



## **MASTER BUILDERS VISION, PURPOSE & GOALS**

### **Introduction**

This booklet has been prepared to help the reader to better understand the vision, purpose, and goals of Master Builders Fellowship, a fellowship of five-fold ministers and their New Testament Churches. It is not intended to be exhaustive, covering every aspect, but simply provide the reader with a general overview of how this all began, its essential vision and purpose, as well as the convictions we have and the practical goals we believe God has called us to achieve. There is also a section on our leadership and financial methods, as well as some thoughts on the importance of our local regional gatherings. We believe this brochure will be especially helpful for those who are considering being a part of Master Builders.

### **How We Began**

Master Builders began as a vision that God put in the heart of Pete Beck. For many years, Pete was the pastor of Maranatha Church in Greensboro, North Carolina, until God called him into a wider, apostolic role. Over the years, Pete has been graced by God to promote unity among brethren throughout the world and to gather brethren together to further the Kingdom of God. He initiated and has helped oversee for almost a decade a unique leader's conference that meets annually in Nashville, Tennessee.

In 1996, God put it in his heart to see a new fellowship of ministers and churches begin. Soon afterwards he called together two other apostolic men that he knew over the years, Neil Silverberg and David Hundley and shared with them his vision to bring pastors and churches together. Along with Pete, these men were already individually relating to churches and out of those relationships Master Builders was born.

The emphasis from the inception of Master Builders has been on "relating together" and developing closer ties. To accomplish this there have been regional gatherings among the brethren to promote fellowship, ministry, leadership training, and the raising up of local five-fold ministry. There have also evolved annual national summer family conferences, allowing members of all the churches to come together and develop relationships with others in the fellowship. A quarterly in-depth newsletter and website keeps all members informed of up-coming events, mission and ministry opportunities, and other pertinent information .

## **I. Our Vision:**

Without vision we are aimless. Our father Abraham had a vision for a city which gave him an impetus to obey God and go to a land that he did not know. To produce any fruit, a vision must come from God. Across the world, God is stirring hearts toward a similar vision as, that which we have for Master Builders. That vision is to see the emergence of a fellowship of leaders and their churches dedicated to the expanding of Christ's reign on earth. This we purpose to do through fostering relationships and building up leaders, thereby assisting and strengthening existing churches, and helping to plant new ones.

Master Builders Fellowship is committed to a solid, biblical vision. We want to reflect God's glory in the earth by upholding sound biblical doctrine, producing godly lives, and bringing in the harvest. We also strive to realize all that the New Testament sets forth as normative for the Church. For many centuries, God has been in the process of restoring the church for his final purpose. That process continues in our own day. Our desire is to see those men and churches relating to us fully equipped, experiencing all that God intends for the church. This includes the full measure of biblical truth as well as a significant experience of the Holy Spirit.

## **II. Our Purpose :**

We believe that Jesus Christ still gives to the church the five-fold ministry gifts of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers for the purpose of equipping and strengthening local churches for the work of the Kingdom. We affirm our interpretation of Ephesians 4: 11-13; He "gave" these ministries to the church; He did not give the church to them.

Following are our purposes:

### **A. Fellowship**

1. We are first and foremost a fellowship, which means that relationships are primary. By relationships we mean that we generally know each other well enough to know those who are walking in the light. (1 John 1: 6-7). We desire to be conformed together into the image of Christ. It is our hope and intent that, where possible, much deeper, covenantal relations than we currently experience will develop, especially at regional levels.

2. Our dedication is to the King and to each other. Dedication means commitment and accountability. These can represent risk to some individuals. But Amos asks, " Can two walk together and not be agreed?" Commitment is an act of the will, not an emotion.

3. Building leaders will mean among other things, "coming along side to encourage." It will mean hearing and obeying the Comforter as He comes along side to comfort. Like He as He does, we mean not to "play favorites". It will mean seeking to always better relationships so that we can know one another in a greater way (2 Timothy 3:10). We believe there are levels of relationships. If we are to build together, it will require a high level of relationship, vision and trust. (Lot and Abraham couldn't build together). See the relationship triangle at the end of this brochure.

The overarching backdrop of our understanding of God's purpose for this fellowship is the belief that God has not called churches and individuals to work alone but together with others. Far too many of God's servants as well as churches are isolated from others, laboring under the erroneous belief that they can accomplish God's purpose alone. We believe that it takes men and women working together to accomplish what God has ordained for our day and hour. That is why a central facet of the purpose of Master Builders is to provide a place where true servants of God and their churches can find through fellowship, relationship, sharing ministry, and building together, all that they need

to become what God has called them to be.

4. Churches and missions will be enhanced as vision and opportunity are imparted and leaders built up and encouraged to "seize the day."

5. Our fellowship and unity is based on putting Christ at the center. We are "center-set." Although correct doctrine and correct method is important to all of us, we know there are differences of interpretation among men of honesty and good will. We are therefore not centered about interpretation of doctrine or method so much as we are about purity of heart toward the Lord and integrity of the walk in the Spirit. Therefore we are not "boundary-set" (Setting boundaries of acceptance), except for a pure heart toward Christ and integrity of life and purpose. We welcome diversity and believe it to be healthy. We believe it also tends to keep us in balance. We believe that if our relationships are strong and are aimed at our being conformed together into the image of Christ, that Satan will

not be able to defeat us by causing problems in our diversity. We believe the Holy Spirit is able to bring us all into truth if we are teachable and have no guile.

### **B. Identify and Release Apostolic/ Five-Fold Teams**

1. We believe that Christ through His Spirit makes known His called ministers. We also believe that a "man's gift makes room for itself." Our part as a fellowship is to do all we can to identify, encourage these callings and gifts, and see that they are mentored into maturity.

2. The measure of apostolic and prophetic gifting varies from person to person and situation to situation. The church is built in a revelatory way by the apostolic/prophetic team gifting (Ephesians 2:20-22 and 3:3-6).

3. All five-fold ministry gifts should be parts of teams to strengthen and build churches, not just apostles and prophets.

4. The marks of an apostle or prophet are many, but the chief one is that they love the church and are jealous for her welfare and growing maturity.

### **C. Encourage and Teach Sound Doctrine**

1. We live in a time when sound doctrine is rare and people often fall prey to unbiblical teaching and emphasis.

2. Master Builders desires to assist local churches in the promotion of sound, biblical truth to insure that ministries and churches relating to us are not being built on the latest fad but firmly on the Word of God.

### **D. Autonomous Churches.**

1. We believe that each church is fully autonomous and ruled by the local pastor and elders.

2. It is our understanding that local churches need strong apostolic and other five-fold input when first planted; but that they should require less and less direction and counseling as they mature.

### **E. Cooperation With Other Fellowships and Presbyteries**

1. We desire to have the same heart as Paul and Apollos, who, while having differing backgrounds, callings, and approaches to ecclesiastical matters, nevertheless worked together for the Kingdom.

2. We plan to dialogue and cooperate with any like fellowship as long as we do not encounter patently false doctrine or personal ambition.

## **III. OUR GOALS:**

### **A. Understanding our Goals:**

Vision and purpose alone are not enough; we must also have certain identifiable goals in order to achieve them. While vision and purpose explain why we want to accomplish certain things, goals describe what we want to accomplish.

## **1. The Importance of Convictions.**

One of the first things we must identify is our convictions. God doesn't build the church on methods or practices, but upon Jesus Christ and His revelatory truth. Our understanding of that truth

produces certain convictions that govern all that we say or do. When we talk about New Testament churches we are describing a conviction or set of beliefs, not a specific organization or affiliation. We mean a certain way of doing church based on our best understanding of God's Word.

Just as we have certain convictions about the Gospel and how it should be disseminated, so we should have certain convictions about the church as well. Yet many people who insist on clarity regarding the Gospel, act as if clarity regarding the church is unimportant. They believe that God made His thoughts clear regarding salvation and the individual believer's relationship to God, but did not do so concerning the church.

Whatever we do as a fellowship, it must be based solidly on convictions drawn from our understanding of the Word of God. We recognize that there will naturally be differing convictions among us on some matters. Methods and practices may change, but they must all be governed by a set of common beliefs regarding the church that we all share. We are convinced that God's Word reveals a clearly defined plan for the church based on God's ways, not man's. Our destiny as a fellowship, therefore, is not to create a new way to do things. Nor is it to see how large we can grow or how many brethren or churches will join with us. Rather it is to build our churches and lives as solidly as we can based on our best understanding of Scripture.

## **2. Convictions Governing Our Goals.**

Let us now examine our deep convictions based on Scripture, before discussing our goals and how we plan to reach them:

a. God cares deeply for the local church.

Each local church is important to God (Revelation 2&3). God puts all His resources at the disposal of the church. The work of God should emanate from local churches. If the local church is weak, the work of Christ suffers in the earth. God's purpose for the ministry (Ephesians 4:11) is to strengthen, encourage and build up the local church. If the local church is important to God, then so are its leaders. God intends for each local church to be led by a healthy and well balanced leadership team. Therefore, we must hold a conviction of the importance of each local church no matter how small or unimpressive outwardly. We will give our time, efforts, and resources to building up the local church and its leaders for God's purposes!

b. The need for identifying and releasing five-fold gifts.

We believe that one of the ways God exhibits His care for the local churches is by giving them five-fold gifts. These leaders are given to the church—the church is not given to them. If we want strong churches we must have strong five-fold ministries willing to serve the churches.

c. Churches will reproduce themselves and plant other churches.

When a country is economically strong that strength is partially measured by what it exports, not by what it imports (takes in). So as each local church is strengthened, it should begin to export itself (in obedience to the great commission) in two ways: by planting new churches and involvement in the worldwide harvest.

d. We must be involved in what God is doing around the world.

Involvement in missions is not a luxury but a necessity. In America, we have been given

so much that we dare not lavish on ourselves, but freely share it with others. We have a privilege and a responsibility to sow into what God is doing in the earth. Any movement or fellowship that does not encourage a vital missions thrust will remain narrow and self absorbed.

e. We must not remain isolated from other fellowships and networks. We recognize that Master Builders is one of many fellowships in the world that God is using. It is our conviction that we should strive to dialogue and work with all legitimate efforts to further the Kingdom of Christ, listening carefully to what the Lord is saying through them. We must be teachable.

### **3. Identifying Our Goals.**

a. To encourage and strengthen existing leaders and churches. Our focus in Master Builders must be upon caring for each local church represented in the fellowship. No matter what the size of the church, it is our desire that all get the same care and concern. The following ways are proposed to achieve this:

- Periodic Regional and National Gatherings

#### **Regional Meetings**

One of the ways local leaders and churches are strengthened is by tying them closely with other churches in their local region. We will do this through regularly scheduled regional meetings for prayer, fellowship, training and ministry. We also regularly encourage quarterly meetings hosted by various local churches where the church itself can be blessed by the brethren and leadership can become known.

#### **National Meetings**

At least once a year we gather together to provide vision, a setting for relationships to form, and to possibly hear from others from other networks. These times are not to set direction for local churches but to inspire, encourage and bless the saints and strengthen leaders. They are also important for allowing various brethren opportunity to be heard from and share their gifts with the fellowship at large.

- **Provide Apostolic Leadership Team Ministry Interchange to Churches**

To strengthen churches and leaders we must be specific about forming and releasing five-fold ministry teams in our midst to minister to churches. These teams are given to the church for its building and strengthening and encouragement.

- **Provide Five-fold Mentoring To Younger Ministries**

In our churches are many younger brethren with five-fold calls who need mentoring from fathers to help them develop. It is our desire that this occur. Too often in a network there are a few who minister while others are spectators.

- **Publish Newsletters and Other Literature**

We recognize the importance of putting into print some of what God has given us. We intend to use literature in every way we can for teaching, encouraging and enlightening the fellowship throughout.

- **Provide Leadership Training and Education**

We recognize the importance of providing education and training for people, especially leaders. It is our hope to eventually offer both general and leadership training in various biblical and practical topics which would not only provide for excellent scholarship, but would be hooked to mentoring opportunities and "hands on" ministry at the same time.

b. To Help and Encourage the Planting of New Churches.

Our focus must also be upon planting new churches. It is a priority for Master Builders. We hope to accomplish this through:

- Providing Support for Initial Church Plants

We desire genuine church plants to succeed and are prepared to back them with prayer, ministry and finances if necessary. We do not want prospective church plants to fail because of finances.

- Provide Apostolic Leadership Team Support

Apostles should be especially gifted in spearheading prospective church plants. Even where church plants have already begun, the wisdom, experience, and encouragement of an apostolic team is invaluable. We want to be specific in releasing and fostering these teams to assist in church planting ventures.

- Encourage and Coordinate Regional Support of those Churches Nearby to Plants

One of the assets of working with other churches and leaders, regionally, is the support the various churches and ministries can give to the prospective plants. The sharing of ministers, ministries and finances can be the difference between a new church making it and not making it. The first line of support for the new plant should be the churches in the region. The plant should be the vision of the whole region, not just the mother church doing the planting. It is our desire to foster and encourage such an effort, without interfering with local lines of authority

c. Impact the Nations Through Foreign Missions Efforts

Our focus must continually be upon the world wide harvest that is now available. We plan to:

- Provide, Encourage, and Coordinate Opportunities for Outreach to the Nations when Possible.

Within Master Builders there are many seasoned servants with large and proven ministries in foreign mission fields. These include crusades, medical missions, short term missions, etc. Our goal is to make all the churches continually aware of these opportunities and ministries, so that the churches have an outlet to send young missionaries into the field, accompany experienced mission workers, and go on short term missions trips.

- Provide Missions Education Where Possible and When Desired.

Many local churches want to be involved in missions, but don't readily know how, or have the necessary contacts. We want to provide education to local churches on how to effectively involve themselves in missions. Such education from experienced missionaries and those who have spent years laboring in the field is invaluable to a New Testament Church Network.

- Financially Support Missions Efforts when Warranted.

There are certain mission efforts done by local churches that are worthy of support, and sometimes lack it. We would like to be standing by to help when necessary on a temporary basis. Master Builders as a fellowship has no vision to take charge of any local church's missions program. Our vision is only to help, strengthen, and support efforts of local churches when possible.

- Work With Other Ministries and Fellowships When Possible.

Other ministries and fellowships are doing missions effectively and from time to time we may join with them in certain efforts or opportunities. We also desire to learn from those who are doing this work effectively.

## **IV. OUR LEADERSHIP**

### **THE LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The national leadership team consists of several men who have a proven calling for the body of Christ at large, and who have exhibited availability and anointing beyond the local church. These men also in some measure possess time and availability to serve and implement the vision, purposes and goals of Master Builders. They all exhibit a genuine love for the local church as well as vision for a harvest in the nations.

This team is being carefully and slowly built. It is gradually taking the form of a central core of apostolic men. These are surrounded by a circle of other five-fold men who are there to balance, advise, rebuke, exhort, provide prophetic input and generally assist in steering the fellowship. The team recognizes and chooses its own leader.

Neither the team nor Master Builders, as a fellowship, claims any authority over any church or ministry belonging to Master Builders. We believe that authority comes from the Lord and is exercised by individuals through the vehicle of proper relationships between those individuals and the churches they serve. It is they who have earned the right to that authority. The individual members of the team each have strong ties with some of the churches and leaders which make up Master Builders and any authority they exercise is limited to those churches and leaders they are closely related to.

It is our hope that over time, all team members would relate well to all churches, and that relationships would grow and trust be established to the degree that all the churches would be properly cared for in the event of the future death or removal of any of the leadership team.

The team makes regular accounting to all ministries and churches of all actions taken and monies spent relative to Master Builders Fellowship. The team will submit an annual budget and financial statement to the members.

### **THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS**

The Council of Elders consists of all senior pastors of all participating Master Builders churches. It meets, at least annually, and advises the leadership team. The leadership team is accountable to it in matters of finances, integrity and general quality of direction and operations.

### **Leadership Team**

#### **Apostolic Team Leaders**

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## **V. FINANCES**

It is obvious that to fulfill this vision and purpose and to pursue these goals there will be a need for some funding. This is a biblical issue and we wish to handle it as such. Finance is not only an expedient; it is an essential aspect of God's work. As it is a vital issue for the local church to deal with, so it also is for any group of ministries, individuals, or churches desiring to work together in a fellowship.

## **A. Our Heart**

Our aim in Master Builders is to foster mutual cooperation and accountability in the churches. As each church or ministry receives faithful and godly service, there should be a willingness and desire to support the work financially. Just as we would never think of forcing tithes or offerings from people in our churches, so we would not attempt any such thing nor require it in Master Builders. Yet, we expect that as leaders are committed to the vision, purposes, and goals of this fellowship they would voluntarily support it financially.

## **B Financial Policies**

### **1. Funding**

All funds for the maintenance and service of Master Builders will come from tithes and offerings of those committed to it. All funds coming into Master Builders will be used to serve the vision, purpose and goals of the fellowship.

### **2. Foreseen expenditures**

#### **a. Office Expenses**

Master Builders maintains an office and post office box in Knoxville, TN and will publish a quarterly newsletter, brochures, materials for conferences and maintain a website. There will be mailing expenses. There will be minimal office expenses such as telephone, computer expenses, secretary's salary, etc.

#### **b. Travel Expenses**

From time to time there will be some travel expenses for guest speakers at conferences and leadership team members traveling on legitimate business for the fellowship.

#### **c. Possible support for Leadership Team Members devoted to full time work for Master Builders.**

It is our conviction that it is righteous to support those full time five-fold men who serve the fellowship and the churches full time and display a real need. We understand that there is biblical precedent for this and support, when necessary, is in order. It is our preference, however, that men would be supported by those churches with whom they have authority and spiritual allegiance.

#### **d. Possible support for Church plants as needed**

We believe it to be wise to put our available money into supporting new church plants when necessary. What a blessing to be able to provide a new pastor with a temporary base of financial support in the early stages of a plant.

#### **e. Helping Mission Ventures as warranted**

We want to support viable mission efforts as warranted. We believe that part of our finances should go to seeding what God is doing in the world. A world wide harvest requires people and money to succeed.

### **3. Manner of Funding**

The following are suggested ways of fulfilling financial commitment to Master Builders. We do not care to dictate in which way a church or leader should respond, but truly expect that as a leader commits to the fellowship a response will ensue in one of the following ways:

#### **a. The voluntary tithe of the senior pastor or traveling ministry of his ministry related income.**

Only ministry related income is suggested. As an example, supposing a pastor's wife works or he has a business on the side (as many do); then these incomes would not be ministry related. Only that income received as salary or housing allowance from the church, or in the case of a traveling ministry offerings received, would be involved.

b. A monthly special offering taken in the church taken specifically for Master Builders on a designated Sunday.

This gives the church an opportunity to feel a part of the network, but presupposes that the church has been made fully aware of the work of Master Builders which takes time and effort.

c. A regular monthly offering designated by the Pastor and Elders sent on a regular basis. This should be agreed upon and set as a part of the budget.

To send correspondence, money, or information for the quarterly newsletter, use the Master Builders address:

Master Builders  
8905 Kingston Pike #12-316  
Knoxville, TN 37923

## **BUILDING TOGETHER REGIONALLY**

One of our goals in Master Builders is to establish strong, regional relationships among leaders and churches so that churches can learn to relate and build together, covering one another in a given locality. The strength of Master Builders will not be found in its national ties, but rather in regional identity. Nationally, there will certainly be great strength found in sharing common vision, gathering for conferences, and appointed meeting times. But such gatherings are rare and local churches need more. It is on a regional basis that the local church can best be helped and the Kingdom of God advanced.

In the New Testament, the church is only divided on the basis of locality. Paul speaks to the "churches of Achaia" and the "churches of Macedonia", churches in an entire region. These churches were to share a common bond of love for each other and were to work together. At one point the churches in Achaia and Macedonia ( II Cor. 8:1, 9:2) were working together to take up an offering for the poor saints in Jerusalem.

Biblically, there is no such thing as a national or international grouping of churches. No attempt was made in the early church to build a national network of churches with a headquarters or office in any given city. What we do see however, is a group of churches relating to a given apostle. There were those who related to Paul, others to Peter, John and James, etc.

When God views the church it is always first from the city in which it exists; the church in Jerusalem, or Antioch, or Ephesus, etc. Our first responsibility is always to be well connected to the city church, those believers and churches regardless of denomination or background in our own city or town where we live. The awareness of this has spawned gatherings of pastors in many cities. These are not only meeting regularly, but also learning to work together in practical ways, demonstrating the unity of the church.

But, as we have already said, scripture also emphasizes the churches in a region as well. Why is that important? Because there is tremendous strength in it. Here are, briefly, five things that regional groupings of churches with similar background and vision can accomplish together.

### **1. Partner for Harvest**

A good example can be found in Luke, chapter five. When Peter and the other disciples obeyed the Lord and let down their nets for a catch they took in such a draught of fishes that Peter and his companions could not handle it by themselves. What did they do? "They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink." (Luke 5:7) These men had the good sense to recognize that this catch was more than they could handle and to team with others.

If harvest is coming to the church, God's intent is to fill many boats, not just one. The question is, "Do we have others we can call to come and help us?" Now is the time to partner with others in our region to be prepared for what God is preparing to do.

### **2. Regional Churches Can Launch Emerging Five-fold Ministers.**

Regional churches relating together can be effective in providing a base for launching emerging five-fold ministers. A good example is found in Paul's co-laborer, Timothy. The young man was part of the church at Lystra and had a good reputation among the churches in the Galatian region. When Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, it was the churches in the entire region that commended him (Acts 16:2). No doubt Timothy's character and ministry were proven in his home church. He apparently began in the local church, expanded to the churches in the region, and was launched into a trans-local sphere by joining the apostle Paul (Acts 16:3).

This has tremendous practical benefits for us. Five-fold men in our local churches can be given vital experience by ministering in the local region. Perhaps there are many Timothys among us awaiting such opportunities to gain experience in local regions.

### **3. Churches in a Region Need Accountability.**

Working together regionally provides a setting for much needed support and accountability. Many times a church will go through a particular crisis and have relatively no one who is able to help them. One of the answers (besides apostolic oversight) is the strength that comes from other churches in the region. It can literally make the difference between making it and not making it.

A reason for Master Builders Regional gatherings on a regular basis is to provide a setting and climate where much needed relationships within the region can form. Also it allows opportunity for hearing what others are hearing, for providing leadership training, and for much needed times of prayer, worship, and ministry.

### **4. Regional Churches Can Effectively Work Together to Plant Other Churches.**

The desire, initiative, and leadership capability to plant other churches may reside in a local church, yet regional churches can also assist in the process. For example, perhaps a planting church does not have a strong worship team to send to the new plant without jeopardizing its own life. Sitting in some church in the region may be a gifted minstrel who presently finds no real room for his or her gift in the present assembly. Could he or she not be released to work with the new assembly?

Of course, each regional church will have to get over the feeling of possessiveness that plagues so many of our efforts in the Kingdom. Are we willing to release what we have for the good of the body in the whole region? We will be required to allow the cross to work deeply in our hearts so that we are willing to view what we have as not our own, but that which is good for the entire body.

### **5. Regional Churches Can Help Each Other Financially.**

This is of particular importance in dealing with the planting of new churches. Perhaps a need will arise to help a pioneer brother for a season. That is one of our aims as a national fellowship; but it can better be done with greater heart if the regional churches take a small bit of ownership in the new plant and can act as midwives in the endeavor.

Missions is another area where the pooling together of money can help launch short term trips. A missionary who is truly called and worthy of support can be introduced regionally and nationally to add to his or her support

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