

PASTOR'S PATCH



Jesus promises “I will build my church” and He is fulfilling that promise soul by soul until the day He appears on earth to recreate a new heaven and a new earth for all of His followers, the children of God.

Jesus made this promise to His disciples when He was on earth. We can read the New Testament accounts to see how wholeheartedly the disciples and early believers took that promise: sharing the good news, serving, suffering and sometimes laying down their lives for this Church.

This is also a promise that Jesus still makes to us His disciples today. Sadly, too many believers nowadays see the church more like a club and, as a result, exhibit a half-hearted response. Some may be church members, but only as names on paper: they may be listed on a membership roll, but they might as well have their names on a sausage roll! Others may claim to follow Jesus but be under the impression they don't have to join this church-club thing, and they can just remain aloof and as detached onlookers seeing how the club is getting on. Both groups have failed to understand the invitation of Jesus.

This week we commence a five-part series of teaching called “My Church” and hopefully we will all want to attend or watch this series online. Examining the words and actions of Jesus, we will explore why Jesus calls and chooses us to be part of His Church, what that looks like, and how we can see that “His Church” needs to become “My Church”, through deliberate and costly decision. We will be exploring what Brixham Baptist Church is all about (Jesus, not us!) remembering the privilege and joy of being His Church, His means of growing His kingdom in the world, filled with the Holy Spirit. We will also re-examine our three-part Vision statement to SHINE, SHARE, and SHAPE for Jesus. The series culminates on Pentecost Sunday in a Breakfast Church where, in the power of God's Holy Spirit, we will affirm our ongoing commitment to be a part of His Church, and say Brixham Baptist Church really is “My Church” too!

It is my prayer that God's Spirit will move among us afresh in power and draw us closer to Himself and each other.

Darrell Holmes



A letter from Ukraine

Your prayers and generous giving have provided relief and pastoral care to survivors of the war in Ukraine since 2014. Two years on from Russia's full-scale invasion, Pastor Igor Bandura reflects on how churches are sharing Christ's love even in the depths of war.



Dear friends,

Nothing is more worthy than life and freedom. On 24 February 2022, an 180,000-strong army of Russian soldiers tried to take away our life and freedom when they attempted to completely occupy our country. The heroic resistance of Ukrainians continues to this day.

On the streets we see people with war-tired looks, suffering from amputations and post-traumatic stress disorder. At times we feel powerless in the face of such a large enemy. But as Psalm 124 says, "If the Lord had not been on our side... they would have swallowed us alive when their anger flared against us."

An important task of the Church today is to care for survivors of war. Churches are forming chaplaincy groups to visit defenders in their places of deployment,

hospitals and rehabilitation centres. Churches are taking care of families, helping them rebuild or find temporary shelters. We want churches to become a model of encouragement, healing and bringing people back to life through the love of Jesus Christ.

Millions of Christians around the world are standing with us. We bring our prayers to God for every one of you and for your support. Our prayers are also for God to stop this lawlessness as immediately as it began. God will demonstrate his glory and justice; his love will heal every wound and his peace will bring freedom and prosperity.

Thank you,

Igor Bandura

Senior Vice President of the Baptist Union of Ukraine



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