

**God has a purpose and plan for your life. It’s time to let your purpose shine!  
God has a purpose for Believers Church. It’s time to let our purpose shine!**

Just like God has a unique shine or purpose for your life, so he has a unique purpose for Believers Church of Statesboro. We have been walking and growing in that purpose for twenty-one years now.

In the United States, twenty-one is when most people consider themselves an official adult. So, you might say Believers Church was born in 2001, worked through infancy, childhood, the rough teen years, and now we are an adult; twenty-one, young and healthy with a very bright future ahead of us.

I would go so far as to say, the Future’s So Bright, We’ve Got to Wear Shades!

### **Why is The Future is So Bright I’ve Gotta Wear Shades?**

**We are part of a “Local Church” which is the Hope of the World.**

You might be saying, “But wait, isn’t Jesus the hope of the world?” Yes, Christ Jesus can solve the problems of this world, and He is the world’s only hope. But the local church is Jesus’ agency commissioned and called to take this message of hope to a lost and dying world.

Therefore: The Local Church is the Hope of the World!

The church was Jesus’s idea. He started the church, the assembly of believers. and it is still His church.

Jesus told Peter that He would build His church upon himself. **Matthew 16:18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.**

Look what Paul told Timothy about the church. **1 Timothy 3:14-15 Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that, 15 if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God’s household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.**

*Jesus established the local church. Jesus died for the local church. The Holy Spirit empowers and dwells in the local church. And one day, Jesus will come for the local church, referring to it with affectionate terms such as “The Bride of Christ.”*

*“This is God’s ultimate achievement -- a community, a center of warm, pulsating, effervescent, outreaching Christian love, a place with all of its components united in order to become a force in this world instead of a farce.” Dr. Gilbert Bilezikian*

**Our future is bright because we are part of God’s Eternal Purpose**

**Ephesians 3:10-11 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, 11 according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord**

How is this manifold wisdom of God going to be made known to all the principalities and powers in heavenly places? Through You! The Church.

**Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, According to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.**

God can do much more than we can imagine or even think about asking. This is true and amazing, but more amazing is the fact that He can do it according to the Holy Spirit working in us.

**Vs 21** To God be Glory... Where? In the Church How? By Christ Jesus  
For whom? All Generations For how long? Forever and ever.

**Our future is bright because we are Healthy and Growing.**

Referring to church growth Paul said in **1 Corinthians 3:6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.**

The early churches Growth Pattern. **Acts 2:47 ...And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.**

Why was the Lord able to add daily? **“They devoted themselves to...”**

1. The apostles’ teaching
2. To fellowship with one another (Also see Hebrews 10:23-25)
3. The breaking of bread
4. To prayer
5. They continued to meet together in the temple courts, and they broke bread in their homes together with glad and sincere hearts. *Large group setting and small groups.*

I believe this is still our pattern and model for church growth today. And as far as I can tell God is showing no signs of slowing down! He still wants to add to his church daily!

**We Grow by Taking Spiritual Next Steps**

- Attend and Experience Jesus.
- Place your Faith in Jesus as Your Savior.
- Publicly Declare Your Salvation with Water Baptism.
- Going through the Firm Foundations Course which covers Bible Study, Prayer, etc.  
The Firm Foundations Course is on our web page @ <https://believersstatesboro.com/nextsteps/>

**Next Step: This week I will assess my spiritual growth and take my necessary next steps.**

**We Grow by Taking Relational Next Steps**

Everyone needs to know and be known, be needed and belong. These Next Steps are designed to help you do just that.

<b>1st Sunday’s</b>	<b>Next Step: Newcomers Social</b> Meet our Pastors and Leaders and hear God’s Vision for Believers Church.	<b>After Each Service</b>	<b>Main Sanctuary</b>
<b>2nd Wednesdays</b>	<b>Next Step: Life Groups</b> Learn the why’s and how’s of our small groups at Believers Church.	<b>6:30—7:30 PM</b>	<b>Believers Pavilion</b>
<b>3rd Wednesdays</b>	<b>Next Step: Membership</b> Everything you need to know about Membership at Believers Church.	<b>6:30—7:30 PM</b>	<b>Believers Pavilion</b>
<b>4th Wednesdays</b>	<b>Next Step: Ministry Teams</b> Discover the joy of serving on a Believers Ministry Team!	<b>6:30—7:30 PM</b>	<b>Believers Pavilion</b>

**Next Step: I will sign up and attend all four Next Step Events to grow and be healthy.**

**Today, I will be attending the Newcomers Social Next Step Event after the service.**

**Our future is bright because we Minister to Families and Children.**

We are not aging out. Our church is full of people of all ages, with many young families and children. Nothing is more important than a child’s relationship with Jesus. Therefore, the most powerful thing we can do for our children is for parents and the Church to partner together to raise Godly children.

- We teach the same principles – synchronize teachings.

- We model the same priorities – we are all leaders of our children.
- We value the same relationships – the children will love God the way we love God.

**Our future is bright because we have a Mission, Goals,  
and we understand our Purpose as a church.**

**Mission Statement**  
**To teach, encourage, and inspire Authentic Christianity**  
**to the people of Statesboro, Bulloch County, and Surrounding Areas**

**Our Goals**

- To reach the unchurched of Statesboro and surrounding areas
- To proclaim the word of reconciliation
- To operate in power and purity
- To encourage and build up all people
- To help people discover their divine purpose and destiny
- To be a family of love, acceptance, and forgiveness

**The Five Purposes of the Church**

- |                |                                |             |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| • Worship      | Love the Lord Your God         | Matt 22:37  |
| • Ministry     | Love Your Neighbor as Yourself | Matt 22:39  |
| • Evangelism   | Make Disciples of All Nations  | Matt 28:19a |
| • Fellowship   | Baptizing Them                 | Matt 28:19b |
| • Discipleship | Teach them to obey my commands | Matt 28:20  |

**Our future is bright as we Make Choices based on our Core Values.**

- We Choose to Believe.
- We Choose to Be Spiritual Contributors Not Consumers.
- We Choose to Live a Life of Generosity.
- We Choose to Be Inward and Outward Focused.
- We Choose to Do Life Together.

**Next Step: I will continue to make choices based on the core values we hold together.**

**We will have a bright future as we Stand on the Promises of God.**

Allow me to share two promises that God has assured me of.

For me personally the Lord has assured me with: **Psalms 84:11**  
**For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory;**  
**No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly. (NKJ)**

For Believers Church the Lord has assured me with: **Psalms 27:13-14**  
**I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.**  
**Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.**