

Namaste'

On Wednesday September 29, 2010 Pastor Eddie D. Smith Sr. called the Macedonia Membership together for a special Town Hall Meeting. During this meeting, Pastor Smith asked for the input and help of the membership as we make strategic plans that will lead to church growth (numeric growth & spiritual growth) at Macedonia. All attendees were split into four groups. The four groups met in various locations in the Praise Center building to discuss areas that are essential in order for Macedonia to grow in the future. Below you will find the compiled answers from each of the groups. Answers to the questions are presented in **RED**. Feel free to share this document with other Macedonia Members if they were unable to make this meeting. This document will also be available on the Macedonia church website (www.macedoniamacon.org) under the News section. If you have questions or would like to contribute more ideas, please feel free to contact me at the church.

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Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 7:30 AM – 6 PM

Group #1
Becoming A Missional Church
Lead-Servant Eddie D. Smith Sr. & Larry Reynolds
Praise Center Stage

Tonight each group will be discussing one of four areas that Macedonia will need to focus on in order to experience both spiritual and numeric growth in the coming years. As your Lead-Servant, it is important to me that we become very intentional about mobilizing our efforts for church growth. I need your help in this process and want your input. Below you will find three questions under the topic of becoming a Missional Church. Your group coordinators will lead you in the process of discussing the three questions. You will need at least one person to record this information. Please write legibly. This information will need to be shared with the larger group later tonight and given to Minister Addison after you have presented it. Each of the four groups will have exactly 6 minutes to present your answers to the questions below. Thank you for assisting me in making Macedonia the church that God would have us to be.

John 17:18 (NIV): “As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.”

Jesus makes clear that the strength of His followers is that they understood He had been sent. Being sent and going out is central to the ministry of those who follow Christ. Macedonia must take on more of a missional mentality. It is not about people always coming to us, but our going to the people.

IMPORTANT: Please take 10 minutes to discuss and answer each question attached. The group discussion period will last 30 minutes. In order to make sure that your group has had ample time to answer each question, a timekeeper will let you know when each 10 minute segment has elapsed.

QUESTION 1: The primary task of the missional church is sending people out of the church into culture. The missional church sees its primary role as getting people in not to keep them, but to send them. As we consider our ministry efforts at Macedonia, it is apparent that we are focusing too heavily on internal programming. How can we begin to change the mindset of ministries so that they will focus more heavily on equipping their members to GO out?

- Go out where the people are and bring people to church with us.
- Be prayerful & led by the Holy Spirit Pray that the spirit will cover us as we go out.
- Know what the needs are in the community and direct our ministries to meet those needs.
- Free up time in order to go out because Macedonia has you at the church 6-7 days a week.
- All ministry events should be approved.
- Explain the importance of going out and talking to people.
- There should be more creative outreach.
- We must get out and witness for the LORD. We cannot pick and choose who we want to witness to. The LORD has to order our steps. We need to be prayful and lead by the Holy Spirit.
- Know and learn what is needed in the community. Invite people to church.
- More training on outreach is needed.
- Relocation of our training, less time at church and more time in the community.
- The WIN must be an outreach activity.
- Survey different age groups and find out the needs and concerns of each.

QUESTION 2: It is possible for Macedonia to become a Gilligan's island – where we have our own culture, while the world changes around us. What are your general impressions of the community around Macedonia Church? What do you feel this community needs from the church? What do you think the community's impression is of Macedonia (positive or negative)? How can we engage our community in order to find out ways that we can work together as partners to make this community a better place to live and work?

What are your general impressions of the community around Macedonia Church?

- The community might not feel comfortable coming to Macedonia because of the perception that Macedonia is “that church where rich people go”.
- The community around Macedonia is Poverty stricken.
- We need more commercials on what the church offers, geared to different age groups.

What do you feel this community needs from the church?

The group did not answer this question. If you would like to submit answers to this question please e-mail macedoniaga@gmail.com

What do you think the community’s impression is of Macedonia (positive or negative)?

- The overall impression of Macedonia is that we are uppity. People feel that they are not good enough to come to our church. They are inferior to us and we are superior.
- You have to dress up in order to come to Macedonia. We are a big church and they do not have the proper attire to wear.
- We need to make it public knowledge that you can come as you are.
- We have dress down months at Macedonia (internally we need to verbalize this with members).
- We are condescending.

How can we engage our community in order to find out ways that we can work together as partners to make this community a better place to live and work?

- Find out the needs of the community through a survey.
- We need to have something on a quarterly basis to involve the community.
- We must meet people with a smile and change our approach. We need to listen more to the community and don’t be condescending.
- The plan of salvation should be given to all. Make that the main focus before we give away anything in LOVE IN ACTION.
- We need to identify more intimately.

QUESTION 3: In the coming years, Macedonia's goal will be to become a transformational church in this community. We have decided to move beyond the walls of the church into the center of our culture. We know that only a transformational church will stir people to want to believe in the Jesus we profess. How can we find out what is already going on in our community (Ministry & Community Development projects)? Do you know of any Macedonia members that could be valuable resources in this area of research? Do you think we should pull together a community focus group or have a community forum to discuss the most pressing issues found in this community?

- We need to get out into the community.
- We need to use social networks to communicate (face book, twitter etc).
- Survey other churches to see what they are doing.
- Patrol the areas around Macedonia to see what we can find out about the community needs. Make assessment of needs.
- There should more parental guidance in leading children to church.
- Have an open house and invite the community to come to church.
- Let it be known Macedonia will be in the community.

Group #2
Follow-Up
Ruby Roberts & Debra Singleton Coordinators
Inquirers Class Room

Tonight each group will be discussing one of four areas that Macedonia will need to focus on in order to experience both spiritual and numeric growth in the coming years. As your Lead-Servant, it is important to me that we become very intentional about mobilizing our efforts for church growth. I need your help in this process and want your input. Below you will find three questions under the topic of Follow-Up. Your group coordinators will lead you in the process of discussing the three questions. You will need at least one person to record this information. Please write legibly. This information will need to be shared with the larger group later tonight and given to Minister Addison after you have presented it. Each of the four groups will have exactly 6 minutes to present your answers to the questions below. Thank you for assisting me in making Macedonia the church that God would have us to be.

How well we follow-up with our guests will determine, to a great degree, Macedonia's ability to grow.

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QUESTION 1: Follow-up begins when people set foot on our property. How can we make sure that we are making positive first impressions when members and guests arrive on the church grounds? Should we have greeters in the parking lot? Would you be willing to serve in this capacity? What are your impressions of the church property in general? Are there any areas around campus that need improvement? Please be specific.

Should we have greeters in the parking lot?

- YES!!
- We should have Guest parking spaces in our parking lot.
- Greeters should be in place all around the church campus (outside & inside) to make people feel welcome/special.
- Greeters should open the door and provide umbrellas, etc..
- Greeters need badges & training.
- We should examine the Wal-mart model for greeters (wear uniforms).
- New members need tours of the church.

Would you be willing to serve in this capacity?

- Leon Alexander
- Jean James
- Geraldine Pettigrew
- Antrell Sanford
- Azelene Tunstell

If you would be willing to serve in this area please e-mail the church at macedoniaga@gmail.com

What are your impressions of the church property in general?

- The church campus is very clean

Are there any areas around campus that need improvement? Please be specific.

- The Wallpaper downstairs needs work.
- We need vents in all bathrooms on camups.
- Directional signs around campus are needed.
- Class-Rooms should be labeled (Bible School).
- The floor in the Elevator is VERY BAD and need to be replaced.
- Focus on Safety after church when worshipers are crossing the street.
- Clean up the debris in the back of the church (unused articles).
- The handicap ramps need work.
- Open the side doors under the covered area on the side of the church.
- More handicap parking is needed in the front.

- The church should have Golf Carts going around campus on Sundays to help those who are disabled.

QUESTION 2: As we prepare for growth at Macedonia, we must make sure that we are operating with the most effective system for guest follow-up. Presently we are following up with our first time guests through our Bible School Outreach/Evangelism teams and through the efforts of our Servant Leader of Congregational Care. Sister Roberts will now share with you what her current system of guest follow-up is and how the Outreach/Evangelism follow-up system works. Do you see any way that we can we improve on these systems?

Do you see any way that we can we improve on these systems?

- Continue to call (follow-up) until you are asked to stop.
- Seek out new ways to find out their needs.
- Do a Q & A to assess the concerns of our guests.
- Pair guests with a member who is the same age as the guest.
- Offer materials that the church provides (Re: Upcoming Activities, Ministries, Help Aides, etc..) to our guests regularly.
- Make sure we are following up with Guests who communicate with us through Facebook.

QUESTION 3: As we increase our visibility in the community and become more engaged in outreach efforts, we must be intentional about making the best use of information that we collect. When we have events or workshops at Macedonia we have sign-up sheets and we diligently collect valuable contact information that often is only used once if at all. How can we best use the information we collect in order to make our follow-up efforts more effective as it pertains to connecting prospective members to our fellowship?

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- The ministry that facilitated the event should follow-up with calls to all participants.
- Provide a certificate of attendance.
- Give gifts to attendees.

- Send out a regular mailing of our products (CD, Tape, Etc.).
- Go overboard to make them feel welcome (WOW!! them).
- Set-up, Sign-up People & connect them to the church through E-mail and other means .
- Share sign-in lists with other ministries.
- Improve sign-in lists to capture all info needed.
- Use technology in our registration process.
- Find out what participants want.
- We need a Monthly calendar of events to provide to participants.
- Offer Spanish/English classes & interpreters.
- Have a space on the sign-in list that asks if you want to be contacted.

Group #3
Outreach & Marketing
Jarvis Ellis, Nick Pelt and Doug Jones Coordinators
Fellowship Hall: LEFT SIDE

Tonight each group will be discussing one of four areas that Macedonia will need to focus on in order to experience both spiritual and numeric growth in the coming years. As your Lead-Servant, it is important to me that we become very intentional about mobilizing our efforts for church growth. I need your help in this process and want your input. Below you will find three questions under the topic of Outreach and Marketing. Your group coordinators will lead you in the process of discussing the three questions. You will need at least one person to record this information. Please write legibly. This information will need to be shared with the larger group later tonight and given to Minister Addison after you have presented it. Each of the four groups will have exactly 6 minutes to present your answers to the questions below. Thank you for assisting me in making Macedonia the church that God would have us to be.

When we consider the Outreach and Marketing efforts of Macedonia church, we are speaking about how we engage the culture around us in such a way that the church (body of believers) will be attractive to them. We must be intentional about our approach and how we present ourselves to the public if we want people to come to Macedonia.

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QUESTION 1: Our outreach efforts must always focus on building relationships. People want to connect with others on a personal level. When people know that we genuinely care, they become interested in what makes us tick. Macedonia must engage itself in two types of outreach efforts throughout the year.

TYPE 1: Exposure Efforts

-An event designed only to let people know who we are. It is a means of making people aware that we are in the community.

TYPE 2: Evangelistic Efforts

-An event that clearly communicates the gospel of Christ and gives people the opportunity to respond. Jesus Christ is clearly proclaimed in this type of event.

As a group, come up with at least two exposure efforts and two evangelistic efforts that the entire Macedonia fellowship can engage in, in the near future.

TYPE 1: Exposure Efforts

- Make use of WDDO, Magic 100, CTN, Internet (Website), Ustream, Facebook, Twitter.
- WDDO- Quality of the station is a concern. They play the same songs over & over. We might want to look at switching from WDDO or coming on at a later time.
- We should advertise on Magic 100 everyday during the week with commercials.

TYPE 2: Evangelistic Efforts

- Put on Concerts at Macedonia (Gospel, Plays, etc..)
- Have Media & Computer Training Classes
- Adult Literacy Programs
- GED Programs
- Career Services
- Have a presence in Bibb Co. School System
- Have a Mentoring Program
- Advertise that we have a computer lab and have set hours
 - Provide Job Search Assistance
- Offer Bible Classes
- Counseling Services (Focus on Self-Esteem & Teen Pregnancy)

QUESTION 2: Macedonia Church has used the medium of television and radio for many years. How can we market ourselves in a new and exciting way that presents all that Macedonia has to offer? Imagine your group is a marketing firm that has been given the Macedonia account. They want to rebrand themselves to the public. What are some creative ways that you would market this Ministry to the general public? How would you make sure that non-believers were reached by your efforts?

What are some creative ways that you would market this Ministry to the general public?

How would you make sure that non-believers were reached by your efforts?

- Re-establish the Day Care.
- Start an after School Program at Macedonia.
- Promote the times that Macedonia Seniors meet.
- Have Senior Citizen trips (bowling and date night are a two examples of events).
- Advertise on Secular stations during later times of the day.
- Have Youth-Focused Services (different times than the normal service)
 - Facebook must be used for YOUTH
 - Have a youth service regularly
- Have more involvement with Mentor styled programs.

QUESTION 3: As we examine outreach and marketing strategies, it is helpful to know the character of the audience we are presenting our message to. Here are a few traits of postmodern individuals. Examine each trait below and answer the question, “What types of changes can we make in the way we do ministry (preaching, teaching, workshops, etc..) in order to more effectively reach this type of person?”

Four character traits of Postmodern People

1. They assume truth is relative
2. They do not assume the authority of Scripture or Pastors
3. They are more right brained (creative) than left brained (logical)
4. They have shorter attention spans

- **THIS GROUP DID NOT GET TO THIS QUESTION. Please feel free to submit your suggestions in this area via e-mail go macedoniaga@gmail.com .
Thank you!!**

Group #4
Discipleship
Mary Whitfield & Marilyn Mindingall Coordinators
Fellowship Hall: RIGHT SIDE

Tonight each group will be discussing one of four areas that Macedonia will need to focus on in order to experience both spiritual and numeric growth in the coming years. As your Lead-Servant, it is important to me that we become very intentional about mobilizing our efforts for church growth. I need your help in this process and want your input. Below you will find three questions under the topic of Discipleship. Your group coordinators will lead you in the process of discussing the three questions. You will need at least one person to record this information. Please write legibly. This information will need to be shared with the larger group later tonight and given to Minister Addison after you have presented it. Each of the four groups will have exactly 6 minutes to present your answers to the questions below. Thank you for assisting me in making Macedonia the church that God would have us to be.

Genuine Discipleship will always connect **belief** with **behavior**. Discipleship is helping followers of God live so their actions reflect their affirmations and their conduct matches their confession. All teaching and preaching at Macedonia must at the end of the day connect belief and behavior.

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Introduction

The group session began by asking the group to raise their hands if they are saved and consider themselves to be a believer.

As believers we have beliefs and we have a knowledge surrounding those beliefs. What do you know about your belief? Responses:

- Forgiveness of sin
- Trinity
- Love
- Jesus is God's Son
- Trust in the Lord

How do you make this knowledge come alive? How do you stand on it? What does the belief cause you to do? Responses:

- Responsibility to win souls
- Practice what we preach
- Demonstrate the characteristics of a believer
- Imitate Christ
- Share with others

QUESTION 1: Our goal at Macedonia is to build people who know what they believe and believe what they know!! How can we make this goal a reality in our Bible Study and our Bible School Models? Should we explore new ways of doing Bible Study and Bible School? Are there any other types of classes that we need in order to drive home this message of "knowing what you believe and believing what you know"?

- Make sure our students understand what we are teaching.
- Show sharing and caring and love in the classroom (show concern for families represented in the class; address needs).
- Develop "applications" classes with hands-on experiences.
- Meet the needs of those who don't have families.
- Offer classes during Bible School times for special groups with special/specific needs.
- Develop new ways to present the Word. Need innovative strategies for teaching.

- Go out of the building to work with youth in the community.
- Have events to attract youth.
- Have an intensive training on how to witness (one month study). Every member needs to get comfortable with how to do this.

QUESTION 2: Discipleship must be modeled by all leaders of Macedonia. What would you like to see the Lead-Servant and our leadership structure (Ministry leaders & the Office Team) doing in order to model true discipleship for the membership? (Service Projects, Community Outreach Efforts etc..) Remember, discipleship is not a “do as I say, not as I do” venture.

- Leaders must get hands-on (serve as examples).
- All leaders must be actively involved (hands-on) in Ministry and must regularly attend Bible School and Bible Study.
- The leaders must show they believe and “do”. Each must make a personal decision to adopt this, but must also be held individually accountable.
- Support **each** ministry. No ministry can be neglected.
- Leaders need to be on one-page (this is not a competition).
- Leaders must have a shared responsibility toward growth. Make an effort to “birth” new leaders to work in ministry. This will also help to avoid burnout of the few established leaders.
- Go with the fellowship to visit Nursing Homes
- Organize a “Tent Revival” in one of the parking lots. This outside preaching and teaching will attract others from the community
- Leaders should go out in the community when the ministries go out to visit
- Seek ideas from other churches on growth.
- Have interactions with other church groups. Work together with other fellowships to benefit the community. Promote team work and partnerships.
- Find out what the community wants. Conduct focus groups.
- Conduct workshops for teachers to address how we can best minister to special needs populations, Hispanics, substance abusers, etc.
- Leaders can put in place sign language for meetings, worship, etc. to address this need in the community.
- Target drug addiction groups.

- Vary Bible Study for the youth. Incorporate a gospel hour, community work, and more.
- Leaders need to meet regularly with youth to find out what is on their minds, what they need etc. Bible Study is critical, but also incorporate “life study”. Teach the youth very practical matters like how to apply makeup or how to change the oil in a car.

QUESTION 3: Macedonia must be intentional about making sure that all believers are on a path of spiritual growth. Discipleship is a process. A person is not disciplined as much as he/she is being disciplined. Discipleship is a lifelong journey that combines both personal initiative and community involvement. What type of tools of evaluation can we create to measure how well we are making good disciples? Please take a moment to provide an example of that/those tool(s). Remember, a growing disciple of Christ shows consistent growth in the areas of personal growth & growth in his/her level of community involvement.

- Conduct an annual survey for members of the congregation.
- The numbers will reflect how well we are doing; should see increases in membership.
- Ask routinely how guests come to visit Macedonia. Find the “door” guests most likely enter. (This will require a clearer tracking, compilation, and analysis of the guest cards.)
- Get some attainable, short-term goals to measure accountability.
- Invite someone from the outside to come in to evaluate our progress.