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Act 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

MBT NMC Booklet

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Services:

First Service 9-10:25
Second Service: 10:45-12:10
Tuesday Prayer: 7:00-8:30pm
Jr. and Sr. High Classes meet first service
College and Young Adults (CAYA) second service
Adult Sunday Fellowships meet first and second service
Spanish Class: Second Service

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The New Member's Class (NMC) is designed to teach perspective members of MBT who we are, what we do, how we do it, and Biblical expectations of a new testament church member from God's Word.

The class will run Sunday morning from 9-12:15, and then Tuesday night from 7-8:30. Those who decide to join the church will be introduced on April 15th. Whichever main service you attend, or plan to attend will be the one in which we introduce you.

Schedule:

Sunday April 8th:

- 9:00-9:30 Introductions
- 9:30-10:15 Teaching session #1: Who We Are
- 10:15-10:30 Discussion
- 10:30-10:45 Break
- 10:45-11:30 Teaching Session #2: What We Do
- 11:30-11:45 Discussion
- 11:45-12:15 Particular Topics: Baptism, dealing with conflict, what we

believe, etc.

Tuesday April 10th:

- 5:30-7:00 Tuesday Night Meal—come eat with the MBT Family
(Come and Go, you do not have to be there at 5:30)
- 7:00-7:15 Review
- 7:15-8:00 Teaching Session #3: How We Do It
- 8:00-8:15 Discussion
- 8:15-8:30 "Paperwork"

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Intro: Genesis 1.

_____ Will and Plan

_____ Will and Plan

_____ Mission

_____ Mission

Most Christians try to fit _____ into _____ will and plans, as if _____ is one of many pieces in their puzzle of _____ life. Instead, we need to put _____ lives within _____ will and plan like a piece added to _____ puzzle.

MBT is a church that _____ to fulfill the mission of God. We are not a church that has _____ the mission of God to what we do (we were doing the mission before we became a church). God has blessed this!

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Teaching Session #1: Who We Are at MBT We are Saved Bible-believers on a Mission.

- A. Saved:
1. Global Church: All those who are _____ Acts 2:47, Eph 5:30, Matt 16:18. What does it mean to be saved?
 2. Local Church: Acts 8:1, Rom. 16:1. Many books of Bible are to local churches. The majority of references to “church” in the Bible are to local churches. The local church is organized by God to be the functional unit of the global church.
 3. The church is us. (1 Co 12:27)
 - a. We are the church--
 - b. There is no “_____!”
 - c. We do not go to church.
 - d. The church is not a _____.
 - e. The church is not a _____.
- B. Bible Believers
1. We have a _____ position in God’s Word.
 2. This means we believe:
 - a. The Bible is God’s Word. 2 Ti 3:16
 - b. It is inspired. 2 Ti 3:16
 - c. It is preserved. Psa 12:6-7,
 - d. It is our final authority. It is to change us (humanity), we are not to change it (like rationalistic critics do). Prov 22:19-21, Rev 22:18-20. So, if there is something I do not understand, it is because I do not understand, not because the Bible is wrong!
 - e. Our faith based position and manuscript evidence lead us to use the KJV or R.V (Spanish) because they are Texus Receptus based scriptures.
 - f. Listen to “Why the King James Bible” under the audio series on mbtkc.org for more info (there is a lot there).
 3. Our goal this morning in simple: To see what the _____ regarding church membership. (Is there anything else we need to know about church membership...?) Everybody needs this because knowing what the Bible gives us what we need so:
 - a. We can be obedient.
 - b. We can be like-minded.

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- c. We will be _____ (will not have unmet expectations. Frustrations come from unmet expectations.)

C. On a Mission: We are here to _____.

- i. You have (the church has) a purpose. (Matt 28:18-20)

1. *60 Million copies of Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren (2013 data). #1 selling hardback book in American History according to Publisher's Weekly. (Christians, in general, do not know their purpose!)*

...So far: The church is you with a purpose. We do not do things _____ the church. We do things _____ the church! We function together according to His gifting (1 Co 12:7).

2. *God gave the mission of disciple-making to his church. Matt 28:18-20.*

3. *MBT started as a group left the comfortable for the uncomfortable to make disciples in a different part of our city. From our very beginning, the mission has been to make disciples.*

- ii. The philosophy:

- a. "Go, and Reproduce": Gen 1:28: We are to reproduce His image and replenish the earth with it. Gen 9:1-3: Noah had same mission. Gen 12:1-4: Same with Abraham--blessed to bless all the families of the earth. Matt. 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, etc

- b. Our structure is set up for this.

- c. Everything we do as a church is for the purpose of fulfilling the mission God has given us.

- b. Discuss: An individual who joins a church becomes a member of that church just as a body part is a member of the body. Although each body part is different, all the body parts must be committed to doing that which the body is doing. Likewise, individual members of a church will have different gifts and functions, but they must all be willing to be a part of what the body is doing. What does that mean for those who God is adding to MBT?

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Session 2: What We Do

I. Session 2: What We Do: Philosophy of Discipleship:

A. Discipleship is the mission, not a _____ or a program.

1. The Mission: Preach gospel to the lost, disciple those who respond. Part of their discipleship is that they will reproduce themselves. That they will become disciple makers who will make disciples, who will _____ . 2 Ti 2:2, 15.
2. "Every Member a Minister" Members are responsible to do the mission of the church.

1. *Isn't that the pastor's job? _____ . Having faith in God's Word to change people, and for Holy Spirit to be the teacher allows for members to disciple other members. Heb 4:12, John 17:17; 1 Cor. 2.*

2. *Biblical Expectations of a member:*

1. _____ (Matt 18:20, 1 Cor 5:4, Jude 1:19, Heb 10:25)
 2. _____ (Eph 4:11-16, 2 Ti 3:16-17, Tit 2:3-4, Col 3:10, Rom 12:2)
 3. _____ (service, ministry, and financial giving) (Rom 12:1, Eph 2:10, 1 Cor 12). See Appendix 6 for financial giving.
 4. _____ (Eph 4:11-16)
3. Multiplication through Reproduction is how discipleship occurs. (in contrast to addition).
 4. Strategically, we are trusting God to be a disciple-making, leadership-equipping, sending church. A factory, not a warehouse.

B. Examples: Living Faith Tampa, Living Faith Lee's Summit, Fyffes, etc.

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C. Discussion: Discuss this statement, “The church cannot become an end unto itself.” Gen 1:28, Gen 9:1-3, Gen 12:1-4, Matt. 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, etc. We are to reproduce His image and replenish the earth with it. Adam and Noah had same mission. Same with Abraham--blessed to bless all the families of the earth. Contrast Gen 11:1-5 with the above. Does a discipleship philosophy of ministry look more like Gen 11:1-5 or Matt 28:18-20?

Session 3: How We Do It

I. Session 3: How We Do It:

Strategic deliberation has led us to set up the structure we have in place so we can be a Disciple-making, Leadership-Equipping, Sending Church. This is how we can best make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.

A. We want to be a “Disciple-Making _____”, not a “Christian _____”. We desire to have an open front door and an open back door. (Review last week if this isn’t familiar). New believers that we have won to Christ come in the front door, a few years later we want to send them back out as mature equipped disciple makers to reproduce this work somewhere else.

B. We have an equipping ministry so our members can learn to study the Bible for themselves:

1. **COD:** An introductory class that meets Sunday Mornings at MBT.
2. **D1:** A life-changing categorical study of God’s Word using 18 lessons. Those who have been through the course leads another through.
3. **D2:** A 2 semester group class that goes deeper into our identity as believers.
4. **Living Faith Bible Institute (LFBI):** An institute with 2 year and 4 year courses of study as well as continuing education for pastors and missionaries

C. Leadership Training Occurs on Service and Ministry Training on Teams.

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1. We minister in teams and are always training leaders. As the work of the ministry gets done, the leadership training gets done, and as the leadership training gets done, the work of the ministry gets done.

2. Some of our Service/Ministry Teams include:
 - a) *Cleaning Teams*
 - b) *Small group Bible Studies--we have these all over the metro*
 - c) *Kidtown*
 - d) *Jr. High and Sr. High Classes*
 - e) *College and Young Adult Class (CAYA)*
 - f) *Connections Teams:*
 - (1) Transportation
 - (2) Security
 - (3) Ushering/Hospitality
 - (4) Kitchen/Cafe
 - (5) Altar/Baptism
 - (6) TNM
 - g) *Spanish Class*
 - h) *Praise Band*
 - i) *Gospel Choir*
 - j) *New Member's Class*
 - k) *Mom's Group*
 - l) *Tuesday night meal team*
 - m) *Discipleship Team (leadership team that coordinates this ministry)*

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II. How is this managed?

A. Through Biblical Principles

B. Our leaders are _____ as they learn the Bible for themselves (2 Ti 2:15) and do the work of the ministry. They are _____ through the application of our Biblical principles.

C. Our principles are listed below. See the Appendix for additional explanation.

1. We are a House of Prayer
2. We are always Making Disciples.
3. We have a Final Authority—The Word of God.
4. Our members are Accountable in the Word.
5. Our Members Engage in Ministry Service--"There is no they".
6. Our leaders are Servant Leaders.
7. We are always Training Leaders.
8. We Protect Unity.
9. We Minister in Light of Spiritual Realities.

III. Discuss what things you think a mature disciple-maker would need to be able to know and to do in order to go out on a disciple-making team to reproduce this ministry elsewhere. Then discuss what they could do in order to get equipped/enabled at MBT.

IV. Make sure room is safe, clean, and ready for the next group that will use the room.

Act 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. Act 2:47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

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Appendices:

- Appendix 1 How to Join the Church
- Appendix 2 Our Statement of Beliefs
- Appendix 3 Dealing with Interpersonal Problems in the Church
- Appendix 4 Our Ministry Principles
- Appendix 5: R.S.O. Contract: How we deal with this reality.
- Appendix 6: Biblical Giving: The Tithe

Appendix 1: How To Join the Church:

The way to join a church is through baptism, however, sometimes it is complicated because people are coming from somewhere else. So, there are three ways to join MBT:

1. Baptism: If you have never been baptized by immersion after salvation, then this is for you. By getting baptized you are making a public testimony of your faith in Christ and can join the church through this symbolic act of obedience. If you are unsure about your baptism, then getting re-baptized is the simplest way to join the church.
2. Letter of Transfer: If you are a member of a like-minded church, and have been Biblically baptized in the past, you do not have to get baptized again. We can simply transfer your membership from that church to this one. So you will be joining by letter of transfer. We will need your previous church's name and address so we can contact them and ask for a letter of transfer of membership.
3. Statement of Faith: If you have been Biblically baptized, but are not coming from a different church from whom we cannot get records of membership then you can join by "stating your faith". Basically, you are stating that you are born again, have been Biblically baptized, understand and agree with the Biblical expectations of a NT church member, and agree with the church's teachings.

During the worship service we will briefly introduce the new members to the church. The introduction should be a great encouragement to the rest of the church body. It will go something like this,

"Please welcome _(Your name here--Bob for now)_ to our church body. Bob will be growing in the Word by starting Directions. He will be serving on the cleaning team. He plans to focus on the evangelism ministry and is already involved in the basketball ministry."

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Appendix 2: What We Believe:

Scripture

We believe all Scripture was given by inspiration of God **2 Tim 3:16** and God has promised to preserve every jot and tittle of what He inspired **Mat 5:18**. We hold to the Authorized Version (King James Bible) as the inerrant standard for English speaking people and believe we find within it the certainty of the words of truth. **Prov 22:20,21**

Trinity

We believe in one true God who is manifest in three eternal Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit **1 John 5:7 Matthew 3:16,17 28:19**

Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is fully God and the current, earthly manifestation of God through His indwelling of the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ **1 Corinthians 3:16 John 16:7**, and that He seals the believer and baptizes (immerses) him into the Body of Christ at the moment of salvation **1 Corinthians 12:13** with the goal of teaching God's Word and conforming the believer to the very image of Christ **Eph 1:3-14 1 Cor 2:9-16 2 Cor 3:17,18**. We believe all spiritual blessings are received at the time of salvation **Eph 1:3**, the Spirit gives gifts to every believer as He (the Spirit) wills so the believer might effectively communicate the love of Christ **1 Cor 12-13 Eph 4:11-16**.

Satan

We believe Satan is a real, historical being, a fallen cherub who was lifted up in pride and rebelled against God, leading an army of angelic beings with him **Isa 14:12-17**. His defeat was sealed by the work of Christ on the cross **Heb 2:14**. His final destiny is the lake of fire **Revelation 20:10**.

Adam and Eve

We believe the **Genesis** account of creation is historical, not allegorical or figurative. We believe Adam was an historical person, created by the direct act of God and in His image **Genesis 1-2**. Adam chose to sin against God through the free will God gave him and reaped the wages of death. As the originator of the human race, Adam passed his sinful nature to all mankind **Romans 5:12**. All men are sinners by birth and become sinners in experience **Romans 3** for which the wages are death **Romans 6:23**

Salvation

We believe salvation is by God's grace alone on the basis of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross and in His resurrection, appropriated by the faith of anyone who will recognize that his sin separates him from God, turn from his sin to God by personally believing in his heart that Jesus is risen, and confess with his mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord **Eph 2:8,9 Rom 10:9,10**. We believe the act of salvation is just as definite and decisive as physical birth **John 3:1-7**. We believe this salvation cannot be reversed or lost and believers are kept by the power of God **John 10:28,29 1 John 2:19 Rom 8:35-39 1 Peter 1:5**.

The Church

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We believe the local assembly of believers (church) is God's instrument in the age. While all genuine, born-again believers in Christ share an organic, family relationship, the overwhelming number of references of the word "church" in the bible apply to a local, visible assembly of believers **Acts 14:23 Eph 1:22,23 4:11-16 1Tim 3:1-13**. At the Second Coming of Christ, all genuine believers from the time of Christ's ascension will be united together as the Body of Christ **1The 4:13-18 Rev 19:7,8 21:2**. Until then, it is the responsibility of each local church to continue in evangelism, discipleship, and missions both independently and interdependently **Mat 28:18-20**. We believe each local assembly should be as self-governing, self-supporting, and self-propagating as possible, practicing the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Table and operating under the leadership of those who hold the office of pastor (also known as "bishop" or "elder") and assisted by those who hold the office of deacon **Mat 28:18-20 1Cor 11:23-34 1Tim 3:1-13 1Pet 5:1-4 Heb 13:17**. We believe every member of the local church has the responsibility to minister the Word of God and support the ministry through prayer, holy living, tithes, and offerings **1Cor 16:2 Mal 3:10 Acts 2:41-47 4:34-37 13:1-42Cor 8:7**

The Return of Christ

We believe in the literal, physical return of Jesus Christ to the earth in power and great glory to judge the world and reign **Acts 1:11 2The 1:7-10**. We believe shortly before Christ's Second Coming, all genuine believers will be raptured out to meet the Lord in the air **1The 4:13-18 1Cor 15:51,52** followed by a seven year period of tribulation on earth during which time God will judge His people Israel and all without Christ **1Thes 1:10, 5:1-11 Mat 24**. That period of tribulation will be ended by Christ's personal return to rule for a thousand years **Rev 20:1-6 Mat 25:31-46**.

Judgment

We believe all men will spend eternity either with Christ or eternally separated from Him. We believe the lost who die wait in a literal Hell for the day of final judgment where they will be punished in a literal lake of fire **Rev 20:11-15**. We believe those who have accepted Christ as Savior will experience a bodily resurrection to everlasting life **1The 4:13-18 1Cor 15:51-58**.

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Appendix 3: Dealing with Interpersonal Conflicts within Church. Matt 18.

Conflict is a reality. Any time there are people, there will be conflict. Because the church is “people”, we will have conflict within the church. Our main focus when there is conflict, is not, “Who is right and who is wrong?” (2 Ti 2:24-26), but rather, “Let’s not let the Devil use this to derail what God is doing.” We must be willing to forbear one another for the sake of the mission. The Devil cannot stop us (Matt 16:18), but if he can get you to quit, he wins! Think about this for a minute. Read Eph 4:1-14 and see how our unity through forbearance eventually keeps us from our cunning and crafty enemy who is trying to deceive us.

Here are steps to take when conflict arises. Consider carefully the Biblical instructions before starting the process of involving others. Eventually it must either be resolved or brought before the church. Make sure it is worth the fuss. It is usually better to just let it go and forgive and forbear.

1. Try to forgive and forbear. Read Col. 3:12-13.
2. If you cannot, tell the other person that you are “doing Matt 18.” Follow the guidance of Matt 18:15-17:
3. Go to the person and deal with the trespass, try to work it out. Focus on the trespass and not your feelings. (No malice).
4. If you cannot work it out, take it to the next level and take two or three others with you and again try to work it out. Get leaders/elders (not peers).
5. If it still cannot be worked out, take it to the “church level”: This will require 3 or more elders at 6 pm Tuesday night (we are house of prayer). If you are not willing to take it to this level, then forbear and forgive. Let it go and go make disciples.

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Appendix 4: Our Ministry Principles

9 Guiding Ministry Principles of MBT

At Midtown, we have principles from God's Word that help us make right decisions in our areas of service and ministry. All of our services and ministries should adhere to these simple yet powerful principles. Doing so will keep us focused. Staying focused as we grow and serve is of great importance for us as individuals as well as corporately as a church. Many people and churches have lost sight of mission God has given to them. We hope to avoid this--these principles will help. Not only will our principles help us to stay focused on making disciples, they will help us to be accountable, praying, studying our Bibles, humble, and unified. That sounds like church God would bless, doesn't it? The principles are not designed to limit you; rather, they should enable you. We have been given a mission to make disciples, plant churches and send out missionaries, so training up leaders to "go" is a big focus for MBT. As leaders develop, they need to be able to minister without having to get every little decision checked off by a pastor or leader. Basically, we want your ministry to be run by principles, not run by some person's approval. There will always be things that should be discussed with a leader or pastor-- We are always here to help and are not trying to discourage proper and frequent communication. However, most decisions can and should be made by ministry leaders based on our 9 guiding principles.

For example, let's say that you would like to start a community Bible study and you are trying to choose what night to hold it. You have Tuesday and Thursday nights available. You do not need to ask anybody about this. Based on our first principle ("We are a House of Prayer"), you would pick Thursday for your Bible study because Tuesday night is our corporate prayer ministry, and because we prioritize this, you do not want to set up a competing agenda for Tuesday nights. That is a simple example, but it illustrates how the principle allows you to make a decision in how to move forward in ministry. Look again at principle #1. How else will this principle effect your decisions on your Bible study? Consider:

You will want to have the church body praying for your Bible study. So you will need to coordinate that.

You will need to make prayer a regular part of your Bible Study.

You will want to encourage all the members of your Bible study to attend corporate prayer (our Tuesday night prayer meetings).

You will need to teach on and promote prayer in those on your leadership team as well as those attending the study.

As you move forward in your faith and your service and leadership expands within the church, these principles become more "real" as you consider such things as in the example above. With continued

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application they will become second nature as you learn to discern properly using the principles of the Word of God to make decisions (Heb. 5:14)

The other thing these principles do for us is to keep us “within bounds”. The church has the responsibility to keep its priorities right, its ministers humble and selfless, and its doctrine pure. Our principles will also help protect us from some of the common pitfalls of leadership as we all submit to the boundaries they provide. They will also help protect the church body from “wolves in sheep’s clothing” that would sneak in for their own selfish ambitions.

As you read and familiarize yourself with these principles, consider what MBT will look like as these principles are lived out in all our services and ministries.

1. We are a House of Prayer

When Jesus saw that the religious leaders had made the synagogue into something other than a house of prayer, he overthrew their tables and ran them out! (Matt. 21) The Bible’s teaching on corporate prayer is clear (see mbtkc.org for audio teaching/resources on this). God expects us to pray in unity for the mission he has given us. He then answers prayer, moving us along in his power and provision. We are wonderfully dependant on God for all we have done, are doing, and will do. As we continue to move forward, we must have God’s hand of blessing upon us, or we labor in vain (Psalm 127). That is one reason why MBT will always prioritize corporate prayer. Stick around and you will hear, “Tuesday night is the most important service of the week.”--This says a lot. Some practical examples of this principle include:

- MBT members pray when they meet.
- We make corporate prayer ministry a priority in everything we do.
- We will keep an attitude/awareness of desperate dependence on God for all that we do.

2. We are always Making Disciples.

God has made a way for us to have a right relationship with him through Jesus Christ (John 1:12, Rom. 5:1). Once we have a right relationship, he begins to conform us to the image of Jesus Christ (Col 3:10). As we become more Christ-like, we become more focused on the mission of reproducing this in others. (2 Ti. 2:2). The church is all about this cycle of evangelism, spiritual growth, and reproduction. We see this all throughout scripture, but often point to Matt. 28:18-20 as the “Great Commission.” We have accepted this mission from God as our mission. We summarize God’s mission for the church into “Making Disciples.” (Matt. 28:18-20). The many varied ministries of MBT are all in some way involved in this all-important mission. In fact, it is what we are all about! Instead of growing into a great big church, we hope to multiply this ministry by planting churches that will do the same. It is an exciting vision that makes MBT an exciting place to serve and grow.

Like many churches, we are a busy. In fact we are very busy. A common problem for busy churches is to be so focused on ministry activity that they lose sight of the mission! We deliberately attempt to avoid this (which is why we have this guiding principle...) by staying focused on the mission God has given us. For example, we encourage those in ministry at MBT to review their ministry activities making sure that they can describe clearly and simply how their activities are part of “making disciples”. You should be encouraged that we are a church where the time, treasure, and talents you invest will be used by God in furthering his kingdom, not just “busyness.”

3. We have a Final Authority—The Word of God.

At MBT we trust in God’s Word as our ultimate authority. We believe that The Holy Spirit will reveal truth to us as we study the Bible (1 Co. 2:10). In today’s culture, many do not seem to believe this. They have made man, not God’s Word their authority. You may wonder, “How has this happened?” Excellent question--See the “Why KJV?” series on the website for a thorough overview. At MBT the Bible,

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not the pastors or teachers, is the gold standard of truth in all matters of doctrine and practice. Our job is to study it and live it, not to tear it apart with human logic and doubting criticism. Basically, the Bible is to change us (Rom 12:2, John 17:17, 1 Th. 2:12-13), we are not to change it (Rev 22:18-19, 1 Co 1:19-2:5). Feel free to bring whatever Bible translation or paraphrase you want to MBT, and do not worry about what anyone else is reading (No "Bible Version Police" please), but in order to prevent confusion and to maintain a firm stance on the historical "faith position" in God's Word, we will teach from the incomparable KJV in English and the Reina Valera in Spanish.

· MBT members use the KJV (English) or Reina Valera (Spanish) translations for all teaching ministries. These are *Textus Receptus* based Scripture. Please review the teaching on the website regarding this important topic.

4. Our members are Accountable in the Word.

Accountability is when I have my brothers and sisters in Christ helping me stay faithful in some area. Because we are spiritual beings and the Bible is our spiritual nourishment and the key to our spiritual growth (1 Pe 2:2), we are serious about studying it (we would anyway because we are commanded to study it--2 Ti 2:15). Anyway, we want to stay accountable in the Word (Col 3:16, 1 Th. 5:11). Accountability in the Word does not mean I nag others about how many chapters in the Bible they read that week, but rather, I stay involved in some aspect of Bible study with others in the Body of Christ. This will be wonderfully edifying to you and to others (1 Co 14:31). It may be preparing a lesson for Kidtown, or taking or teaching Directions, or a community Bible study such as a SOT group. If this is new to you, jump in! Regular Bible study with your brothers and sisters in Christ is a life-changing exercise that you will learn to cherish. If this is not new to you, be grateful you have others to study and grow with--they are grateful to have you! Picture a church where all members are involved in some way in Bible study with each other. Now picture the stereotypical cultural church where many members do not regularly study the Word. Which church do you think is approved unto God? *Hint:* 2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

· Directions, Bible studies, an on-going and regular teaching assignment (Kidtown, Circuit Rider Ministry, Nursing home, Celebrate Recovery, SOT, Counseling etc...), are all excellent ways to stay accountable in God's Word. If you have not been through Directions, try starting there.

5. Our Members Engage in Ministry Service.

*"I do not know why **they** do it that way, I think **they** should..."*

Here is a description of how "church" works in a lot of places: The church staff is expected to do all the work of the ministry while the congregants all get to show up and act as critics. The problem with this model is that it is unbiblical (and little real work will ever get done). 1Co 12:27 tells us, "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." And also in verse 18 of the same chapter, "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him".

Considering that God has made us to be, and calls us to be the differing members of a body allows us to have a right perspective of how the church should operate. Just like our physical bodies must have all its members (body parts) functioning as they are designed to function in order for the body to work right, the local church must have all its members functioning as they are gifted to function. 1 Co 12:7 tells us that every believer is gifted to profit the rest of the body.

This means that you have been gifted by God (1 Co 12:7) and placed in this local church (1 Co 12:18) in order for you to serve God and be a part of furthering His kingdom through service to the church (1 Co 12:7). We greatly encourage this at Midtown. This principle "Our members Engage in Ministry Service" is one way we help keep a biblical perspective on the way the local church should function. You will find great fulfillment in joining us by using the gifts God has given you. You are not only invited to jump in and get busy, but we say that you are Biblically instructed to do so. It will be challenging, but good.

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We function in teams, so after prayerfully considering how God has gifted you, seek out the team leader in that area to see how you can get started in the ministry of MBT. Be patient though, even though you are gifted, nobody gets to start out as team leader. It may take some time for you to get used to the way the team works. There is no they.

- There is no “them” only “us” - each must take responsibility for the needs of the church. We are not a church that separates membership and staff.
- Leaders will draft for, encourage, train and focus members in ministry.

6. Our leaders are Servant Leaders.

Leadership is a good and necessary thing that God establishes for the benefit of the church (Eph 4:11-13). Like all churches, we have leaders and are continually training up new ones. Leadership for a follower of Jesus Christ doesn't mean that you get to boss everybody else around, but rather you will serve others (Matt 20:26). The apostle Paul had this attitude (Phi 2:17), so did Peter (1 Pe 5:3). So did Jesus for that matter (Matt 20:28). So we are going to do the same. Those who seek leadership in the church seek a good thing (1 Ti 3:1), but be ready to serve, not be served. Moving forward in leadership requires dying to self and thinking of others first. The further you move up in leadership, the more selflessness will be required. Eventually, as Sam says, “You will never get your way”. Do not be afraid of selfless leadership though, be afraid of a limiting selfishness.

7. We are always Training Leaders.

MBT is committed to training leaders. We will do this through the structure of our ministry teams. All our teams have been charged with training leaders. In our teams everyone should work to be a mentor, and everybody should have a mentor as well. This is modeled in the Bible by Paul and Timothy's relationship. We say we should all have a “Paul” as well as a “Timothy”.

Training leaders is not just one more activity to add to a list of ministry activities, rather we train as the team serves. As the training takes place, the work of the ministry is getting done; As the work of the ministry is getting done, training is taking place.

One main motivation for training leaders is that we believe God has called us to plant churches and send out missionaries. Considering that some of us will be sent out, who will train them up to lead when they go? And who will take their place here when they leave? The answer is that we will train up “Timothys” and be trained by our “Pauls” so that whether we are sent, or take the place of one who goes, we are ready with sufficient leadership in place. We hope one of those leaders will be you.

8. We Protect Unity. Eph 4:1-10, Ps 133, etc...

Unity within the body of Christ is a beautiful thing (Ps 133:1) that originates from our one Lord (Eph 4:1-10). It brings anointing (Ps 133:2), strength (Matt 12:25, Ecc 4:12), and an empowered witness to our church (John 17:21). Unity should be the norm for mature believers who seek to have the “mind of Christ” as described in Philippians 2:1-8.

Unity is also under attack. You do not have to look too far to see examples of this. Churches are splitting or dividing over arguments all the time (1 Co 1:10-11). Many churches are powerlessly struggling because of the division within the body (1 Co 11:18-30). The enemy causes division through prideful contentions that are rooted in selfish human carnality (Pro 13:10). To prevent this, we must actively protect the unity we have in Christ.

Deliberately protecting unity means we do not gossip or spread rumors. We must communicate expectation, issues, needs etc... clearly, frequently, and Biblically. In the absence of good communication there is a danger of divisive speculation. Good communication is the key to staying on the same page together in ministry.

As a rule we only communicate problem issues up the leadership chain. We communicate problem issues “laterally” (to peers, friends, etc) – in confidence and only when necessary for counsel, biblical accountability, and prayer. Matt. 18:15-17 gives us parameters for how to go to a brother or sister (if you feel you must) when you have been offended. Division, in attitude or action, is always addressed.

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The attitude: “Everyone else is better than me.” Phil 2:1-10 (taking the wrong, forgiveness, erring on the side of grace, etc...) will keep us Christ-like in our attitudes toward each other and will protect our unity.

9. We Minister in Light of Spiritual Realities.

Some foremost examples: God is with us (Matt 1:23, 28:20) and the devil seeks to destroy us (1 Pe 5:8), etc...

Sometimes we get so focused on what we are doing that we forget the most basic and most important spiritual truths. The problem with this is that we are in danger of reacting out of discouragement, doubt, or fear if we lose sight of the fact that God is with us! For example, despite the clear teachings of scripture that we will have sufferings (Rom 8:18), hardness (2 Ti 2:3), and persecutions (2 Ti 3:12), Christians sometimes seem flabbergasted when things become difficult for them (1 Pe 4:12). Of course things get difficult--we are part of a spiritual battle for the souls of men! Yet sometimes we lose sight of the big picture when we cannot see past our situations, don't we?

The accusing liar, the Devil, is trying to get us to quit. Never forget that! Keeping in mind that God is with us (Matt 1:23, 28:20) and the devil seeks to destroy us (1 Pe 5:8) will help us to move forward in diligent faith to do what God has tasked MBT. It is of great encouragement to know that greater is He that is within us, than he that is in the world.

The bottom line – we must always be moving forward in ministry together in light of what the Word of God reveals as the practical spiritual realities around us.

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Appendix 5: The RSO Contract. R.S.O.s are in essentially every church. They can be born-again, redeemed men or women of God who sincerely wish to serve Him with their lives. But the church also has the responsibility to protect the body from harm. All our parents need to know how we deal with this issue, and all RSO's must sign and live by our RSO contract to be members or attenders at MBT. Please read the RSO contract provided as part of the class today.

Appendix 6: Biblical Giving: The Tithe

A. Common Questions regarding financial giving:

1. Imagine the following system: God says, "When it comes to your finances, whenever you receive any income of any sort, just give me what is reasonable in light of who I am and what I have done for you." What percentage of "your money" would be enough? If you gave 90% of your income in that scenario, is God getting all he deserves? Are you getting what you deserve? (see Rom 6:23 if you are not following me here). The tithe is a merciful gift that allows us to be obedient and support the mission He has given us and act in faith without feeling bad about the fact that I could never give Him what he deserves!
2. What do the terms tithe, offerings, and sacrificial giving mean?
 - a) **Tithe:** The tithe is regular giving to support the normal functioning of the church (1 Cor 16:1-2, Ex 23:16-19, Deut 26:2). The tithe is basic obedience.
 - b) **Offerings:** Giving above the tithe for things such as missions or building projects. Mature Christians typically give offerings regularly as they are moved by God to play a role in the mission in a specific way. (2 Cor 8:1-14, 9:1-7, 11-17)
 - c) **Sacrificial giving:** While all giving is a self sacrifice, the Bible describes another level of giving. This is basically "charity"—A Christ-like self- sacrificial giving that is truly costs us something. Our lives are to be living sacrifices (Rom 12:1-2), Our finances can be as well. (Php 4:18, Mark 12:41-44, Eph 5:2)
3. "Isn't the tithe OT law?"

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No, the tithe did not originate with the law. Gen 14:20, 28:22.

Because the tithe did not originate with the law, it did not end with the law. It is a Biblical principle. The Bible reveals to me that I have a better testament – surely I can do better under God’s grace than I ever could under the law! That is why Christians are called to a live of total SACRIFICE!

4. “Why does God want part of my money?”

He doesn’t. If it is your money, keep it. However, if you are and all you own are His, it is a small thing to give him a token tithe. Remember what we have discussed thus far: We are to be givers, not just takers. We get the mindset of – “what is this church going to do for me?” “Why should I give them my money?” This makes no sense in light of Biblical truth!

Jesus told you to carry a burden (his) and to take up a cross (his). Mark 8:34, 10:21

5. “Doesn’t God own the cattle on a thousand hills? And if so, He doesn’t need my money, so I don’t need to give, Right?”

God is all powerful and does not need our money, that is true. But the system that God set up allows us to be part of the mission through financial giving. Just as the body does the work of Christ on the earth, so does the body finance it. Php 4:17.

2Co 9:6-7 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. (7) Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver

Mal 3:7-12; God considers it robbery to not tithe and give offerings! Wow. (Also shows not just “fulfilling law—offerings included, and the reason for giving—‘that there may be meat in the house’).

It gives us a measure of where our hearts are toward God or toward self. Mat 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.