# What are we doing and Why are we doing it?

Reaching Both
Community
and
Campus
for Christ

We seek to honor God by Winning, Building, Equipping, and Mobilizing people to advance Christ's kingdom and exalt His name.

#### Discipleship: At the heart of everything we do

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." - Matthew 28:19-20

 Obedience to this final command of Jesus Christ is the mission of Millersville Bible Church. Disciple-making, therefore, lies at the heart of everything we do. The divinely ordained arena for this is the local Church.

#### Five key words from Jesus

"I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18).

The Work of Jesus on earth today is the building of His Church.

Speaking of the growth of the Church, Acts 2:47 says, "The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."

If Christ loved the Church and gave himself in death for the Church, how can we fail to love the Church?

"One of the major contributors to the deficiency concerning the importance of the local church is the erroneous division in the minds of believers between commitment to the Lord and commitment to the local body" (Chuck Colson, *The Body*).

Our love for God compels us to commit to a particular local church, not just out of faithfulness to tradition, but in love and devotion to our Lord who promised, "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

### The Lord builds His Church through His people.

The apostle Paul reminded the local Church in Corinth of this truth.

"By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it.

But each one should build with care"

(I Corinthians 3:10).

#### **Five essentials for Church ministry**

- 1. Multiple godly leadership
- 1. Manageable shepherding groups
- 1. Meaningfully related membership
- 1. Members strategically placed
- 1. Mobilized ministry teams

## Multiple godly leadership

Manageable shepherding groups

#### **Exodus 18:6-26**

Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, together with Moses' sons and wife, came to him in the wilderness, where he was camped near the mountain of God. ... So Moses went out to meet his father-in-law and bowed down and kissed him. They greeted each other and then went into the tent. Moses told his father-in-law about everything the Lord had done to Pharaoh and the Egyptians for Israel's sake and about all the hardships they had met along the way and how the Lord had saved them.

Jethro was delighted to hear about all the good things the Lord had done for Israel in rescuing them from the hand of the Egyptians. He said, "Praise be to the Lord, who rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians and of Pharaoh, and who rescued the people from the hand of the Egyptians. ....The next day Moses took his seat to serve as judge for the people, and they stood around him from morning till evening.

When his father-in-law saw all that Moses was doing for the people, he said, "What is this you are doing for the people? Why do you alone sit as judge, while all these people stand around you from morning till evening?"

Moses answered him, "Because the people come to me to seek God's will. Whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me, and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's decrees and instructions."

Moses' father-in-law replied, "What you are doing is not good. You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone.

Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people's representative before God and bring their disputes to him. Teach them his decrees and instructions, and show them the way they are to live and how they are to behave.

But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. Have them serve as judges for the people at all times, but have them bring every difficult case to you; the simple cases they can decide themselves. That will make your load lighter, because they will share it with you.

If you do this and God so commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied."

Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said. He chose capable men from all Israel and made them leaders of the people, officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. They served as judges for the people at all times. The difficult cases they brought to Moses, but the simple ones they decided themselves.

(Exodus 18:6-26)

### The role of God's servants in building the Church is described in detail in Ephesians 4:11-16

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming." (vv. 11-14)

15-16 - "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

# Meaningfully related membership

Members
strategically
placed

 "God has placed the members each one of them in the body just as He desired" (I Corinthians 12:18).

 "God has composed the body that there should be no division but that the members should have the same care for one another" (I Corinthians 12:24-25).

 "You are Christ's body and individually members of it." (I Corinthians 12:27).