1-5, 1 Corinthians 4:14-17, Philippians 2:20-21](#)

I look forward to growing more and more in my compassion and am excited to be a part of such a great fellowship that builds on compassion.

Scott Colvin

Silicon Valley Lead Minister



Helpful Resources



Deep Spirituality

Deep Spirituality is an online publication dedicated to creating tools that anyone can use to get to know God for themselves and develop a personal relationship with him. Visit deepspirituality.com to find devotionals, podcasts, videos, and more.



One Quick Thought

One Quick Thought is a weekly YouTube show that tackles a variety of spiritually engaging and relevant topics. Join us Sundays at 11 am on [our YouTube channel](#) for a quick hit of inspiration, and be sure to subscribe for updates.



E-Sports and E-Life

E-Sports and E-Life include several Bay Area community service programs that specialize in inclusion, which partners kids with typical and special needs alongside each other in various capacities. Visit e-sports.org or e-life.org to learn how you can get involved.



The Good Stuff

On Friday afternoons, we send you “The Good Stuff,” an email with a roundup of inspiration from different parts of the Bay Area Christian Church. We hope these stories build your faith and energize your soul. Visit bacc.cc/subscribe to sign up.

Ways to Give

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4

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