

**Unless the Lord Builds the House,
Its Builders Labor in Vain**

Foundational Considerations Before Going, Starting or Sending

Dedicated to:

The nameless, faceless, and victorious generation that will see the Lord come back to earth and to my miraculous son (now 19 months old) who I believe will be one of them.

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Introduction

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Its builders labor in vain.

Psalm 127:1a (NIV)

It is easy to see why Jesus had to be a carpenter. His Father loved to build, and demonstrated His magnificent blue-collar attributes in three major projects. The first was what many mistakenly call Noah's Ark... it was actually God's. The divine instructions were detailed and Noah followed them perfectly, and in so doing provided everything that was necessary for the remnant of God's creation to be saved as He judged everybody and everything else. The second was the Tent of Meeting. Once again, God's heavenly anointed craftsmen followed God's amazingly specific plans to produce a mobile sanctuary for men to meet and interact with God. The third and final earthly structure was His temple. From the foundation to the finishing trim, Solomon duplicated the explicit blueprints drawn by the Almighty Architect Himself.

Jesus came to earth to build as well—not buildings, using earthly materials, but a church out of believing, living, human stones. Jesus laid out eternal plans to build that church before His future builders, which were just as exact and just as specific as the three just mentioned and were recorded by the Holy Spirit for us to follow.

On June 1, 1986 I was invited by this Man to be a follower, and, I believed, a builder. A few months later I sold everything I had except for some clothes, an old car, and a few tools. I drove to Guatemala to be a missionary accompanied by another zealous follower of the Lord. Together we started a rescue mission and began to reach out to children and adults living on the streets of the inner city.

Three years later the Holy Spirit would dramatically, supernaturally and undeniably impact my life with the living scripture Psalm 127:1a: Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain." Fast forward 23 years later and I would have another dramatic encounter with the Holy Spirit cutting deeper into my heart with the same verse. I knew, after the second manifestation of His presence, I was to share this sovereign gift of revelation to help those called to build, receive one of the blueprints of the Master Carpenter's design for eternal structures.

I know our gracious Heavenly Father through the ministry of the Holy Spirit wants to open our eyes to see more clearly, our ears to hear more completely, and our hearts to believe more fully a crucial building dimension that the Magnificent, Mighty, and Marvelous Eternal Builder gave to all – but especially – His last day disciples.