




keeping
God @ the Center

How can we sustain our Christian focus?



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- Pray individually and as a community – before meetings and on the job site. Offer thanks and seek God’s blessings for families who are becoming new homeowners.
 - Celebrate and cherish our Christian history.
 - Evaluate carefully any financial pressures to change policies and direction.
 - Be courageous when hearing messages from any source that encourage moving away from our Christian vision and messaging.
 - In hiring staff, Habitat seeks individuals who have a willingness to affirm our mission, principles and values.
 - Regularly review and reflect upon our core documents and Scriptural foundations.
 - Implement regular checkups to gauge how we are doing in living out our Christian faith and keeping God at the center of our work.
 - Seek to ensure that behavior is consistent with the faith that we profess; ask for forgiveness when we fall short.
 - In some regions of the world, local Habitat organizations offer a Bible at dedication services – as a marker of who Habitat is, not who the homeowners are.
 - When asked why we volunteer to help build or repair homes, the door is open for us to talk about our motivation.

Habitat for Humanity's core documents

Vision

A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Mission

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.



Mission principles

1. Demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ.
2. Focus on shelter.
3. Advocate for affordable housing.
4. Promote dignity and hope.
5. Support sustainable and transformational development.

A close-up photograph of two hands clasped together in a firm grip. The hands are dark-skinned and appear to be of African descent. The background is a blurred crowd of people, suggesting a large gathering or event. A bright blue horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text "God@Center" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

God@Center

Why do we need to focus on keeping God @ the Center?

It doesn't happen quickly, but it happens all too often. Institutions and organizations that were founded with a Christian vision and on Christian values slowly transform until the perception becomes that they are indeed secular.

As part of a commitment to honor and strengthen our Christian heritage, Habitat for Humanity created a "Keeping God @ the Center" team in 2013. More than 30 people from Habitat affiliates, national organizations

and Habitat for Humanity International are joined by a handful of Habitat friends who make up this volunteer group. The team has a clear purpose: to help the organization stay true to its Christian foundation and its original vision of demonstrating the love and teachings of Jesus Christ through adequate and affordable housing.

"Christian vision is rarely lost in one big decision, but in hundreds of small ones that compound each other and change our direction."

From Keeping the Faith: Maintaining a Christian Mission in a Changing World,
by researcher Larry Reed.

At Habitat for Humanity, we choose to provide shelter as our means of demonstrating the love of Jesus to those who lack a decent place to live. Unapologetically Christian and radically inclusive, we value all people and welcome everyone to our work. Following the model of perfect love shown to us in Jesus, we seek to live out our faith in a way that is liberating, not limiting.



270 Peachtree St. NW, Suite 1300, Atlanta, GA 30303-1246 USA
(As of Nov. 4, 2019: 285 Peachtree Center Ave. NE, Suite 2700, Atlanta, GA 30303)
(800) HABILITAT or (229) 924-6935 info@habitat.org habitat.org