

Church Rescue

In North America, 200 churches close every week!

Thousands of pastors leaving ministry – due to anxiety, depression, discouragement

However, in spite of these alarming trends...

I believe God still has GREATER things ahead for His Church!

After all, Jesus is the one who said,

“I will build MY church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18)

That’s where we come in!

We **GET TO** be part of the SOLUTION!

We **GET TO** be part of the TURNAROUND!

We **GET TO** come to the RESCUE!

So, if we’re going to be part of this God’s RESCUE OPERATION...

1) We’ve got to follow his HEART.

Q: What is His heart?

A: Lost people to be found. (aka: “Reconciliation”)

Luke 15 is the “lost and found” chapter

- Something gets lost
- Something gets found
- Someone throws a party

2 Corinthians 5 explains the responsibility God has given us.

We are “ambassadors”

We are “ministers” (of reconciliation)

2) We’ve got to fulfill his STRATEGY.

Q: What is His strategy?

A: The local church

Matthew 6:33 – *Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

If you’ll take care of God’s house, He will take care of yours.

This is true on so many levels!

Think about the principle of Sowing & Reaping

(what you do for others, God will do for you)

Here’s the problem:

a) Putting yourself first always ends in frustration.

Babylonian exile – Israel was disgraced, Jerusalem destroyed
Now it's 70 years later... (people are returning)

Haggai 1:2-11.

v.5 – Give careful thought to your ways. (5X's in 2 chapters)

*You have planted much, but harvested little
You eat, but never have enough
You drink, but never have your fill
You put on clothes, but you're not warm
You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it*

Question: And **WHY** are there no sustained blessings?

Answer: Because they lived in nice houses, while God's house was in ruins
Each of you is busy with his own house... (v.9)

Notice, it actually gets worse!

*...because of you, the heavens have withheld their dew, and the earth its crops
...I CALLED FOR DROUGHT
On the fields and the mountains
On the grain
On the new wine
The oil and whatever the ground produces
On men and cattle
And on the labor of your hands*

Here's the point: **GOD wants his people to CARE about what He cares about!**
(and when we **don't**...nothing else will satisfy or last!)

But when we DO...

b) Putting God first always results in fruitfulness.

v.13 – "I am with you," declares the Lord.

Answer: Church Rescue! (a network of churches helping churches)

God's **HEART** is for lost people to be found in Him.

God's **STRATEGY** to accomplish this was the Local Church.

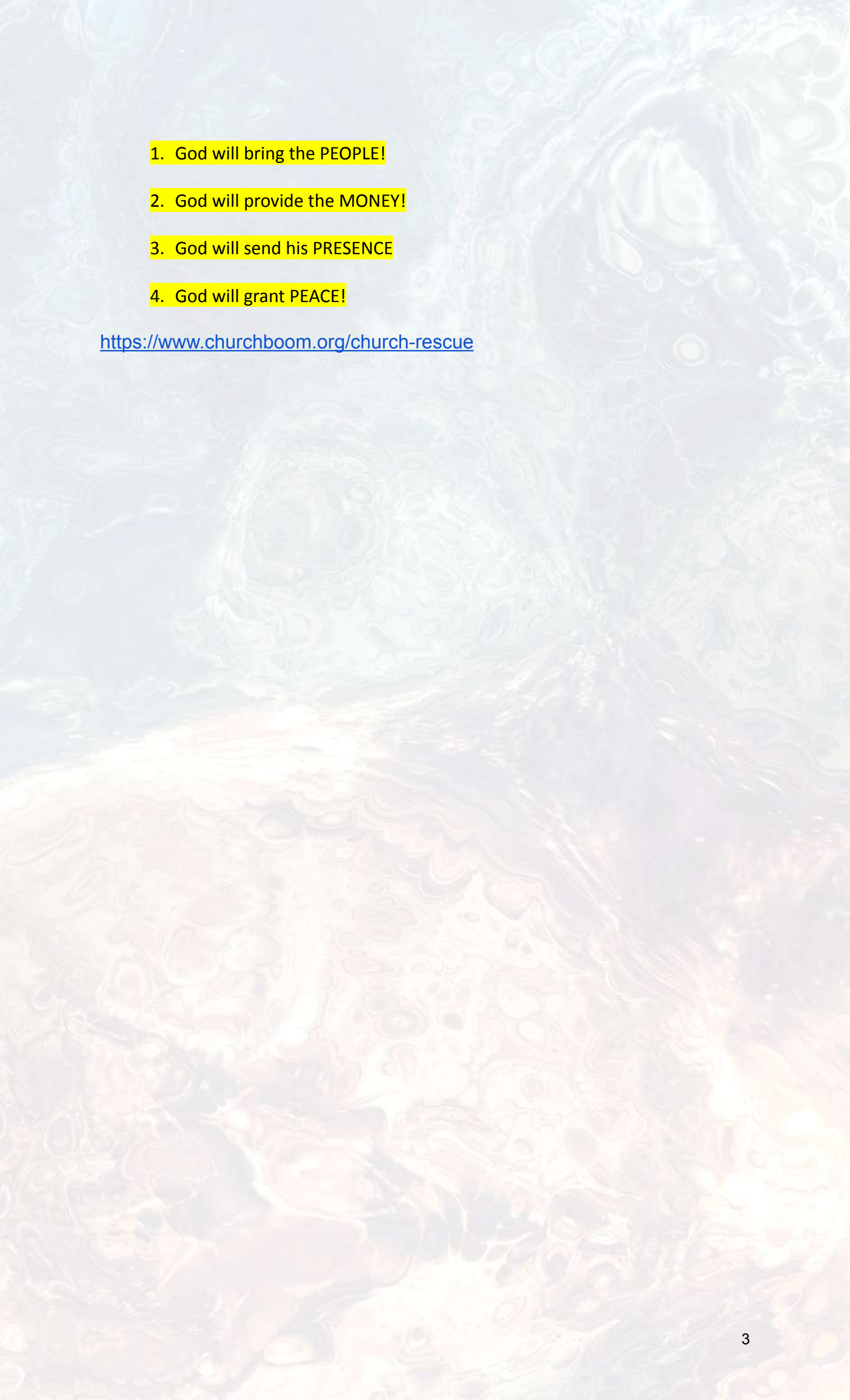
Rescued CHURCHES Rescue PEOPLE

Fiji church – "we've never had anyone come to help us" (Pastor Judy was there too)

Key Thought:

When we follow God's heart and fulfill his strategy, He will do GREATER things!

(From Haggai 2:6-9)

The background of the entire page is a marbled paper pattern. It features a complex, swirling design with a color palette dominated by light blues, greens, and yellows in the upper half, transitioning into warm oranges, reds, and browns in the lower half. The patterns are organic and fluid, resembling natural stone or liquid swirls.

1. God will bring the PEOPLE!

2. God will provide the MONEY!

3. God will send his PRESENCE

4. God will grant PEACE!

<https://www.churchboom.org/church-rescue>