
DISCIPLE CONF ALUMNI TRACK

THE PASTOR AS A DISCIPLE MAKER

GOALS FOR THIS YEAR'S ALUMNI TRACK.

1. For Living Faith Fellowship pastors to gain insight into the philosophy and best practices for positioning themselves and their local churches to facilitate the work of making disciples that can go and do the same.

Objective: Winning Souls > Making Disciples > Training Leaders > Sending Proven Ministers

2. This year: To “look under the hood” of MBT to see the ministry engine structure and processes that are producing the results we are seeing. Ministry approach and philosophy.
3. To provoke the Living Faith Fellowship pastors to take topics that **1.** Are in their “wheelhouse.” *and 2.* Will help envision and encourage the rest of us to move forward in ministry as disciple making churches. There are many topics that should be developed into training that we would all benefit from receiving. *(see last page of this handout.)*

How can you be used of God to help build up and equip your brothers as LFF pastors?

BACKGROUND CONCEPTS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR OUR 2019 CONTENT.

1. **Disclaimer: I'm still figuring it all out.**

- Our goal with this Disciple Conf track is not:

2 Corinthians 10:12 For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

- If I'm going to “sell” you on the approach, you need to hear the product “testimonial!”

KEY: At MBT, we decided that any _____ would be based on Bible study,

discipleship, more Bible study, expository preaching – ALL in an environment where _____

member is being challenged, equipped, trained and deployed as a growing _____.

- Results: Over 2/3 of our MBT church body is involved in the process of actively growing or helping others to grow as ministers. That's exciting.
- 2 churches planted with 2 more in the planning process.
- It is on purpose.

1 Timothy 3:14-15 These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: ¹⁵ But if I tarry long, **that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God**, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

- It is all God.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*: ²⁷ But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; ²⁸ And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: ²⁹ That no flesh should glory in his presence. ³⁰ But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: ³¹ That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

1. The _____ of a disciple making pastor.

KEY: _____ change is confusing and confounding. _____ change is exciting for the church family.

- **Good pastors don't _____ over God's people.**

1 Peter 5:2-4 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; ³ Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

- **Oversight** (bishop / administrator.)
- **Ensamples** (pastor / shepherd) 1 Thess 1:5-10
Remember: Our role is despise-able by the world! Gen 46:33-34)
- **Crown** (reward / souls)

Philippians 4:1 Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, *my* dearly beloved.

1 Thessalonians 2:19 For what *is* our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Are* not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

Philippians 1:3-11 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, ⁵ For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; ⁶ Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ: ⁷ Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace. ⁸ For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ. ⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and *in* all judgment; ¹⁰ That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; ¹¹ Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

- **Pastoring is sheep _____.**

SO: Unwisely _____ the flock will hinder or even hurt it.

Think about the allusions that Scripture gives to provide insight into how biblical leadership should engage.

- **Husband.** Why? We are to be _____ our wife.

You cannot MAKE a garden _____!

All you can do is provide the necessary care and support that creates the _____ that make fruit bearing _____.

- **A pastor is a shepherd.**

FIRST: Shepherding sheep takes patience and care.

Psalms 95:7 For he *is* our God; and we *are* the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice,

Jeremiah 23:1-2 Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD. ² Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD.

Matthew 13:24-30 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: ²⁵ But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. ²⁶ But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. ²⁷ So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? ²⁸ He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? ²⁹ But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Acts 20:28-31 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

²⁹ For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

SECOND: You cannot effectively _____ living things _____ to your will. You can provide SUPPORT and TRAINING, setting an ENVIRONMENT that is conducive to growth and fruit bearing.

THIRD: Pastoral philosophy: You don't need a 100 part plan. You need an approach, an attitude, a mentality, a WAY that you roll.

If you know the hill that you want to take, you start TENDING / shepherding in that

direction. Don't drive the sheep. Tend.

FOURTH: If we're going to see the FLOCK produce SHEPHERDS, that's going to take some deliberate focus.

I. We must train up disciples with a _____ to be ministers.

MBT motto: "Every _____ a _____!"

1. Good pastors trust that God is _____ in the lives of growing leaders.

Ephesians 3:14-21 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; ¹⁷ That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; ¹⁹ And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. ²⁰ Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, ²¹ Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

2. Saying "YES" to the _____ things demands a hard "NO" to many _____ things.

- We can get busy doing many _____ things, and forget to ensure the _____ thing. Urgent things can derail the truly needful things.
- Beware: Many pastors can fall into the trap of leading as dreamers. Talkers. Not doers.

We must tactically engage in the things that produces biblically mandated results!

We must make sure our TIME is invested on the things that produce the commanded

This means being able to say "no" to people. (I'm terrible at this.) Why?

KEY: 2 Timothy 2:2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

- **MBT's call to a growing member's time:**
 1. Sunday worship
 2. Sunday fellowship
 3. Tuesday prayer ministry services
 4. Bible study accountability group (2x per month),
 5. Discipleship
 6. LFBI
 7. Evangelistic Bible study with the lost.

This is easily 5 or more points throughout the week. People need down time and time to work their field / build relationships with the lost.

- **Saying yes to the right things.**

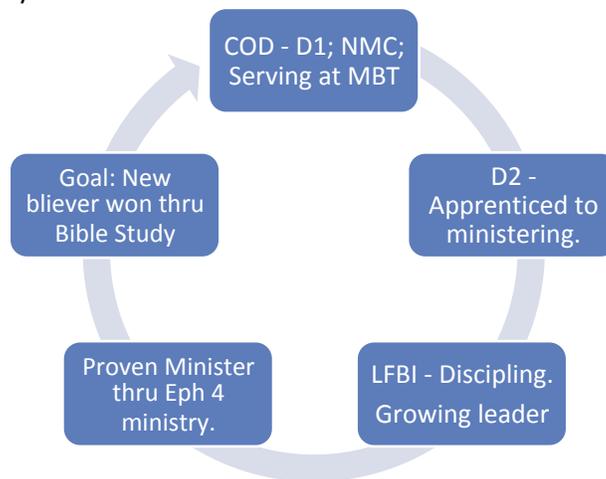
Our ministry structure comes out of the necessity of the mission that we were called to. We didn't ADD mission components TO WHO we are as a church.

Our ministry engine is built to support our goals and the planned objectives.

AND: because we want to build leaders, THAT requires a structure that enables the development of growing leaders.

- **As we do the ministry our future leaders are being trained. As we train our leaders, we are doing the ministry with them!**

- Training gets done as we do the work of the ministry and as we do the work of the ministry the training gets done.
- Our aim: We use the ministry to build our men. We don't use men to build our ministry.



KEY: We are always allowing for Eph 4:10-17 and making more room for more leadership to train.

- **MBT Ministry training structure.**

- "Cost of Discipleship" – last year alumni course. (available on request. See Disc Conf archives or contact Pastor Kenny Morgan, kmorgan@mbtk.org)
- "New Member's Class" – (available on request. Contact Pastor Chris Best, cbest@mbtkc.org)
- "Discipleship 1" – aiming to realize the 4 goals.
- "D2 and LFBI" – envisioning and training growing leaders.
- Bible Studies – "Creation to Christ" via a "Discovery Bible Method."
- Ministry expansion activities – FOI, outreaches, mission trips, etc.

II. We must _____ the church to be led by *growing* leaders that are *growing* in the Word of God.

MBT principle: "We are always _____"

1. A Poor Pastoral Approach.

- If I'm thinking I'm the pastor, so it falls to me to (fill in all mission critical activity here.)
- No, I should be the one making sure that I'm training and enabling growing leaders to do what I do.

No, we need to train our leader and deacon cores to handle the needs of the church.

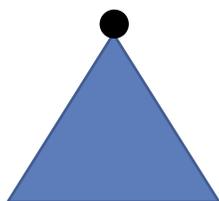
- KEY: Always _____.
- Envision.
- Teach and train.
- Task. People must be able to OWN the work! If you micro manage – they won't own it.
- Coach.

You've heard the leadership development formula!

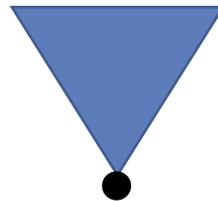
- I teach, you listen. I do, you watch.
- I teach, I do, you start helping me.
- You do, I watch (we'll see, I'll probably teach some more!)
- You teach, I listen. You do. I help.
- You teach, you do. **I take a vacation!**

Enabling Leadership:

A source! Ex: Paul, Jesus. Disciples.
Equipping and enabling leadership.
Enabling the kingdom to grow and thrive.



Ministry flow...
↓



Hindering leadership:

A roadblock!
Ex: King Saul was in the way of Israel.
Wrong mission.
Wasting resources.
Micro manager!

- Training leaders makes for a messy ministry.

Proverbs 14:4 Where no oxen *are*, the crib *is* clean: but much increase *is* by the strength of the ox.

This necessarily means we'll be a fairly informal ministry.

- People who _____ but never _____ are frustrated and depressed.
Pastor, get full of faith, train up leaders and let them lead.

2. KEY: Always _____.

Our D2 content

4 credit hours at LFBI. Contact Pastor Morgan for more information on setting your in house D2 courses for LFBI credit. kmorgan@mbtkc.org

Semester 1

- The character qualities of a man of God.
- The spiritual qualities of a man of God.
- The seven stages of spiritual growth.

Semester 2

- The philosophy of discipleship.
- How to disciple.

- How to study the Bible.

The goal is for class members to be _____ as disciplers.

LFBI: 4 year associate degree. Training in the Word and Work of God.

3. KEY: Let leaders _____.

- Let the workers do the work. Help them to reach and lead people themselves!
The goal for our church is to be an assembly line not a warehouse.

- Train then _____ leaders.
So that people aren't running to you – but to the growing leaders.

Don't be a perfectionist. Growing leaders must be able to "win."

Growing leaders need to see that you're excited to see God working in and thru them.

Celebrate how God uses them. Give praise to God over them.

Edify them in front of the rest of the church body.

When a leader outshines you – point it out!

Privately, give them feedback! Growing leaders want your criticism.

Give it in love and from a heart that clearly SHOWS that you are FOR them and are there to HELP them succeed in ministry.

Help them with their time management.

Leaders aren't successful until they are being used of God to raise up and help train growing leaders. 2 Timothy 2:2

- Be willing to send _____ leaders!
An exciting vibe. Trusting God to be a sending church is exciting. New leadership is always being required!

Starting a new ministry or Sunday class requires the same things – resulting in leadership multiplication.

KEY: _____ we do in ministry must contribute to the bottom line - winning, discipleing, training and sending proven leaders.

III. We must ensure the church to be led by *growing* leaders that are *dependent* on God in _____.

1. We very clearly communicate that our MBT Tuesday Night Prayer Ministry is the single most important ministry meeting at our church.
This is what powers everything else.

2. **KEY: Nothing is _____ to _____ with our corporate prayer ministry.**

- Principle: Our corporate services are _____.
- People will want to come if the services are “on target.”
That requires true, joyful, **earnest** worship and **earnest** preaching and teaching.

3. Our prayer ministry focus on a _____ agenda.

IV. We must equip the church to be led thru biblical

_____.

MBT isn't just pastor led. We are led by biblical principles that everyone is called to know!

The principles help free leaders up from dependence on me and help them to personally _____ the ministry personally.

RESULT: Leaders want to be at MBT or they want to go _____ it.

9 ministry principles

At Midtown, we have principles from God's Word that help us make right decisions in our areas of service and ministry. All 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 application they will become second nature as you learn to discern properly using the principles of the Word of God to make decisions (Hebrews 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 _____.**

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! (Matthew 21) The Bible’s teaching on corporate prayer is clear (see mbtkc.org for audio teaching/resources on this). God’s 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 dependent 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 _____.**

God has made a way for us to have a right relationship with him through Jesus Christ (John 1:12, Romans 5:1). Once we have a right relationship, he begins to conform us to the image of Jesus Christ (Colossians 3:10). As we become more Christ-like, we become more focused on the mission of reproducing this in others. (2 Timothy 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 Matthew 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.” (Matthew 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 _____—The Word of God. (KJV)

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 Corinthians 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, 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 (Romans 12:2, John 17:17, 1 Thessalonians 2:12-13), we are not to change it (Revelation 22:18-19, 1 Corinthians 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.

KEY: 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 _____ 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 Peter 2:2), we are serious about studying it (we would anyway because we are commanded to study it! 2 Timothy 2:15). We want to stay accountable in the Word (Colossians 3:16, 1 Thessalonians 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 Corinthians 14:31). It may be preparing a lesson for Kidtown, or taking or teaching Discipleship, or a Bible study 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:*

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

KEY: Discipleship 1, Bible studies, an on-going and regular teaching assignment (Kidtown, Circuit Rider Ministry, Nursing home, Celebrate Recovery, Bible Studies, Counseling etc...), are all excellent ways to stay accountable in God’s Word. If you have not been through Discipleship 1, try starting there.

5. Our Members Engage in Ministry _____.

*“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). 1 Corinthians 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 Corinthians 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 Corinthians 12:7) and placed in this local church (1 Corinthians 12:18) in order for you to serve God and be a part of furthering His kingdom through service to the church (1 Corinthians 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.

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 _____ Leaders.

Leadership is a good and necessary thing that God establishes for the benefit of the church (Ephesians 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 (Matthew 20:26).

The apostle Paul had this attitude (Philippians 2:17), so did Peter (1 Peter 5:3). So did Jesus for that matter (Matthew 20:28). So we are going to do the same. Those who seek leadership in the church seek a good thing (1 Timothy 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 _____ 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 _____. Ephesians 4:1-10, Psalm 133

Unity within the body of Christ is a beautiful thing (Psalm 133:1) that originates from our one Lord (Ephesians 4:1-10). It brings anointing (Psalm 133:2), strength (Matthew 12:25, Ecclesiastes 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 Corinthians 1:10-11). Many churches are powerlessly struggling because of the division within the body (1 Corinthians 11:18-30). The enemy causes division through prideful contentions that are rooted in selfish human carnality (Proverbs 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. Matthew 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.

The attitude: “Everyone else is better than me.” Philippians 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 _____ Realities.**

Some foremost examples: God is with us (Matthew 1:23, 28:20) and the devil seeks to destroy us (1 Peter 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 (Romans 8:18), hardness (2 Timothy 2:3), and persecutions (2 Timothy 3:12), Christians sometimes seem flabbergasted when things become difficult for them (1 Peter 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! There are things that we must always keep in mind! Like, the fact that God is with us (Matthew 1:23, 28:20) and the devil seeks to destroy us. (1 Peter 5:8)

Ministering in light of spiritual realities 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.

VI. FINAL CONCEPTS.

1. Pastors, we are _____!

If not we're negligent (and not building anything,) there are really only 2 blueprints.

- The commission.

Genesis 9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

- You are building ONE of _____ towers - Gen 11 vs Luke 14

Tower ONE: Man's tower.

Genesis 11:3-4 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. ⁴ And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top *may reach* unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

If Gen 11, the labor is in vain.

They use men to build their tower. The approach is pride, the goal is self!

Tower TWO: God's tower.

Luke 14:25-35 And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, ²⁶ If any *man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have *sufficient* to finish *it*? ²⁹ Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish *it*, all that behold *it* begin to mock him, ³⁰ Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. ³¹ Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? ³² Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. ³³ So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. ³⁴ Salt *is* good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? ³⁵ It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; *but* men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Luke 14 tower - we lay down our lives to build it. It is an approach that builds the men.

The approach is consecration. The goal is God's glory! It sets the bar for consecration/

2. Pastors, we have a _____ to pay.

COD for pastors. What it will cost you to have a discipleship ministry in your churches.

It will cost you your strength.

It will cost you your fame.

It will cost you your people.

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

It will cost you your image. You lose a slick service if you're going to build leaders.

But there are benefits!

We don't need look outside to hire in for MBT ministry needs!

SOME SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCIPLE CONF PASTOR'S ALUMNI TRACK "THE PASTOR AS A DISCIPLE MAKER" COURSES

Any or even parts of the following could be developed into standalone courses (other could be combined) serving as valuable content for us as pastors. Some of the things I often think about (*when I'm thinking.*)

Philosophy of content delivery.

- Preaching, doctrine, training - needed content cycles: frequency and propagation. (How often do the big doctrinal drums need beating?)
- Promotion of key initiatives, events, processes, that support the etc.
- Advanced homiletics: pick a pastor and get his best practices on sermon development and approach to delivery.
- Teaching and technology. Bible study software "how to's." Computer aided visual aids; etc.
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Ordering your time and touch - best practices.

- Time management: personal (quiet, study, recreational and rest times) and public (meeting, counseling, events, etc.) Working efficiently, getting more done.
- Meeting management.
- Leading church staff. Hiring for need. Division of labor. Who does what? Areas of oversight.
- Staffing and salary considerations.
- Practical ministry oversight and keeping ministry leaders accountable.
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The Pastor as a biblical counselor.

- Counsel from the pulpit to dealing with private pain.
- Local church counseling structure.
- Training local church counselors and "on the job" mentorship and accountability.
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The Pastor's ministry philosophy.

- 9 ministry principles.
- Implementing LFBI as YOUR local church Bible school.
- Small group accountability and structures.
- Evangelism methods.
 - Confrontational
 - Creation to Christ – Discovery Method Bible studies.
 - Media
- New members class: moving fitly joined people into the work of the local church.

- Managing church growth and how to operate effectively within the dynamics that come with any given church size. Planning and leading for growth and reproduction.
- Ministering with felons and registered sex offenders.
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