

The Lord Builds His House

Missionary: Reverend Duane Martin

Main Texts

- Psalm 127:1 - "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain."
- Matthew 16:18 - "I will build My church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."

Big Idea

God knows how to build His church, and He does it by working through Spirit-empowered believers.

Introduction: Testimonies of God's Mighty Works

Ministry in Mexico

- Serving in the "Heart of Darkness," the least evangelized region of Latin America.
- Initial challenge: churches needed pastors and healthy congregations.
- God redirected the ministry toward evangelism, church health, and revival.

Key Mission Principle

- "Preach Christ crucified and let the Holy Spirit do the rest."
- The Holy Spirit can accomplish more in moments than human effort can accomplish in years.

Illustration

- Elderly woman healed after stepping out in faith and running without oxygen or cane.
 - Demonstrates that faith requires action.
-

I. God Has a Plan for Building His Church

A. The Church Is God's Project

- Jesus said, "I will build My church."
- Growth comes from God's methods, not merely human strategies.

B. Partnership Advances the Kingdom

- Philippians 4:19 is connected to missions partnership.
- Believers share in the fruit of ministry through faithful giving and sending.

Results of Partnership

- 40,000+ responses to the gospel.
 - 27 churches planted.
 - Bible school growth from 12 students to 75+ students.
-

II. Jesus Modeled How to Build the Church

A. Jesus Was Empowered by the Holy Spirit

- Luke 4:1
- Acts 10:38
- Every miracle and ministry act flowed through the Holy Spirit's empowerment.

B. Jesus Ministered Through Compassion and Power

- Healings
- Miracles
- Prophetic insight
- Deliverance

These acts opened hearts to receive the gospel.

C. Example: The Woman at the Well

- Jesus received a word of knowledge.
- He spoke truth with grace.
- One transformed life sparked revival in a city.

Application

- People need hope, not condemnation.
 - Our testimony becomes a bridge to others experiencing similar struggles.
-

III. The Holy Spirit's Gifts Build the Church

Key Scripture

- 1 Corinthians 14:12

Gifts Given for a Purpose

- Healing
- Miracles
- Prophecy
- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Discernment

Purpose

To edify, build, and grow the church.

Practical Challenge

- Look for divine appointments.
 - Be willing to pray for people in everyday places.
 - Let God use your testimony and spiritual gifts.
-

IV. Jesus Multiplied Himself Through Disciples

A. Jesus Didn't Do Ministry Alone

- Called twelve ordinary men.
- Saw potential where others saw limitations.

B. Training Through Relationship

- Walked with them.
- Taught them.
- Demonstrated ministry before sending them out.

C. Sent Them with Authority

Luke 9

- Sent the Twelve.
- They performed signs, wonders, and healings.

Luke 10

- Sent the Seventy.
- Same authority.
- Same kingdom results.

Principle

What Jesus did, disciples learned to do.

V. Fear Is the Greatest Obstacle

Common Fear

"What if nothing happens?"

Better Question

"What if God does something?"

Key Scripture

- 2 Timothy 1:7
 - Not a spirit of fear
 - Power
 - Love
 - Sound mind

Challenge

- Take faith-filled risks.
 - Trust God for the results.
-

VI. Testimonies Build Faith

Testimony: Emily

- A Baptist college student prayed for a woman with severe swelling.
- God instantly healed the woman.
- Emily's faith exploded afterward.

Testimony: Deliverance in Michoacán

- Demonic oppression exposed.
- Authority of Christ demonstrated.
- Woman delivered and transformed.

Testimony: Javier

- Brain tumor diagnosed.
- Given months to live.
- Attended revival after seeing flyer.
- Healed by God's power.
- Became an evangelist in his community.
- Church grew by 40 new people through his testimony.

Lesson

Miracles are not ends in themselves. They point people to Jesus and expand God's kingdom.

Conclusion: How God Builds His Church

God's Pattern

1. Spirit-filled believers
2. Compassion for people
3. Use of spiritual gifts
4. Sharing personal testimony
5. Multiplying disciples
6. Courageous faith instead of fear

Final Challenge

- God wants to use ordinary people.
- The church grows when believers carry the gospel beyond church walls.
- God is still building His church and wants to do it through us.

Memorable Quote

"The same way Christ built the church in the first century is the same way He wants to build the church in this century."