

## Letter to the Isolated Ekklesia

November 13, 2024

*This is from the Lord.*

“You say the church is not a building, but it is.

In the wilderness, I gave Moses a blueprint for a place of my presence. (*Exodus 25:8 “Have the people of Israel build me a holy sanctuary so I can live among them.”*)

King David gave Solomon the plans for a temple to house my presence. (*1 Chronicles 28:11 Then David gave Solomon the plans for the Temple and its surroundings...*)

Then when destroyed, I moved on the heart of a foreign King to allow a rebuilding. (*2 Chronicles 26:23 This is what King Cyrus of Persia says: “The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth. He has appointed me to build him a Temple at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.”*)

The festival of lights was a celebration of my provision in a defiled temple. (*John 10:22 It was now winter, and Jesus was in Jerusalem at the time of Hanukkah, the Festival of Dedication/Lights*)

The final building was destroyed as my punishment for rejecting my Son. (*Luke 19:44 They will crush you into the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not accept your opportunity for salvation.”*)

As the apostles went out, the gatherings were in homes that eventually became buildings for those gatherings.

While the word Ekklesia refers to people, My heart is still for you to gather and my presence to settle there. (Hebrews 10:25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.)

My heart and hand is on many buildings because My people, fully surrendered, are there.

Often church culture today doesn't really reflect My heart for community. Learning and growing in my word is only part. While I adore the worship, if you don't have the family community, doing life together, you are missing a big part of My heart and design.

Purpose family

Reflect my design

Love Me

Love each other

(Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus replied, 'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.)

That is My hearts desire.

*End of Letter*

This one was a bit hard for me personally. Earl and I were not in a church regularly for a while now. We would attend once or twice a month, watching on tv otherwise. But this past summer, we decided to find a church home and we have joined and are now serving.

I know so many people who love the Lord, but are not in a church, especially one with community.

Today, with the onset of Mega churches, it is easy to go in, sit down and not speak to anyone, much less get involved. There are also some churches that are far from the Mega category where you may not find community. However, God is calling us back to that. Laying our issues, personal preferences, and such aside in order to submit to His call.

There are 2 churches, that I know God's hand is on specifically.

One, you probably heard of, it was all over the national news and beyond. That was FBC Dallas. The old sanctuary, built in 1891, and when it was outgrown, became a gathering place of for other services and ministries of the church.

In July of this year, the old building caught fire and was totally gutted. In only what could be described as an act of God, the façade was saved, along with the steeple and some of the crosses on the tops of the arches. None of the surrounding buildings were burned, which was unbelievable given their proximity. FBC has plans to rebuild and hopefully restore it to its original design, but with modern safety and equipment.

One you may not have heard of is Balsora Baptist in Boonsville, TX. Boonsville is located in a very rural part of Wise County and as with most rural communities, only has volunteer fire departments. In June of 2022, 100+ year old building caught fire and burned to the ground, with one exception. A single wooden, charred cross.

The cross was in the Sanctuary and the members would place prayer requests on the cross to be prayed over. Members know that

this was a sign that God's presence was there and this tiny community would be able to rebuild.

Today, they have a beautiful, modern sanctuary and it is a beacon of hope to everyone that drives by.

Yes, we are the Ekklesia, the "called out ones." Lately, because the original word, which was translated in the New Testament as 'church' has been used on social media to say, 'We are the church.'

That is absolutely true, but scripture is clear, we need each other, and we need to do it as a family community. Caring and loving each other.

I was sort of taken aback when God gave me this word, because I knew it was for me. I pray it speaks to you as well.