



## A Courageous Plan to be Present and Help the Home Team

July 29, 2018

### Five Ways to Help Your Home Team

1. Have the right **job description** (Your team is hurt if you don't do your job)
2. Don't be **divided** (Your team is hurt when you are not united)
3. Embrace **forgiveness** (Your team is hurt if you don't let things go)
4. **Expand** your vision (Your team is hurt if you don't grow)
5. Be **present** (Your team is hurt if you are not present on the battlefield)

### My Big Question: How present are you?

### Side Question: Has your absence hurt your Home Team?

**Important Balance:** Nothing I am going to say is to imply that physically going to church or being present is not important. I simply want to point out that this culture defines being present differently. Nothing we do in this church can be done if all of us stop being present.

### 1. We Work Differently

- More American employees are working remotely, and they are doing so for longer periods, according to a Gallup survey released on Wednesday. Last year, 43 percent of employed Americans said they spent at least some time working remotely, according to the survey of more than 15,000 adults

**Source:** <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/15/us/remote-workers-work-from-home.html>

- **It can be described as the future of work. Just a few short years ago, working from home may have seemed out of reach across some industries. Today, not so much. In 2015, 23 percent of employees reported doing some of their work remotely, up from 19 percent in 2003, Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows. A *New York Times* report also noted that telecommuting is fast on the rise.**

**Source:** <https://remote.co/10-stats-about-remote-work/>

### 2. We Go to School Differently

- There are 58 million students in America. In 2017-2018, 1.6 million of those students were homeschooled. This is an increase of 43, 122 students in one year.

**Source:** [https://a2zhomeschooling.com/thoughts\\_opinions\\_home\\_school/numbers\\_homeschooled\\_students/](https://a2zhomeschooling.com/thoughts_opinions_home_school/numbers_homeschooled_students/)

### 3. We Go to Church Differently

- Churches stream and use social media more than ever. It is a huge change for churches to embrace this new digital age.

**Source:** <https://blog.capterra.com/church-statistics-social-media/>

### Summary:

- Church attendance has been fragmented for years. Some come every week, some come once a quarter, some come for big holidays and some come all the time.
- Business people, military people, missionaries, and many other professions require a mobile life-style. They cannot commit to being present weekly at a brick and mortar location.



## **I. God Promised to Be Present**

(Deuteronomy 31:6–8, NKJV)

### **1. God Promised to be Present: “I will never leave you nor forsake you”**

- 6 Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, **He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.**”

### **2. God Admonished Joshua to be Present: “You must go with this people to the land”**

- 7 Then Moses called Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, “Be strong and of good courage, for **you must go with this people to the land** which the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it. 8 And the Lord, **He is the One who goes** before you. **He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you;** do not fear nor be dismayed.”

## **II. Jesus Promised to Be Present**

(John 14:1-3, NKJV)

### **1. Jesus Promised to be Present (John 14:1-3)**

14:1 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. **I go to prepare a place for you.** 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.**

### **2. Jesus Promised The Holy Spirit’s Presence (John 14:16-18)**

- 16 And I will pray the Father, and **He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever**—17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for **He dwells with you and will be in you.** 18 **I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you**

**Closing:**

## **III. Do You Promise To Be Present?**

1. For your family
2. For your job
3. For your community
4. For your church
5. For your country (we should pray for our country and believe for the best)