

WHEN GOD BUILDS A CHURCH

Our vision is clear: **Matthew 28:19-20** *“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

Acknowledgement to Reverend Bob Russell’s book: **WHEN GOD BUILDS A CHURCH**
A great church has bold faith - A history of walking in Faith

A great church must - Build on a vision of Faith - Jesus was a vision caster:

John 4:35 *“Lift up your eyes! The fields are white unto harvest.”*

A great church has people, who are actively looking to the future

Jesus **taught** us about vision:

Matthew 17:20 *“If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you can move this mountain.”*

A great church has a clear mission - Our Mission Statement:

“Connecting people to Jesus and one another.”

A great church understands - Faith requires Courage

Organizations that achieve excellence don’t just plan & analyze: **They act!**

Great churches make confident, timely decisions

So many people & so any churches - are afraid to act

God must be in it!

Proverbs 16:9 *“A man’s heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.”*

Great churches know there comes a time when they must act

Sometimes the effort is made, but the timing is wrong

Things are about to change – And with this change, may come a call to action

It’s so massive; it’s called: **Calesa Township**

Your leadership feels it is time for you, to **consider action**

And, to **serve** the growing needs of our community

We can & must remain committed to serving the needs of our seniors

We can never lose focus on **you** - the people:

What about families?

Are we willing to build programs & services to benefit their **spiritual** needs?

Often, families compromise; they:

Go to a church with weak doctrine, but youth-**centric** programs & facilities

Or they give up entirely & settle - Perhaps **abandoning** church altogether

We have an opportunity – Perhaps our greatest opportunity ever

We can **continue** to be a great church for seniors!

Or, we can **become** a great church for families, **TOO!**

Big goals - Create excitement / Stimulate prayer / Motivate inspiration

Walking in Faith produces **harmony**

Evangelism retains its rightful place, at the very **heart** of the growth!

Jesus said this about **purpose**:

Luke 19:10: *“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”*

Great churches stay away from politics

Besides legislation can't save anybody – **Only Jesus Can!**

Great Churches are not merely social agencies attending to community welfare

If we feed every hungry mouth, and don't teach the **'BREAD OF LIFE'**

They will only be satisfied **temporarily**

When Peter found himself mysteriously released, he carried on:

Acts 5:42: *They spoke daily in the temple, and in every house! They did not cease teaching and preaching about Jesus*

In great churches, each sheep matters:

Luke 15:4&7: ⁴*“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.*

Commitment to evangelism is a hallmark of a great Christian Church:

Evangelism must never take precedence over **truth** - In order to get on the ark:

You had to **believe** the message / You had to **repent** of your sin

Evangelism is not our only purpose - It should be primary, but **never** exclusive

Many churches evangelize – Not all of them teach **truth** (true doctrine)

We should measure our success, not by numbers, but by the **depth** of our **Faith**

Matthew 13:7-9: *Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ **Whoever has ears, let them hear.***

A great church explains the basics of salvation regularly

The salvation message **commits** us to bring others to Jesus

A great church is an inspiring place to be - Enthusiastic members **welcome** visitors

A goal of our church is to treat people with **open** arms

We need to resume offering a '**What We Believe**' class, regularly

We should focus on developing **committed, long-term members**

We must be prepared for someone to say, the 'Ship Is Going Down'

Even good Christian people **resist** change - Nothing worthwhile is **without risk!**

We must keep God in it! Our **only** hope is in Jesus

What about the cost, Elder? - We will probably need to add a 2nd service

But, the money is already covered!!!

We are still committed to burning our mortgage this coming spring

We'll kick-off a campaign to cover the mortgage balance, in the next few weeks

Burning the mortgage will free-up about \$10,000 a month

That's more than enough money to cover everything I've mentioned today

To God be the Glory!