

# **Master Builder Ministries**

## ***Ministry Platform***

*“According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation and another builds on it.”*

1 Corinthians 3:10

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## Affirmation of Faith

**We believe** the Scriptures are verbally inspired of God, and the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct, accepted by our church as the revealed will of God and the all sufficient rule of faith and practice.

**We believe** there is one and only one living and true God, infinite and eternal. Maker of heaven and earth, holy, loving, just, righteous and that in the unity of the Godhead there are three separate Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in divine perfection, and executing distinct, but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

**We believe** in the deity of Jesus Christ as the eternal Son of God; in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His substitutionary work on the cross, in His bodily resurrection from the dead, in His exaltation to the right hand of God, and in His coming again.

**We believe God** created man in His image; by voluntary transgression man fell from his sinless state; in consequence all men are now sinners in need of salvation.

**We believe** that God has provided salvation from sin and eternal death to righteousness and eternal life in the person of His Son Jesus Christ whose redemptive work on the cross-provided salvation to all who believe and receive Him as their Savior.

**We believe** that water baptism and communion as ordinances of the church, give outward demonstration of the covenant we have with God through Christ and with one another.

**We believe** in the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of believers equipping them for works of service, and in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit indwelling and enabling the Christian to live a holy life.

**We believe** in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the one to eternal life and the other to eternal damnation.

**We believe** the church is the bride of Christ, called to be the salt and light of the World and whose primary purpose is the evangelization of the world and the edification of believers.

**We believe** in the blessed hope of the literal and imminent return of the Lord.

**We believe** and look, according to His promises, for a new heaven and a new earth, wherein dwells righteousness.

## Vision

***Our vision is to...***

***Exalt the Lord*** by dynamic, Holy Spirit-inspired worship, praise, and prayer, and to give our time, talents, and gifts as an offering to the Lord.

***Equip the saints*** to fulfill their corporate destiny through godly vision, biblical teaching, and pastoral ministries. To bring believers to maturity and effective ministry in Christ, resulting in a restored, triumphant Church.

***Extend the Kingdom*** of God from the church to our cities, our nations, and the world through aggressive evangelism, and to train leaders, send our missionaries and mission teams, and plant churches.

***The Key Ingredients in the Vision of Master Builder Ministries:***

- Biblical Covenant
- Balanced Church Government
- Joining the Generations

## Core Beliefs

### The Purpose of God During Our Age

***We believe*** that the Church is at the center of God's purpose for this age, and that God's wisdom will be displayed to the entire universe through the Church to the praise of His glory. (Ephesians 3:1-13)

***We believe*** that Christ's central purpose is building His Church, and ultimately His kingdom; and nothing can stand in His way, even Satan and all his forces. (Matthew 16:13-20)

***We believe*** that the church is the pillar and support of the truth, and that this truth was delivered once and for all through the apostles, and that this deposit of truth ought to be preserved in all churches. (1 Timothy 3:14-16; 2 Timothy 1:13, 14; 3:10, 11, 15; 1 Thessalonians 3:15; 2 Peter 3:1, 2; Jude 3, 17)

***We believe*** in the perpetual command of the Great Commission, to take the gospel to the world. We believe that Christ's strategy for building His Church can be clearly identified in the book of Acts as a multiplication of churches-communities of Christians committed to mature in Christ and to furthering the gospel of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:8; 13:1-4; 14:19-23; 20:28-32; 1 Timothy 3:14-16; Titus 1:5-9)

## **The Gospel Proclaimed by the Apostles (*Kerygma* – Greek for Proclamation)**

**We believe** that this gospel, proclaimed by the apostles, can be summarized as follows:

1. This gospel was prophesied beforehand in the Scriptures, as part of God's unfolding plan to bless the families of the earth through the seed of David. It was given in the form of a New Covenant, promising forgiveness of sins, and placing God's Spirit within man.
2. This gospel was fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the seed of David, the King of Kings, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. He came in the flesh, lived a sinless life, died, was buried and rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
3. This Jesus will come again to judge the earth, and set up the kingdom of God for all time. After abolishing all rule and authority, He will reign forever and ever.
4. Those who hear this message, and believe, will receive forgiveness of sins. They will be given the Spirit of God as a pledge of their inheritance, as they eagerly await the Savior who will return for them. (Acts 2:14-22; 3:11-26; 10:23-48; Acts 9:1-43; 26:1-32; Acts 17:16-34; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11)

**We believe** that there is only one gospel of Jesus Christ. Each individual who places his faith in the person and work of Christ alone for forgiveness of his sins, is at that moment forgiven of his sins once and for all time; is a child of God; and is part of Christ's Church. (Ephesians 1:1-14; 2:1-10; Colossians 1:9-14; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 13; 2 Corinthians 5:14-17; Romans 5 & 8)

**We believe** that the Church of Jesus Christ is made up of those who have accepted the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Those who have responded to the gospel of Jesus Christ need to be baptized, signifying their identification with Jesus and with His believing community, His Church. (Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 10:44-48; Romans 6:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 13)

**We believe** that once one has identified with Christ and His Church through baptism, special care should be exercised to see that the baptized believer becomes a vital, functioning member of the body of Christ – a local church. (Matthew 28:19, 20; Acts 10:44-48; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31)

**We believe** that each believer should celebrate the Lord's Supper regularly with the church. This will serve as a way of remembering his identity with Christ – as one whose sins are forgiven and in a

covenant relationship; and as a way of remembering his identity with Christ's body, the church – as one who is to live in fellowship with the church. (1 Corinthians 11:17-34)

### **The Apostles Doctrine: The *Didache* (Greek for The Teaching)**

**We believe** that God revealed His plan for the churches in the epistles, and that the apostles expected the churches to follow their instructions. (Ephesians 3:1-13; 1 Thessalonians 4:1, 2; 2 Thessalonians 2:15; 3:6; 1 Timothy 3:14-16; 2 Timothy 1:13, 14; 2:2; 3:9, 10; Jude 3, 17)

**We believe** that this teaching can be summarized as follows:

1. Each believer is instructed to lay aside his old life, renew His mind in the teaching, and conform his new life to the will of God. (Ephesians 4:22-24; Romans 12:1-2)
2. A set of virtues, which are only possible through God's resources, are to characterize each believer. (Galatians 5:22-23; Colossians 3:12; 2 Peter 1:1-11)
3. Individual households must be ordered properly, consistent with God's created design for man and for the Church (Ephesians 5:22-6:9; Colossians 3:18-4:1; 1 Peter 3:1-7)
4. God's household, the church-the pillar and support of the truth-must be properly ordered according to sound doctrine received from the apostles, especially Paul. (1 Timothy 3:14-16; Titus 1:5-2:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:15; 3:6; Ephesians 3:1-13; Colossians 1:24-29)
5. Each believer must be committed to do his part, both generally in ministry to one another, and specifically in the use of his gifts in the building up of the church. (Romans 12:3-16; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6)
6. A pattern of relationships within the church must be observed-characterized by love, brotherhood, mutual acceptance and respect-in which each is to diligently pursue unity in the bond of peace. (Romans 12:9-15; 14:1-7; Philippians 1:27-2:4; Ephesians 4:1-6)
7. A pattern of relationships in the world must be observed-characterized by respect for government, employers, and other authorities, and love and good deeds toward neighbors and those in need. (Romans 13:1-7; Titus 2:14; 3:1, 14)
8. Individuals must lead responsible and sober lives; working hard, providing for their own, making the most of the time (because the days are evil), and keeping on the alert for Satan and his strategies in their lives. (Ephesians 5:1-22; 6:10-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15; 1 Peter 5:6-11)

**We believe** that all matters concerning the life and beliefs of the church are to be settled by the Word of God. Though the churches are to be guarded and protected by elders and men gifted as pastors and teachers, all are subject to the authority of the biblical text. (1 Timothy 4:1-16; 6:3-5:2; 2 Timothy 2:14, 15; 3:16; 4:1-4; Titus 1:5-16; 2:1, 15; 2 Peter 3:14-18; Jude 3, 17)

## Core Values

We assert that a healthy church is prayerful in all of the following aspects of church life and ministry, is reliant upon God's power and the authority of His Word, and values:

### ***Worship (Magnification)***

1. **God's Empowering Presence** - The healthy church actively seeks the Holy Spirit's direction and empowerment for its daily life and ministry.
2. **God-Exalting Worship** - The healthy church gathers regularly as the local expression of the Body of Christ to worship God in ways that engage the heart, mind, soul, and strength of the people.

### ***Discipleship (Maturity)***

3. **Spiritual Disciplines** - The healthy church provides training, models, and resources for members of all ages to develop their daily spiritual disciplines.
4. **Learning and Growing in Community** - The healthy church encourages believers to grow in their walks with God and with one another in the context of a safe, affirming environment.

### ***Fellowship (Membership)***

5. **A Commitment to Loving, Caring Relationships** - The healthy church is intentional in its efforts to build loving, caring relationships within families, between members, and within the community they serve.
6. **Servant-Leadership Development** - The healthy church identifies and develops individuals whom God has called and given the gift of leadership and challenges them to become servant-leaders.

### ***Service (Ministry)***

7. **An Outward Focus** - The healthy church places high priority on communicating the truth of Jesus and demonstrating His love to those outside the faith.
8. **Wise Administration and Accountability** - The healthy church utilizes appropriate facilities, equipment, and systems to provide maximum support for the growth and development of its ministries.

### ***Evangelism (Missions)***

9. **Networking with the Body of Christ** - The healthy church reaches out to others in the body of Christ for collaboration, resource sharing, learning opportunities, and united celebrations of worship.
10. **Stewardship and Generosity** - The healthy church teaches its members that they are stewards of their God-given resources and challenges them to sacrificial generosity in sharing with others.

## Mission

- To win the un-churched and to assimilate them into a committed body of Spirit-filled Christians:
- To equip and mobilize believers to fulfill their God-given purpose by functioning fruitfully both in the local church and in every aspect of their lives.
- To pass a godly heritage on to the next generation through the impartation of true wisdom, revelation, understanding, righteousness, justice, prudence, discretion, knowledge and dependence upon God, in order that they would be equipped for life, made dynamic in service, and powerful in ministry.
- To see the five-fold gifting of the church joined together with the parents in order to equip them in the Biblical mandate of teaching and training their children.
- To influence the community, the state, and the world through the life and witness of mature Christians, thereby, taking the Kingdom of God into our culture, not the culture of the world into the Church.

## Philosophy

Our passion as a church is to have Jesus Christ seen as the light of the world through our lives. We wish to touch our geographic area as we restore an understanding and practice of Biblical covenant, balanced church government, and the uniting of various age levels at the same time, in a unity of ministry and lifestyle.

*We will...*

1. Seek the Holy Spirit's direction and empowerment for our daily life and ministry.
2. Gather regularly as the local expression of the Body of Christ to worship God in ways that engage the heart, mind, soul, and strength of the people.
3. Provide training, models, and resources for members of all ages to develop their daily spiritual disciplines.
4. Encourage believers to grow in their walks with God and with one another in the context of a safe, affirming environment.
5. Be intentional in our efforts to build loving, caring relationships within families, between members and within the community we serve.
6. Identify and develop individuals whom God has called and given the gift of leadership and challenge them to be servant-leaders.
7. Place high priority on communicating the truth of Jesus and demonstrating the love of Jesus to those outside the faith.
8. Utilize appropriate facilities, equipment, and systems to provide maximum support for the growth and development of our ministry.
9. Reach out to others in the Body of Christ for collaboration, resource sharing, learning opportunities and united celebrations of worship.
10. Teach our members that they are stewards of their God-given resources and challenge them to sacrificial generosity in sharing with others.

# Strategy

## ***The Three-fold Priority of Vision Fulfillment***

- Priority #1 – Health of the Local Church
- Priority #2 – The City Harvest
- Priority #3 – The World – Church Planting & Missions

## ***How is our mission accomplished?***

- ***Evangelizing*** the unsaved by proclaiming the gospel.
- ***Establishing*** the saints in the faith.
- ***Expanding*** the church by sending men to establish the church of Jesus Christ.

## ***What roles/values are essential for accomplishing our mission?***

- ***Developing our relationship with the Lord***
  - Living by Faith
  - Obedience to the Word
  - Communing through Prayer
  - Walking in the Spirit
  - Study of and Meditation of the Word
- ***Developing our relationship with our family***
  - Husbands & Wife Relations
  - Parent & Child Relations
  - Training our Children
- ***Developing our relationship with our church family***
  - Corporate Worship
  - Mutual Ministry
  - Spiritual Gifts
  - Leadership Training
- ***Developing relationships with unbelievers***
  - Home Missions – Outreach Ministries, Samaria Ministries
  - Foreign Missions – Haiti, Africa, etc.
- ***Developing a right relationship with the world***
  - Separation from the World's Philosophy
  - Influence and Impact on our Society by Proclamation of the Gospel
  - Having a Distinctly Christian Worldview

## Ministries

### Master Builder Christian Church

- ***Evangelistic Track of Ministry*** - The evangelism track of ministry will consist in all ministries relating to the proclamation of Good News in word or deed.
  - Inner evangelism areas would include counseling (inner healing and deliverance), hospitality, and all forms of visitation.
  - Outer evangelism areas would include neighborhood evangelism, local missions (distribution of cloths, food, etc.), and foreign missions coordination and support.
- ***Discipleship Track of Ministry*** - The discipleship track of ministry will consist of all ministries relating to the building up of the body and the instruction and reformation of society in word or deed.
  - Inner discipleship areas would include all forms of writing, speaking, and church training courses; recording (audio and video); and praise, worship, and artistic expression, such as dance and drama.
  - Outer discipleship areas would include vocational service, community service, citizenship awareness, and the discipleship of nations in America and around the world

### East Gate Christian Academy [*Pre-K to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade*]

## Ministry Profile

### Masters Builder Ministries, Inc.

Founded July 1, 1995

Non-Denominational Church - Serving Greater Fall River Area Population

Sunday Morning Service – 9:00 AM English & 11:00 AM Portuguese

Midweek Bible Study

7:00 PM Wednesday in Portuguese

7:00 PM Thursday in English

Sunday School Ages 2-9

### ***East Gate Christian Academy – Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade***

Member of ACSI Since 1995

Serving Greater Fall River Area Population

Rev. Ronald L. Bernier, Pastor

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