



**Sunday January 07, 2018
The Road Ahead 2018**

What we would like to do this morning is

- (A)briefly review the Word of the Lord for us as a local church family,
- (B)then share some of the focus areas for us as local church in 2018 and
- (C)close with a short message from the Word of God

(A) BRIEF REVIEW OF THE WORD OF THE LORD FOR US AS A LOCAL CHURCH FAMILY

Isaiah 58:12 (Good News Bible)

Your people will rebuild what has long been in ruins, building again on the old foundations. You will be known as the people who rebuilt the walls, who restored the ruined houses."

The picture here is of a city with home lying in ruins. But God is promising His people that they will be able to rebuild again on the foundations that are still there. His people will be known as those who repair, rebuild, restore and raise up what was left in ruins.

The Instruction

Build Again on Old Foundations

Two-Fold Promise

#1, You will see things raised up in their original state of glory and even better.

#2, You will be known as a people who repair, rebuild, raise up and restore

God is calling us to raise up, restore and build again on the old foundations so that what has been laid in ruins will be rebuilt, restored and raised up to their original state of glory and even better.

We apply this to different areas of our lives individually and collectively:

- Personal walk with God
- Marriage and Family
- Professional life or Business
- **In our life as a local church** (emphasize this) : The book of Acts reveals to us what God intended for the Church. We see a Church raised up on the Word of God (the teaching of the apostles) and the work of the Holy Spirit. Such a Church affected the entire city of Jerusalem and many other cities. We desire to continue to build on these foundations so that in our day we can impact our city and cities across the nation.
- **In our ministry to others** (emphasize this) : God will use many of us in this manner to help people build again on old foundations. Identify areas that God wants you to be involved, where God wants you to step in and say, what lies in ruins, will be rebuilt and restored. And then in order to see this happen, choose to guide people back to the old foundations.



(B) SOME OF THE FOCUS AREAS FOR US AS LOCAL CHURCH IN 2018

At APC we like to do SPIRIT-INSPIRED PLANNING.

As an example, the apostle refers to this:

2 Corinthians 1:15-17

**15 And in this confidence I intended to come to you before, that you might have a second benefit—
16 to pass by way of you to Macedonia, to come again from Macedonia to you, and be helped by you on my way to Judea.**

17 Therefore, when I was planning this, did I do it lightly? Or the things I plan, do I plan according to the flesh, that with me there should be Yes, Yes, and No, No?

The obvious inference is that in his planning he was planning according to the Spirit.

So we submit ourselves to the Holy Spirit and with His leading we plan and prepare for the year ahead so that we can move into things He wants us to move into.

1, Grow in God by growing in the Word and Spirit

Continue to be established in God's Word and move into higher realms in the Spirit

In our ministry of the Word some areas we will be covering in 2018:

- **Lifestyle Evangelism** - learn how to make sharing Christ with others in the power of the Holy Spirit a normal way of life.
- **Our Redemption** - revisit this topic and learn to walk in our redemption blessings.
- **The Holiness of God** - a brand new series where we come back to the place of holy awe, reverence and wonder of the character and nature of our God.
- **Romans** - a brand new book study this year. Romans is one of the most important doctrinal epistles, and this will be a life transforming study.
- **Kingdom of God** - we will revisit this topic and remind ourselves that we are kingdom people
- **Prayer & Intercession** - a series that will help us grow into new realms in prayer
- **Live Life The Jesus Way** - a brand new series inviting us to model our lives after Jesus Christ.

Along with this we will press in for more manifestations and work of the Holy Spirit in an through us. ***We desire to be a "Book of Acts" expression in our day and time.***

From time to time we will have guest speakers and other individual motivational/inspirational messages.

2, Outreach to our city

A primary focus this year is for us to reach out to people with the good news of Jesus Christ. We will actively mobilize and step out to do things that will help us reach more people with the Gospel. We will share more on this in February.



We already have Catalyst and Campus Elevates happening. We need to do much more in our city.

One of the main reasons we are here is to win souls and make disciples.

APC 2018 Calendar

For those of you who are on our mailing list, you would have already received our APC 2018 Calendar by email.

In case you have not received the email, you can download the Calendar from our church website, Click on the **Events** menu, and the **Calendar** link.

There are several ministries planned for 2018. We will have our regular Kid's Camp (April), Youth Camp (May 25-27) and Church Camp (Nov 1-3) this year. In Bangalore we will host a 1-day Women's Conference (March 24, with Shampa Rice from Iris Ministries), Men's Conference (June 23), Marriage & Family Conference (July 7) and Christian Professionals Conference (October 6).

In addition to our Secret Place (March 02, and August 31), and 5-Days of Prayer (Apr30-May 04 & Nov 26-20) we will have Worship Nites (2 hours of just worship).

Here are just a few other things we would like to highlight:

3, Weekend Schools

Our weekend schools is a very important way to continually equip believers.

At APC we say often: **Every believer is a minister.** We don't have a fancy for titles and positions. Every believer serves, title or no title, position or no position - we are all ministers of God. Each one of us should be ready to do anything - small and menial or huge and important. We do it all for the Lord!

So the Weekend Schools are a way to continually equip believers in important areas of ministry.

We are introducing two new weekend schools in 2018 to address specific needs that we see:

Weekend School on Inner Wholeness

Weekend School on Lifestyle Evangelism

We will continue with our other weekend schools this year:

Weekend School of Prayer and Intercession

Weekend School on Gifts of the Spirit

Weekend School on God@Work

Weekend School of Healing & Deliverance

Weekend School of Prophetic Ministry

4, Missions



2018 missions is exciting! We encourage you to get involved.

Short Term Bible College will be held in two places, with about 60 students in each location:
Nabrangpur, Odisha : Monday Feb 05 to Friday April 27 (in Oriya)
Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh : Monday September 3rd to Friday November 23rd (in Hindi)

Pastors & Youth Conference

February 07-08 (Wed-Thu) Nagpur, Maharashtra (Pastors conference)
February 09-10 (Fri-Sat) Sholapur, Maharashtra (Pastors conference)
March 20-21 (Tue-Wed) Chandigarh, Punjab (Pastors conference)
May 07-11 (Mon-Fri) Pune, Maharashtra (Pune Youth Camp)
May 29-31 (Tue-Thu) Gujarat (Youth Camp with Bishop Devadoss)
June 26-27 (Tue-Wed) Bellary, Karnataka (Pastors conference)
June 28-29 (Thu-Fri) Chitradurga, Karnataka (Pastors conference)
July 03-04 (Tue-Wed) Mysore, Karnataka (Pastors conference)
July 17-18 (Tue-Wed) Ranchi, Jharkhand (Pastors conference)
September 17-19 (Mon-Wed) Kathmandu, Nepal (Blessing Conference)
September 27-29 (Thu-Sat) Dubai
Oct 1-3 (Mon-Wed) Kolkatta Conference (Pastors & Youth)
October 30-31 (Tue-Wed) Kohima, Nagaland (Pastors conference)

For the trips highlighted above (Pune, Gujarat, Kolkatta) we would like to see our youth and adults go in teams and minister.

As we approach closer to the dates, you will be invited to register.

5, Facility Projects

(i) We are **considering** setting up a **training facility in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**, where we can run our Short Term Bible College throughout the year. So we can do about 3 batches of our 3-month STBC through each year. We can serve Hindi speaking students from all across North India. The plan is to buy about 5000 SFT of land and construct a building that can house our training classroom, as well as dorms, kitchen, dining hall, and guest rooms for our faculty.

(ii) We continue our search for land/facility for our locations in Bangalore. As things develop we will keep you informed.

(C) A SHORT MESSAGE FROM THE WORD OF GOD

John 15:1-8

Here are a few insights from this passage:

1, God desires for us to be very fruitful and keep increasing in fruitfulness

Vs 1-2, the Vinedresser looks for ways to make the branches more fruitful

Vs 5, the Lord gives us the secret to bearing 'much fruit'



Vs 8, the Father is glorified when we bear 'much fruit'

2, Pruning is necessary for greater fruitfulness in our lives

Pruning is the getting rid of unnecessary things, the cleansing of unnecessary things.

We need to ask the Lord to show us the unnecessary things that are keeping us from increasing in fruitfulness.

3, One of the ways pruning (cleansing) happens is by His Word

In Vs 2, He says that we need to be pruned (cleansed) in order to be more fruitful

In Vs3, He says that they have been cleansed by His Word - at that time - but also revealing to us that ongoing cleansing happens through His Word

4, The key to fruitfulness is intimacy - captured for us in the words "He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit;" (vs 5)

abide = to stay, continue, dwell, remain

We abide in Him and He in us -

- ✓ as we believe and acknowledge (confess) who Jesus Christ is (1 John 4:15)
- ✓ as we walk in obedience to His commandments (1 John 3:6,24)
- ✓ as we walk in love (1 John 4:12,16)
- ✓ as we let His Word and Spirit dwell in us (John 15:7; 1 John 3:24; 1 John 4:13)

So from the Scripture above, we learn that abiding is not being passive or inactive. It is not 'doing nothing'. We abide in Him and He in us as we know, acknowledge and boldly declare who Jesus Christ really is and as we walk completely yielded to His Word and His Spirit and in the love of God - always doing what love will do.

5, Asking is connected to expressing fruitfulness

In this same passage as Jesus is talking about fruitfulness, He also mentions about asking what we desire....and it being granted (v 7).

So asking God for what is in our hearts is one of the keys to moving into and expressing increasing fruitfulness.

"Ask what you desire" out of your place of abiding in Him!

What is it you desire?

What is it we desire as a local church?

ASK!

Ask for us to grow and be more and more like Jesus.

Ask for might manifestations and demonstrations of His power.

Ask for more people to be saved and added to the church.

Ask for our numbers to multiply and increase.

Ask for increase impact and influence in the city!

ASK!



As we look ahead to an exciting 2018, let us journey together into greater intimacy with the Lord and greater fruitfulness for His Kingdom.

Genuine intimacy will always produce greater fruitfulness resulting in the Father being glorified (John 15:1-8).

Ministry Time



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Sunday January 07, 2018
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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons. Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passage: *2 Corinthians 1:15-17; John 15:1-7*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

#1, Try to envision and share some ways we can do Spirit-Inspired Planning for our personal lives, as the apostle Paul indicated in 2 Corinthians 1:15-17?

#2, Consider the insights shared from the passage in John 15:1-7? How do we actively abide in Him and He in us?

#3, What are your thoughts on APC's Plan for 2018? What areas would you participate in and draw benefit from?

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two main learnings today and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Within the group, feel free to share areas of emotional healing that may be needed. (Keep all matters confidential).



Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

Close by thanking God together.