

Faith Chapel Church of God Case Statement

*You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion,
and through us, your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*

II Corinthians 9:11

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28: 18-20

Mission: Extending the Invitation to know Jesus Christ to Baton Rouge and the World.

Vision: Faith Chapel is a church that is focused on both intentional in-reach and outreach. We minister in the arenas of home (domestic) and foreign missions, and we believe that there is power in the name of JESUS to save, heal, deliver, and bind up the broken-hearted. In addition, we believe that persons are saved and transformed by grace and that the transformation process is ongoing—part of a lifelong journey. Faith Chapel is dedicated to the communities of Baton Rouge—particularly the Mayfair, Kenilworth, Staring Lane, and Gardere neighborhoods.

Strongest Convictions: Faith Chapel is a Christ-centered church that believes Jesus is the Son of God and Head of the Church, the Holy Bible is the infallible Word of God, and the Holy Spirit is the Teacher and Guide of the Church. We also believe in the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit. As a church we reach our hands in fellowship to every believer, and we sincerely welcome all persons to “come as they are” to find the wonderful new life that is available to them in Jesus Christ.

History: Faith Chapel has a rich history of children’s ministry in Baton Rouge that began with an outreach to children who lived in a group home. Throughout its history, Faith Chapel has had members who were called by God to minister to the whole child—spirit, soul and body. Our strong and vibrant children’s ministry offers food, transportation, Bible lessons, and wholesome activities including field trips for enrichment, summer programs and educational assistance.

We are strong believers in education. As part of our stewardship, we provide academic scholarships for our students to pursue higher learning—including both college and graduate school degrees. From studies in law or MBA programs to architecture or PHD programs, many of our youth have graduated and are now serving in responsible positions in the Baton Rouge community and beyond.

Our members have also been actively engaged with the community in an effort to improve the conditions of those facing economic struggles. Through persistent love and teamwork, Faith Chapel has made a significant impact on the south Baton Rouge area and has developed an identity for its compassionate ministry.

In addition to our local ministries, the members of Faith Chapel have generously supported missions around the world. In line with our national church’s focus on Missions ministry, Faith Chapel supported one of our members to work in Africa for many years. More recently, we have provided support to a rural school in South Africa. Faith Chapel has sent members for work trips and provided funding for internet access and educational materials.

Core Values: Our core values are: Worship, Prayer, Discipleship, Fellowship, Reconciliation, Evangelism, Stewardship, and Shepherding.

Challenge: Our current facility has a sanctuary and four class rooms. We have only four bathrooms (two for men and two for women) and a Sunday school enrollment of over 75. We have an active Sunday breakfast program that consequently impacts our classroom space and increases noise levels making Sunday School lesson learning difficult. During Vacation Bible School in the summer, we must set up tents to accommodate the numbers, and we do not have a working nursery for young couples. Our parking is on rented land with a combination of grass and gravel that is only partially usable when it rains. Despite these facility shortcomings, our ministries continue to grow. We have active children’s ministries, youth and young adult ministries, married couples’ ministries, as well as the traditional men and women’s ministries. Our limited resources require careful scheduling to prevent collisions. In addition to that, Faith Chapel is in partnership with the African Christian Fellowship, an organization that uses our facility on Saturday evenings.

We are, to put it simply, just plain out of room. Our space limitations are beginning to have a negative impact on our growing ministries.

Proposal: God gave a vision to our former Pastor, the late Rev. Dr. J. D. Brown, that we should build a replacement facility to further our work in the Kingdom. Under Pastor Brown’s leadership, Faith Chapel began the process of acquiring land directly across the street that would address our current needs and provide room for growth. We acquired 14 acres of land, all of which was fully paid for. And with the expansion of Staring Lane, the property has greatly appreciated in value.

Under our current Pastor, Rev. Bartholomew M. Riggins, we began the process of carefully evaluating all of our ministry needs. We have worked to create a master plan for use of the 14 acres which includes our first sanctuary, fellowship hall, eight classrooms, offices and paved parking. This plan will fully enable our current ministries as well as provide flexibility for what God has planned for us in the future.

Our new building will cost \$2,580,000. This amount will provide the facility, furnishings, and paved parking. As a Bible based church, we have worked to be good stewards of what God has provided, and we are debt free. All funds that are received will be used strictly for the new building.

All that we are doing is for God’s Glory, Praise His Name.

