

MANSFIELD

Journey

2025



MANSFIELD
BAPTIST CHURCH

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR NEAL

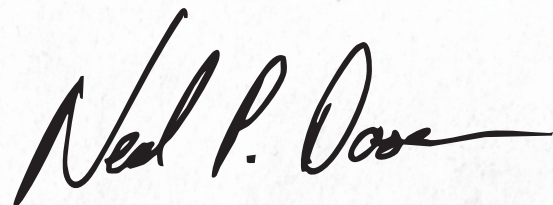
Mansfield, I love you, my family loves you & we are forever grateful for your love, support, prayers, & encouragement. As we step into 2025 together, I want to express how grateful my family and I are to walk this journey with you. On January 1, 2023 we began a new season at Mansfield Baptist Church (MBC). To say the last two years have been a whirlwind would be an understatement. I had no clue what to expect or what the future would hold in the life of our church. As I reflect on the last year, I am overwhelmed by the grace & power of God. We've witnessed God's faithfulness through baptisms, families joining our church, and countless children hearing the gospel at VBS. In every worship gathering, at The Miracle League, on mission trips & at Unified nights, God's presence has been unmistakable. I celebrate the fact that our community has come to feel the presence of Jesus through the members & ministry of our church. God has been so good to us this year & I hope you are able to see & sense His favor on our church.

In 2008 I began to pray this prayer, "Lord help me to be visionary enough to see your will & help me to be vulnerable enough to follow it." I not only pray that prayer for my life but also for our church, "Lord help us to be visionary enough to see your will & vulnerable enough to follow it." Recently I have asked the question, "Lord what would be possible in and through Mansfield if we were to seek your will, surrender to your will, & serve you & you alone?" I have attempted to answer this question, but my attempts have consistently fallen short. What might be possible? This question will be answered by the willingness of the children of God to be obedient to the call of God. I truly sense the Lord not only doing a work in our church but in our community. God's invitation is for us to do His will for the glory of His name.

I am asking and I am going to continue to ask the Lord to give us the vision for how MBC might participate in God's plan to advance His kingdom. I believe God is stirring something incredible within Mansfield, not only within our walls but beyond them. I want to invite you to begin asking and seeking the Lord as well. I want to invite you to seek the Lord in your own personal life. Imagine what might be possible if each of us committed to deeper prayer and greater surrender to God's leading in 2025. What might be possible in and through your life and the life of the church if we sought and surrendered to the will of God?

I want to close with something I heard recently that excited me and challenged me for the upcoming year. "If ever there was a time, in the crazy, broken, beautiful, wonderful, fantastic, USofA for those who have come to the cross of Christ and have knelt down and have been transformed by the power of the spirit, **if there ever was a moment and a time surely it is this moment and this time to go out and lovingly, kindly, imaginatively, creatively, and crazily say to people I've got a really good friend and I would love to introduce you to him if you would be interested.** Then you can just tell them about Jesus, mighty to save." - Alistair Begg.

I am so grateful for how we have seen the Lord use our church & I am excited for the ways He will continue to use us in our faithfulness. The journey isn't over; there is more work to be done, more people to share Christ with and more Christ followers to shape. As we enter this new year, let's be a church that actively responds to His call. Mansfield, you are not just sent — you are sent with purpose! You are Sent to Share Christ & Shape Christ Followers in the midst of a world in desperate need!



1 KINGS 2:3-4

MISSION

We exist to **SHARE CHRIST** and **SHAPE CHRIST** followers

DISCIPLE

At MBC we believe a disciple is a **CHRIST FOLLOWER** who grows in love and loyalty to the gospel of Jesus Christ and teaches others to do the same.

GUIDING VALUES



LOVE AUTHENTICALLY

We strive to love God and love others, living out the gospel in every relationship. This love reflects Christ's own selfless and redemptive love for us (John 13:34-35).



FORMED BIBLICALLY

The Bible is our ultimate authority, guiding us to grow in Christlikeness (2 Timothy 3:16-17).



GIVE SACRIFICIALLY

We joyfully give of our time, talent, and treasure for the glory of God and the good of others. Reflecting the generosity of Jesus, we embrace a spirit of sacrifice in all we do (2 Corinthians 9:7-8).



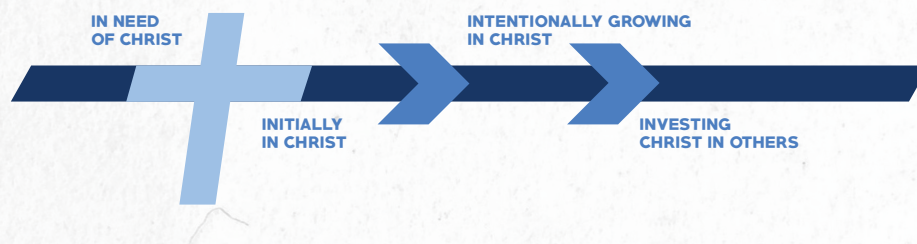
ADVANCE THE KINGDOM

We are called to live on mission, sharing the hope of the gospel and making disciples in our homes, community, and to the ends of the earth. With bold faith, we seek to bring the light of Christ to all nations (Acts 1:8).

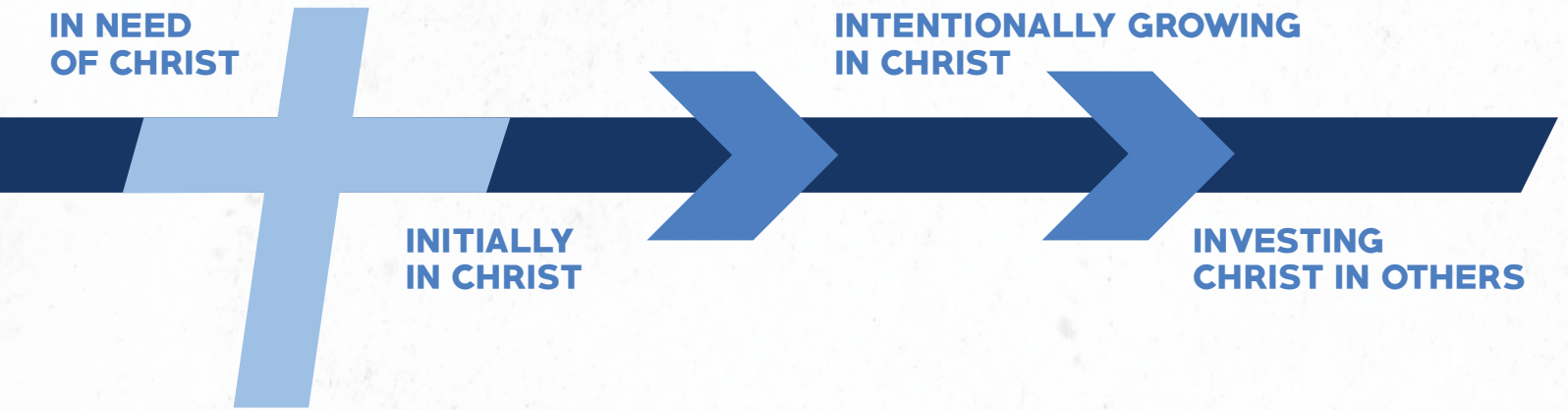
DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

Sharing and Shaping Christ followers means helping people identify and take their right next step on the discipleship pathway.

We are all on a discipleship journey. Where are you on the discipleship pathway? Where do you want to end? What is your right next step? How do you plan to move to the right next step?



THE PATHWAY



IN NEED OF CHRIST

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

- In need of Jesus as Savior
- Romans 3:23-24, 6:23, 10:9, Ephesians 2:8-9

INITIALLY IN CHRIST

- Received Jesus as Savior
- Baptized
- Loves Authentically
- Join and engage in life of local church
- Beginning to be formed Biblically

INTENTIONALLY GROWING IN CHRIST

- Consistent in Personal Devotion, Worship, and Serving
- Growing in guiding values
- Consistent in group life
- Give Sacrificially
- Sharing Christ
- Praying

INVESTING CHRIST IN OTHERS

- Intentionally growing in Christ
- Shaping other Christ Followers
- Serving from giftedness
- Praying for others
- Sharing Christ with those in need of Christ

GOSPEL, PRACTICES, AND ADVANCEMENT

HOW WILL WE EFFECTIVELY SHARE CHRIST AND SHAPE CHRIST FOLLOWERS?

MBC believes the best way to accomplish our mission is to create a discipleship culture that will drive the mission, guiding values, and spiritual formation to make disciples. We define a disciple as a Christ follower who grows in love and loyalty to the gospel of Jesus and teaches others to do the same. The process or strategy to make disciples is simply called discipleship. Discipleship is investing the gospel of Jesus Christ that has been entrusted to us into other faithful Christ followers (2 Timothy 2:2 .) At MBC, our strategy of spiritual formation uses the three essential gears of discipleship: Gospel, Practice, and Advancement.

When these three gears work together simultaneously, there is great movement for the Christ Follower to take their right next step.



GOSPEL

- Believe
- Life transformation
- Articulation

PRACTICES

- Personal devotion
- Corporate worship
- Group engagement

ADVANCEMENT

- Local church
- Local community
- The nations

GOSPEL

We believe the gospel of Jesus Christ changes everything from this present life to eternity. The gospel is the good news of the abundant life provided by the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15)

BELIEVE

What a person believes matters. It shapes their worldview of how they see God, themselves, and the surrounding world. At MBC, we believe salvation from beginning to end belongs to God. The Apostle Paul writes in Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." Then in Romans 10:9 Paul says, "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." When we receive the free gift of salvation, we are infused with the power of the Holy Spirit. The same grace that saves us is the same grace that sustains us.

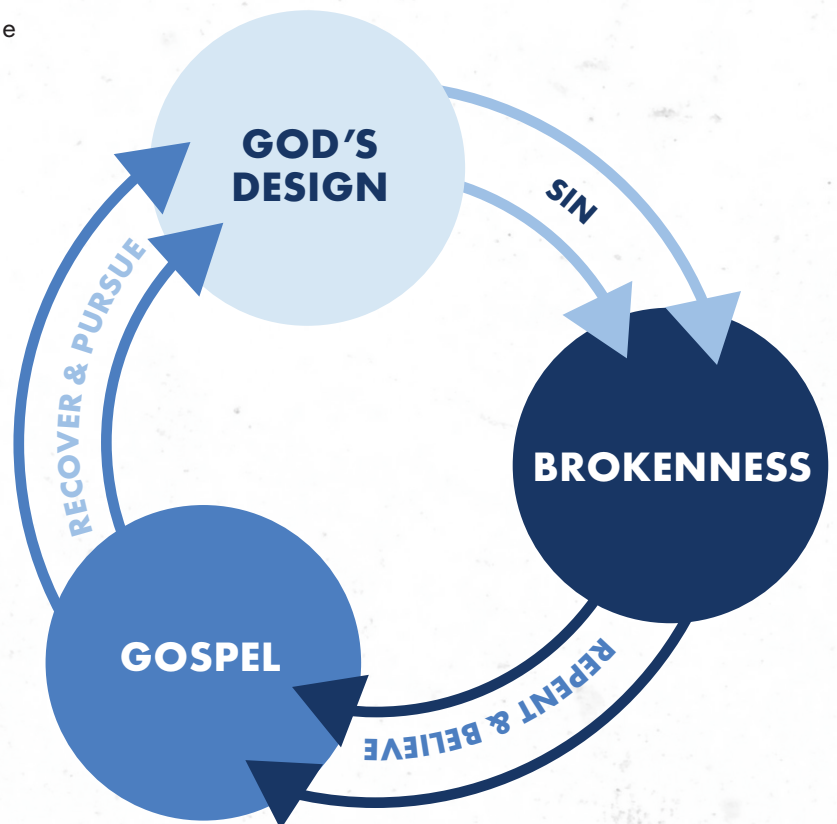
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ARTICULATION

"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" Romans 10:15 When our lives intersect the gospel and the Holy Spirit begins to transform our identity, we then get to tell others about the good news of the gospel. We have the privilege and opportunity to Share Christ to a world in need of a Savior. How can I articulate the gospel story? To the right is an amazing tool to share the good news story of Jesus Christ called the 3 Circles.

LIFE TRANSFORMATION

When we believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ we are made new, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17 Everything changes when we respond to the gospel story because God changes our identity in Christ. The gospel transforms us from the inside/out. We cannot earn this gift, yet Jesus works it out in our lives for the rest of our days. (Philippians 2:12) It produces fruit in and through our lives. The gospel leads to life transformation which leads to right practices resulting in advancing the kingdom of God.



ADAPTED FROM
[HTTPS://WWW.NAMB.NET/EVANGELISM/3CIRCLES/](https://www.namb.net/evangelism/3circles/)

PRACTICES

Spiritual practices and disciplines are a major factor in our Christian development.

We believe there are three practices that can greatly impact our spiritual formation: personal devotion, corporate worship, and group engagement. We cannot expect to respond according to the Word of God if it is not in our heart. The words of Moses to the Israelites still ring true today...

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." DEUTERONOMY 6:4-9

PERSONAL DEVOTION

- How is my Bible intake?
- Do people entrust me to pray for them?
- How often do I intentionally engage in personal time with the Lord?

Where am I in my personal discipleship pathway?

That can be a tough question to process. We all want to be further along the pathway of personal devotion. Paul's challenge to Timothy can also be applied to our faith walk as well, "If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness." **We are all responsible to train for godliness.**

GROUP ENGAGEMENT

- Am I engaged in a small group community?
- What can I offer to others with my availability?
- Am I available to challenge and encourage others in their spiritual journey?

A Small Group is a community of people who commit to grow spiritually and live intentionally alongside one another in the regular rhythms of life. These groups provide the primary context for discipleship at MBC by nurturing the spiritual development of Gospel, Practices, and Advancement. Small groups are communities in similar seasons of life that are challenging and encouraging one another to take the next step in their discipleship pathway.

CORPORATE WORSHIP

- When it comes to corporate worship, do I give my first and best?
- Am I fully available?
- Am I being faithful with the time, talents, and resources the Lord has entrusted to me?

Christ loves the church and gave himself up for her. The local church is a body of Christ followers that regularly gathers for corporate worship to exalt Christ and encourage one another in the faith. Hebrews 10: 24-25 reminds us, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." We are called to be involved in the body of Christ.

ADVANCEMENT

MBC is a local community of Christ followers with the desire to advance the kingdom of God. According to Ephesians 4, we are responsible to invest and teach the gospel “to equip the saints for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ.” We want to create a culture where Christ followers long for His Word and allow it to transform their lives.

LOCAL CHURCH

- Is there a ministry team I could serve with to use my gifts in the church?
- Do you know your gifts, talents and abilities?
- Where would you like to invest your time in serving at MBC?

We gather on a regular basis to exalt Christ and encourage one another in the faith. We do this by serving others with the gifts and abilities the Lord has entrusted to us. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul challenges us with these words, “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” When we are striving together in the local church, we experience the growth of the common good. We work together to advance the kingdom of God.

THE NATIONS

- Would you be willing to take a short term mission trip in the next 24 months?
- What could you offer to the nations?
- How can you advance the kingdom to the nations?

Jesus’ command is clear: his disciples are to go and make disciples of all nations. It is easy to see our own local bubble and stop at those borders. But God has also given us a command for the nations. In Acts 1, Jesus challenged his own disciples to advance the gospel to the nations. He said, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” We live today with that same command and challenge. What if we were available to spend a little time out of our comfort zone and go to the nations?

LOCAL COMMUNITY

- How can I intentionally invest in my local community and workplace?
- Where would God like me to spend time sharing Christ in my community?
- Where can I serve with my time, talents, and resources in my local community?

As followers of Christ, we are to live on mission each day. We are sent daily for the glory of God, whether it is at the ball field or in the boardroom. Whether we are in our neighborhood or another country, living a life on mission is a message we want our people to see and experience. We live 95% of our lives outside the church walls in our local and surrounding communities. Therefore, we desire to create a culture where church members live to advance the kingdom of God in our local community.

IMPORTANT DATES

FIRST QUARTER

JANUARY

- 5 - Vision Series Kickoff
- 8 - Family Discipleship Launch
- 18-20 - Youth Winter Retreat
- 20-24 - Five Days of Prayer & Fasting
- 24-25 - Mother/Daughter Getaway
- 25 - Men's Breakfast

FEBRUARY

- 2 - Nehemiah Series Kickoff
- 7 - Night To Shine
- 28 - Youth DNOW

MARCH

- TBD - Deacon BBQ
- 28-29 - Family Weekend Experience

SECOND QUARTER

APRIL

- 13 - Easter Jam
- 18 - Good Friday Worship Night
- 20 - Easter Sunday

MAY

- 1-4 - Miracle League All Star
- 11 - Mother's Day
- 18 - Graduation Sunday
- 25 - VBS E.C.H.O.

JUNE

- 2-6 - VBS
- 15 - Father's Day
- 20-23 - Youth Summer Camp

THIRD QUARTER

JULY

- TBD - Mission Trip
- 11-13 - Centri-Kid
- 27 - Back to School Bash

AUGUST

- 3 - Ephesians Series Kickoff
- 6 - Experiencing God Launch

SEPTEMBER

- 6 - Men's Breakfast
- 7 - Grandparent's Day

FOURTH QUARTER

OCTOBER

- TBD - Fall Break Mission Trip
- 31 - Halloween at Home

NOVEMBER

- 16 - OCC Packing Party
- 23 - Trinity Table
- 30 - Cookies with Santa

DECEMBER

- 1-2 OCC Trip
- 5 - Ladies Christmas Dinner
- 24 - Christmas Eve Service

RECURRING MONTHLY

H.E.A.R. - FIRST SUNDAY

OPERATION 469 - THIRD SUNDAY

UNIFIED - LAST WEDNESDAY

2024 REVIEW

GOSPEL



22

BAPTISMS

8 Adults & 14 Youth



41

NEW MEMBERS

We celebrate those who have chosen MBC as their home church to support the mission and advance the Kingdom. Each member matters as we partner together to advance the kingdom.

PRACTICES



WORSHIP SERVICE

Average attendance: 271

(43% Increase from 2023)



SMALL GROUPS

Average attendance: 164

(41% Increase from 2023)



SACRIFICIAL GIVING

2024 General Budget: \$614,400

Giving as of December 18: \$712,132

ADVANCEMENT



In order for the kingdom to advance, it requires action. As a church, we have taken action to partner with our local community and the nations to share the hope of Jesus. We are grateful for your faithfulness to **GO & GIVE** towards the advancement of the kingdom.

MISSIONS

- MBC Packed & Sent 600 Boxes to OCC
- Sent 18 members on a team to Charlotte and helped pack 150,000 boxes
- Sent 7 members on a mission team to Puerto Rico

SPECIAL NEEDS FOCUS

- 300+ Volunteers served 100+ families with Special Needs at Night To Shine
- Sponsored the Mansfield Yankees Spring and Fall Miracle League

MISSION & MINISTRY

Total is = \$116,300

- We celebrate the sacrificial giving of our church to the community and the kingdom

LOCAL MINISTRY

- Served 5 Local Schools and Teams
- Served 3344 Meals Through Backpack Buddies

NEW FOR 2025



At MBC, we are focused on helping you **grow in your discipleship journey through evangelism and family ministry.**

OPERATION 469: REACHING OUR COMMUNITY

469 lives. One mission.

WHAT: A year-long mission to share the gospel with every person in Mansfield city limits

WHEN: Third Sunday evening each month

HOW: Join us for prayer, training, and community engagement. Together, we'll knock on doors and connect with families to ensure every individual hears the Good News.

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY: SHOWING JESUS' LOVE

Serving an overlooked community.

WHAT: Launching a ministry to support families impacted by special needs

WHY: We believe every individual deserves to experience the love of Christ

HOW: Opening a sensory room, partnering in local events, and offering care through new programs:

- Miracle League Spring and Fall seasons
- Night to Shine

H.E.A.R. NIGHTS DIVE DEEPER INTO SCRIPTURE

A journey through the New Testament.

WHAT: A year long reading plan of the New Testament using the H.E.A.R model

WHEN: First Sunday evening each month

HOW: Debrief, discuss, and grow as we examine the readings and share insights. By year-end, you'll have read the entire New Testament!

FAMILY MINISTRY: STRENGTHENING YOUR HOME

Equipping families to disciple together.

WHAT: Resources and events to help you grow as a family.

HOW: Practical tools and resources for intentional family discipleship:

- Wednesday Night Book Study
- Family Weekend Experience
- Kids & Youth Retreats
- Marriage Retreat

