

# **Smith Memorial Baptist Church**

## **Vision**

To reach and impact 200,000 people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ by 2020

## **Mission**

Multiplying disciples with the life-transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ

## **SMBC Mission Statement**

“Multiplying disciples with the life-transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

### FAQs

1. Why do we need a mission statement?
  - a. The mission statement explains the reason for the existence of the church. All church activities and programs shall be guided by and be in alignment with the mission of the church.
2. Why did the church decide to change its mission statement from “To Know Him and Make Him Known”?
  - a. Under the leadership of our Pastor, the church’s leadership has been seeking God’s direction for the future. The recent Church Health Survey and Church Health Workshop have helped us to identify our current strengths and weaknesses as a church body. SMBC needs a stronger, clearer mission statement that will direct the church as we move forward in submission to the Holy Spirit. This statement personifies the heartbeat of our church body like never before and clarifies our mission.
3. Why does our mission statement not include any Scripture?
  - a. While this specific statement does not directly reference the Bible, it is actually fueled with the power of God’s Word. In addition to the five Great Commission passages, the message includes such verses as John 10:10, John 14:6, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, II Corinthians 5:17, II Corinthians 5:21, Ephesians 2:8-9, and many more.
4. What is a disciple?
  - a. The mission of the church is not just to make converts, but to “make disciples” (Matthew 28:18-20). The term “disciple” is literally defined as “student” or “learner” and denotes a lifelong level of increasing knowledge, commitment and sacrifice beyond the salvation experience. The goal of the individual Christian believer is to become more like Christ.
5. What is the significance of the word “Multiplying”?
  - a. The process of becoming more like Christ involves progressing from “convert” to “disciple-maker”. Multiplication implies more than just one and done. (2 Timothy 2:2)
6. What is the significance of the phrase “life-transforming”?
  - a. This phrase highlights two realities in the Christian life. Firstly, at salvation, the believer becomes a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17), secondly, as the believer pursues spiritual growth, he is progressively changed by the power of the Holy Spirit into the image of Christ. (Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 3:18)
7. Why did you specify our mission is about the Gospel?
  - a. It is only through the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ given by the Holy Spirit that any true life-transformation can take place. (John 14:6, Acts 4:12)

**Vision- To reach and impact 200,000 people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ by 2020**

**Vision FAQs**

**1. What is a Vision statement and how is it different than a Mission statement?**

A vision statement like the mission statement is essential to fulfilling the mission of Jesus. Unlike a mission statement a vision is subject to change. The mission of the church will always be to make Disciples of Christ. The vision sets a goal for us to strive to attain. The mission states the task of the church and the vision reflects the result of carrying out the mission.

God has provided many visions to His People throughout the scripture. For example, God gave Abraham His vision that from him would come a great nation (Genesis 12:1-3). God communicated His vision to Moses that He would rescue the Israelites from Egypt and would lead them to Canaan (Exodus 3:7-8 and Deuteronomy 8:7-10).

There are many compelling reasons for a vision statement:

- It provides the energy to fulfill the mission of Jesus;
- It creates meaning for every member providing them with a cause and a purpose;
- It motivates a body of believers to get out of their comfort zone and take risks that they would not normally take;
- It sets the course and direction of the church and keeps us on track to fulfill the mission;
- It ignites leadership to lead and becomes contagious for those following.

A great vision sustains the mission of the church.

**2. How can we realistically reach and impact that many people?**

Our Lord knows the power of multiplication. Studies show us today that each person has a sphere of family and friends of between 100 – 150 people. Every Christian is designed by our God to share the life changing message of the Gospel. If each of us reaches someone with the gospel just once a month and that person also begins sharing the Gospel, consider the following: (I am only using 50 as the number of family and friends each of us impacts)

**Reaching**

- 1st month  $1 + 1 = 2$
- 2nd month  $2+2= 4$
- 3<sup>rd</sup> month  $4+4 = 8$
- 12<sup>th</sup> month  $2048 + 2048 = 4096$

**Impacting**

- X 50 = 100
- X 50 = 200
- X 50 = 400
- X 50 = 204,800

So at the end of one year, one person being faithful in reaching 1 person with the Gospel per month can easily reach over 4 thousand persons for Christ and have an impact on over 2 hundred thousand persons!

As you can see from these numbers, the goal of 200,000 for our entire church body in 5 years is absolutely realistic and attainable if we all do our part in sharing the Gospel.

### **3. So to reach this vision each of us must be His ambassadors? Not just the staff?**

Each of us must fulfill our role as Christians. Please look closely at the following verses in 2 Corinthians 5:17-21:

<sup>17</sup> This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! <sup>18</sup> And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. <sup>19</sup> For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" <sup>21</sup> For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

If verse 17 describes each of us then verses 18-21 describes our assignment from God. It is not an option and is not a suggestion if we have time. God has given every believer the task of reconciling the lost to Him through what Jesus has already done. Verse 20 clearly tells us to be willing and He will appeal through you.

Each of us must start sharing our faith with lost family, neighbors, co-workers and friends. God will give us the words to say, we just need to be willing. We can and we must reach and impact the lost for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### **4. Are the people reached through our Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offerings a part of the 200,000? How does one calculate this? Are we just counting heads?**

Our desire is not to just count heads but to realize the impact our sacrificial giving is having worldwide. Our Lottie Moon Offering helps to support almost 5,000 full time missionaries all around the world. Our support of our missionaries frees them to spend their time reaching people for Christ on a daily basis. We will determine our percent of the total Lottie Moon giving and celebrate that share of people being reached and impacted for Christ. The same holds true for our Annie Armstrong offering that is used on this continent.

## **5. What new methods do you see us utilizing to reach and impact this many people?**

The most important method is every one of us reaching our sphere of influence with the Gospel. As mentioned before, if we assume each of us has a relationship with 50 or more people, then by intentionally reaching that group with the Gospel, the numbers will quickly multiply. In support of our one-on-one efforts, we as a local church will intentionally reach a larger part of our community by sponsoring and widely advertising events such as concerts, picnics, golf tournaments, and festivals. The Gospel must be presented as part of the events. We will intentionally look for ways to partner with other like-minded churches in the area to accomplish our vision.

## **6. How do our current ministries add to this? (I.e. Awana, Upwards, VBS, Community outreaches, Youth programs, Senior's programs, Men's Ministry, etc.)**

Once again, we must be more intentional in all our ministries. As Paul reminds us in I Corinthians 9:19, - "I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more." We must ensure each program's main focus is to win the lost for Christ. Intentionally be able to use the relationships created in these areas to gain an audience with people that don't know our Savior. Many children come to our church for Awana, Upwards basketball and VBS. We will more intentionally use these connections to invite the parents to events such as a dessert social after Upwards. Another possibility might be to have a "Parents night" in Awana, where the parents go through the night with their children and through this hear the Gospel. Our commitment is to review each program and continually look for creative ways to increase our opportunities to reach our community.

## **7. What is the definition of To Reach and Impact?**

The definitions of to reach and impact are both broad and specific. To reach means that people are coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as their personal savior. However, it does not stop there. It also means that people are growing in their faith in such a way that they are maturing as disciples of Christ so that they become reproducing disciples of Jesus Christ who are sharing their faith and discipling new believers to also become reproducing disciples of Jesus.

Impacting on the other hand, has a broader influence. As people come to faith in Jesus they have the opportunity to impact all of those in their spheres of influence with the Gospel of Jesus. Although they may not have the opportunity to lead someone to faith in Jesus Christ, they can have a positive impact on them in many ways. This may include people observing the change in a new believer's life, sharing the love of Christ in various ways, serving people, building relationships with the unchurched, and even using social media to give God glory.

## **8. What is the definition of the Gospel?**

The Gospel in a nutshell is what Paul states in 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. Christ died for our sins, was buried, and that He was raised on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day according to the Scriptures and then appeared to disciples after the resurrection.

The Gospel is the Good News of God's redemptive plan. However, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is not limited to simply the plan of salvation. It includes every aspect of Jesus' teaching and the life transformation that comes as we yield to the Holy Spirit in our lives.

**9. What happens if we reach our vision early or if we don't reach 200,000?**

If we reach our vision early, we will praise God, celebrate what He has done, and establish a new and more challenging vision! If we fail to reach our vision, we will examine the cause of our shortfall and develop a new plan of action with God's guidance.

**10. How can I practically reach my family, friends, and neighbors with the Gospel message to help fulfill our church's vision statement?**

It is important to remember that success in evangelism is defined simply as *obedience*. In *Sharing Jesus Without Fear*, William Fay describes a simple, yet effective, strategy to witness. After you ask five questions, you can share the Gospel by opening your Bible and allowing an unbeliever to read Scripture.

**Five SJWF Questions**

1. Do you have any type of spiritual beliefs?
2. To you, who is Jesus?
3. Do you believe in heaven and hell?
4. If you die, where would you go and why?
5. If what you believe were not true would you want to know?

**Seven SJWF Scripture Verses**

1. Romans 3:23
2. Romans 6:23
3. John 3:3
4. John 14:6
5. Romans 10:9-11
6. I Corinthians 5:15
7. Revelation 3:20