BRIDGE BUILDING UPDATE



3rd Quarter 2025

Dear Friend,

It's been a little while since I last shared about the <u>bridge-building</u> ministry that extends beyond my role as pastor of <u>Church Together</u>. I want you to know how much your prayers and support matter—God is using them to open doors, connect people, and expand His Kingdom. Thank you for being part of this story.

This year has been a milestone one for me—celebrating my 50th birthday, 25 years of marriage with Tracie, and watching Jonathan and Bethany thrive in their faith and college communities. These personal joys deepen my gratitude for the call God has given me: **to care for people**, **bring people together**, **and see Jesus transform the places where we gather**.



Bridge-Building Through Professional Soccer



Serving as chaplain to Orlando City SC allows me to walk alongside players who, though gifted and celebrated, often need care beyond the field. Weekly Bible studies, character conversations, and pastoral presence remind them they are people, not just performers. It's been a joy to see some boldly use their platform to share their faith.

Beyond Orlando City, I've been privileged to encourage chaplains across Major League Soccer through the Pro Soccer Chaplains Association (ProSoccerChaplains.org)—coaching, resourcing, and

connecting them in relationships with players, league leadership, and the players' association. Visits to Atlanta, DC & West Palm to encourage and mentor chaplains have been made possible by your generosity. In the coming months, I'll co-lead a mission trip to Mexico with players and chaplains, showcasing a side of service that athletes typically can't engage in. We're also planning a spiritual renewal retreat for professional players in January, allowing them to connect with players from across the league. With the World Cup coming to the US in 2026, I am also involved in a couple of projects to help prepare for the evangelistic opportunities this global tournament will bring!



Bridge-Building Through NAYBA



As chair of NAYBA US (Nayba.org), I've seen how measuring and sharing the Church's impact helps tell a new story to the world, which often wonders if the Church cares. NAYBA helps churches measure their social impact by putting a financial value on the social services they offer. In Tacoma, WA, and now Orlando, churches are beginning to quantify their community impact. Early results are already powerful: Just three congregations (one small, one medium, and one large) in Central Florida collectively generated \$904,403.49 in annual economic impact for social care services provided to

the community by the volunteer ministries they run. Imagine the power of telling the story of the effects of 100 faith communities in Central Florida! – That's what NAYBA does.

This fall, I'll speak at the Palau Organizations City Leaders Conference in Milwaukee and in January at the Innovative Mayors of America Conference in Washington, DC—opportunities to remind leaders of, and offer a practical way to communicate, the difference that churches in their communities are making in the lives of the least, the lonely, and the overlooked.

Bridge-Building in Seminole County



Closer to home, we recently gathered 80 church and ministry leaders for our first "Seminole County Ministry Leaders" event, uniting around the Great Commandment, Great Commission, Great Compassion, and Great Collaboration. I'm also honored by the opportunities to represent Christ in conversations with businesses, law

enforcement, and local government—unusual yet strategic settings to embed and embody the Gospel.

With Gratitude & Vision

Every bridge built is the work of the Holy Spirit—but your prayers and generosity fuel it. Thank you for walking this road with me. Together, we are seeing lives changed, churches strengthened, and communities transformed.

How to Pray in this Season

- That I would love my family well, being fully present and attentive to those I love the most.
- That our Church would continue to reflect the beauty of her King as a healthy Body of Christ.
- That God would use the platform of sports to extend His kingdom and change lives.
- That the Church would posture itself to love deeply especially the least, the lost, and the overlooked.
- That I would remain faithful in caring for people, bringing others together, and watching Jesus transform the spaces where we gather.
- That bridges would be built between the Church and our culture, creating pathways for people to encounter Jesus and walk toward Him.

Pastor, Church Together.

To find out more information about this kingdom-expanding work and to give to this BRIDGE BUILDING ministry: www.ourchurchTogether.com/BRIDGEBUILDING







