

From: McLean Bible Church fyi@mcleanbible.org
Subject: MBC News | Vision, Tactics and Our Staff
Date: April 1, 2016 at 8:04 PM
To: stvarg@gmail.com



Image of MBC logo



Hello everyone. I hope you had a wonderful Easter weekend! He is risen indeed!

This weekend, Rev. John Jenkins, senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Glenarden, and I are trading pulpits. I am very excited about your getting to sit under the preaching ministry of Pastor Jenkins. I listen to him preach online, and he is an outstanding man of God and handler of God's Word. I hope you will, by all means, be there to listen to him.

Since I will not be in the pulpit personally this weekend. I did not want to wait until

next weekend to tell you about some exciting directions in which we believe the Lord Jesus is leading us at MBC. These are not new ideas. In fact, the elders and I and our senior staff have been praying about them and discussing them for months now. But we wanted to wait until after our "40 Days of Prayer" in January-February 2016 in order to get a sense of final confirmation from the Lord, which we feel that we have received.

I shared all of this at our congregational meeting this past Wednesday night, where we also had some good questions and comments from members of our church family. But just in case you were not able to be with us at that meeting, it is important that I share the cogent points with you.

After our "40 Days of Prayer," we feel that the Lord confirmed several key points to us as the leaders of MBC.

1. We must do a better job of extending pastoral care for and spiritual shepherding to all of our church family (1 Peter 5:1-4). This means that we have to look at reorganizing our volunteer and paid staff members to carry out this biblical ministry. Together with our elders, we have been working on plans to improve this entire area of our church ministry. We will keep you posted as these plans take more definite shape over the next few months.
2. We must do a better job of discipling, equipping, empowering, and creating opportunities for our church family members to use their gifts and serve the Lord at MBC as volunteer staff members (Ephesians 4:11-14). We believe that MBC has made it more difficult to volunteer than the Lord would want. Also, we believe that we must create far more opportunities than we currently have for members of our church family to use the gifts the Lord has given to us all, and that our staff needs to become a team that encourages, equips, and supports our people as they seek to do this.
3. We must do some re-allocating of the wonderfully rich resources that the Lord has given us to do a better job of carrying out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). Right now, we spend \$19 million of our annual budget on staffing expenses at MBC while spending only \$200K of our budget on supporting actual missionaries. Even if we add in all the local missionary outreach that we do (McLean on the Move, Call Us ministry, etc.), that total only rises to around \$1 million. We believe that this imbalance is too large, and that the Lord wants us to reduce our staff expenses, and re-deploy much of those funds to pursuing our vision of impacting the metro area for the Lord in obedience to the Great Commission.
4. As I have already shared with you in January, we must alter our tactics for seeking to achieve our unchanging vision, from trying to impact all of the metro Washington area by ourselves, to partnering with other Gospel-preaching churches all over the metro area, across all ethnic, racial, and denominational lines (Ephesians 4:1-6). This includes existing churches as well as future church plants here in the DC area. This is why we have formed the Metro Washington Pastors' Fellowship, to help unite in prayer and action, the existing godly pastors in the metro area. It is also why we have established the New City Network, to help train, support, and unite church planters all over the DMV area. Our leader in this initiative is Clint Clifton, who serves with the Southern Baptist Convention as well as on our staff part-time, and who has a wealth of experience in helping church planters get up and running right here in the metro DC area. His vetting process, training process, and accountability process is tried and proven--and we are so excited about investing in church planting here in the DC area

with the help of his leadership. Some of the funds mentioned in #3 above will be re-allocated to this initiative.

These are exciting adjustments in our church ministry that we believe the Lord is asking us to make. Please pray for us as your leaders, as we seek to hear God's voice and follow it at MBC. We covet your prayers, deeply and sincerely.

In accordance with #3 above, our elders have decided to offer all members of our staff team at MBC (Jill's House is not part of this) a voluntary "buyout" plan that I believe is very honorable and kind. The window during which staff members can choose to avail themselves of this offer is April 4-18, 2016. The buyout offer is open to any member of the MBC staff who wishes to access it for any reason. Some of our staff have already told us that they have been praying anyway about leaving MBC and going to the mission field, and this plan is an answer to their prayers. Similarly, staff members who have been considering retirement, or who have been praying about leaving the area to move closer to family or pursue a new area of ministry now have a supportive option. Please pray for our staff members, that as they individually seek the Lord on this, He will make his wishes clear to each of them, one way or the other.

We are offering this buyout plan hoping that the Lord will lead enough staff to participate that it will preclude a layoff. However, as painful as it is, if we don't get enough staff to leave voluntarily through the buyout, we will need to do a staff reduction. I and the elders have deep affection and respect for each member of our staff team, which has made this action a difficult one. I can assure you that we have only entered into it because we are utterly sure that this is how the Lord Jesus is directing us to lead His church at MBC. Please pray for those staff members who will be choosing to take advantage of this offer, that the Lord will lead and guide them.

As we move through the next few weeks, I will, of course, keep you informed as to how things are going.

Again, we covet your prayers!

Sincerely and respectfully as your senior pastor,

Lon Solomon

Image of enews footer



McLean Bible Church, PO Box 9300, McLean, VA 22102

[SafeUnsubscribe™ stvarg@gmail.com](mailto:stvarg@gmail.com)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by fyi@mcleanbible.org in collaboration with



Try it free today