

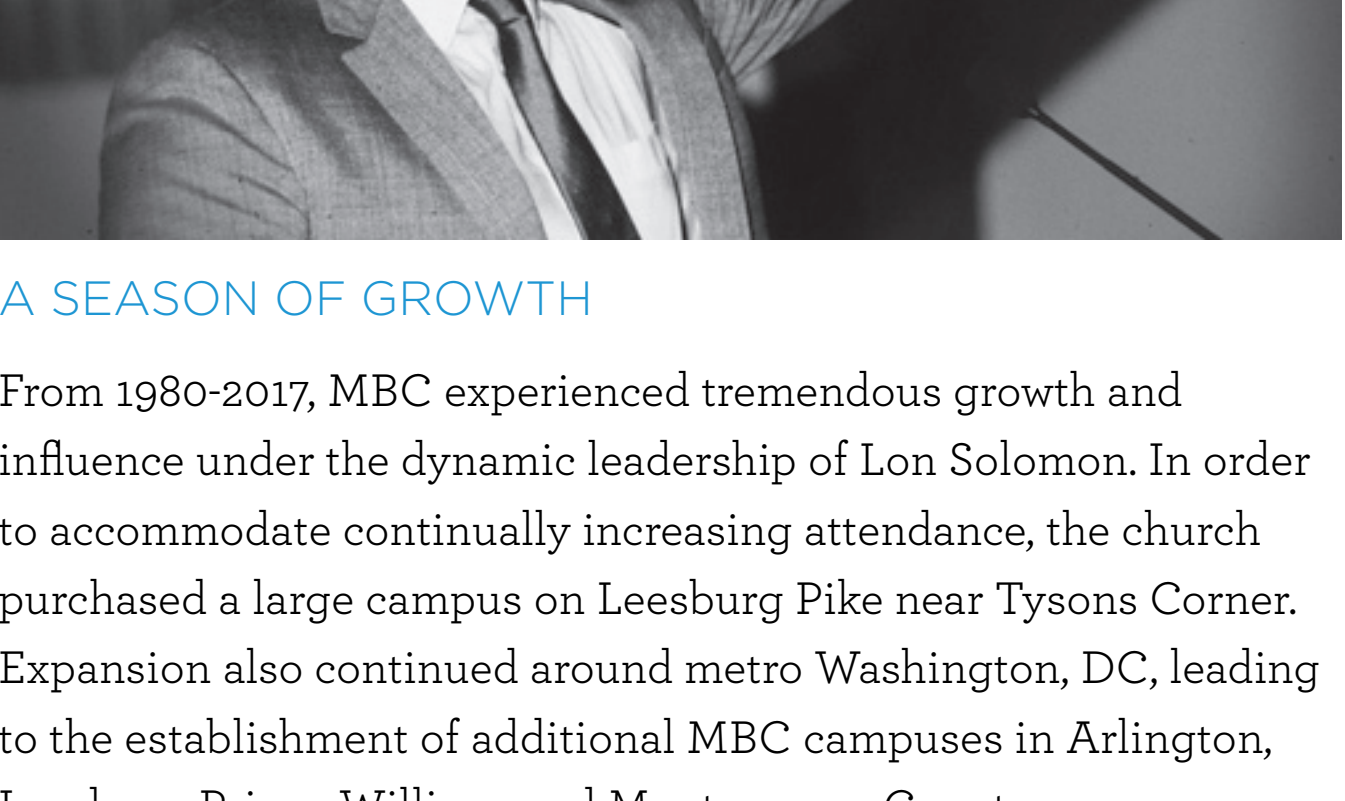
# A NEW CHAPTER

MCLEAN BIBLE CHURCH

“Looking back at the past six decades, we praise God for His hand upon our church. In recent days, our elder board has been working with David to discern the right approach for this new chapter of MBC. As we prepare to step forward with faith into the new season ahead, we are more excited than ever to see all that God has in store for our future.”

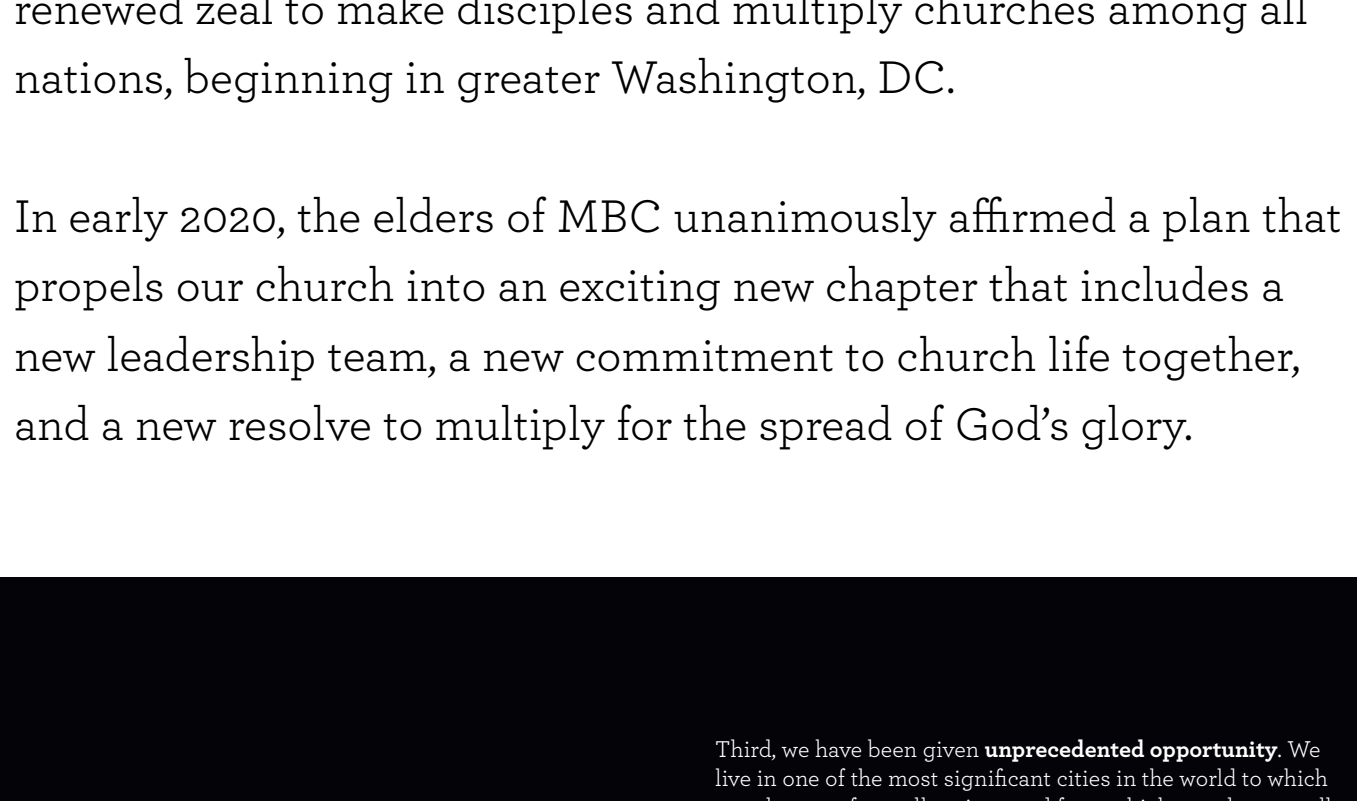
## MBC ELDER BOARD

# GOD'S FAITHFULNESS OVER THE YEARS



## A SEASON OF GROWTH

From 1980-2017, MBC experienced tremendous growth and influence under the dynamic leadership of Lon Solomon. In order to accommodate continually increasing attendance, the church purchased a large campus on Leesburg Pike near Tysons Corner. Expansion also continued around metro Washington, DC, leading to the establishment of additional MBC campuses in Arlington, Loudoun, Prince William, and Montgomery County.



## A NEW CHAPTER

In 2017, Lon Solomon transitioned leadership of MBC to David Platt as the church resolved to move forward into the future with renewed zeal to make disciples and multiply churches among all nations, beginning in greater Washington, DC.

In early 2020, the elders of MBC unanimously affirmed a plan that propels our church into an exciting new chapter that includes a new leadership team, a new commitment to church life together, and a new resolve to multiply for the spread of God's glory.

Third, we have been given unprecedented opportunity. We live in one of the most significant cities in the world to which people come from all nations and from which people go to all nations. We have more resources, more technology, and more ways to spread the gospel to more people than ever before in history. In light of these realities, we must realize that to whom much is given, much is expected.

# ENVISION

THE FUTURE OF MBC, FIRMLY GROUNDED IN OUR RICH HISTORY YET DECISIVELY FOCUSED ON ATTEMPTING GREAT THINGS FOR GOD

## DEAR MBC FAMILY,

Words really can't express how humbling it is for Heather, our kids, and me to be a part of this church, and all the more for the privilege of being a pastor. In the last couple of years learning so much about God's grace in MBC, and I have come to three conclusions.

First, we are a **unique family**. We come from over 100 different countries, we represent varied socioeconomic situations, and we hold diverse political opinions. In a world—and a city—that is so often divided along these lines, we possess a supernatural unity that can only be explained by the gospel.

Second, we are surrounded by **urgent need**. In addition to deep needs we all have in our lives, marriages, families, and work, we live in a city filled with over 5 million people who are currently without Christ. Beyond our city, approximately 3 billion people in the world have never even heard of His love. Add to all of this a global pandemic, and there is no shortage of need around us.

Those expectations are what this booklet is all about. William Carey once said, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." The purpose of the paper placed is to cast a vision for the next chapter of MBC. To paint a picture of every member of this church carefully cared for by the body of Christ, growing in the likeness of Christ, and making disciples for the glory of Christ. To introduce a plurality of leadership in the church that does not revolve around any other person than Christ. To envision the future of MBC, firmly grounded in our rich history yet decisively focused on attempting great things for the God from whom we expect great things.

As a unique family surrounded by urgent need, I pray that God will give us great grace to steward unprecedented opportunity for His great glory together in ways that are far beyond what you or I could ask or imagine.

I love you, church.

DAVID



# GLORIFYING GOD AMONG ALL NATIONS, BEGINNING IN GREATER WASHINGTON, DC

UNIQUE FAMILY + URGENT NEED = UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY

There are **OVER 100 COUNTRIES** and diverse personal backgrounds, socioeconomic situations, and political opinions represented at MBC.

Instead of being divided, we are supernaturally **UNITED** by love for Jesus.

**OVER 6.1 MILLION PEOPLE** in metro DC, **87.5%** of whom are not in church. That's **OVER 5.4 MILLION** people apart from Christ.

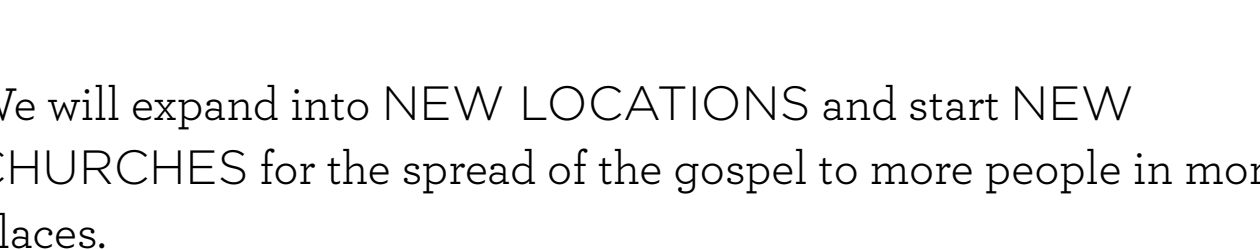
**OVER 3 BILLION PEOPLE** in the world in **OVER 7,000 UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS** who have little to no access to the gospel.

Through reaching new locations, starting new churches, and strengthening relationships with existing churches, we want to spread the gospel like never before in our city.

Through a growing partnership with Radical, we want to spread the gospel on the front lines of the most urgent spiritual and physical needs in the world.

# WE GLORIFY GOD BY MAKING DISCIPLES AND MULTIPLYING CHURCHES AMONG ALL NATIONS, BEGINNING IN GREATER WASHINGTON, DC.

We glorify God by making disciples and multiplying churches among all nations, beginning in greater Washington, DC.



## VISION WHERE OUR EYES ARE FOCUSED

We will fix our gaze on the glory of God every week in our **WORSHIP GATHERINGS** and then scatter to make His glory known in all that we do.

## MISSION WHAT WE'RE CALLED TO DO

**CHURCH GROUPS** will encourage and equip every member of the church to witness in the world.

**CHURCHWIDE MINISTRIES** will help children, students, families with special needs, young adults, people struggling with anything from addiction to abuse to anxiety, and others to grow in the love of Christ.

We will expand into **NEW LOCATIONS** and start **NEW CHURCHES** for the spread of the gospel to more people in more places.

## GOAL WHY WE'RE WORKING TOGETHER

We will not settle for anything less than the global goal of our God: the spread of His glory right around us through **LOCAL OUTREACH** and far from us through **GLOBAL OUTREACH**, particularly in places where the gospel has not yet gone.

# GOD, MAKE US A CHURCH THAT IS CONFIDENT IN YOUR WORD AND PASSIONATE ABOUT YOUR PRESENCE.

We want to boldly believe in Your Word, passionately engage in Your worship, pray for that which can only be accomplished in Your power, and experience that which can only be attributed to Your glory.

# GOD, MAKE US A CHURCH OF RADICAL DEVOTION AND RADICAL GRACE.

We want to leave behind casual expressions of Christianity and cheap distortions of grace to love You with everything we have and love our neighbors as ourselves.

# GOD, MAKE US A CHURCH OF JUSTICE AND GENEROSITY.

We want to spend our lives and resources generously to do justice for the poor, the oppressed, the marginalized, and the unreached.

# GOD, MAKE US A CHURCH THAT EXPRESSES DIVERSITY AS WE EXPERIENCE UNITY.

We want to actively grow our church in racial competency and empathy, as well as political humility and integrity, and to build an environment where people from diverse perspectives feel at home.

# GOD, MAKE US A CHURCH THAT WELCOMES AND MOBILIZES ALL GENERATIONS AND INTENTIONALLY REACHES THE NEXT GENERATION.

We want to mobilize men and women from every age to show and tell teenagers, children, preschoolers, and those yet unborn who You are, how You work, and why Your love is better than life itself.



## A NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM

### DAVID PLATT, LEAD PASTOR

David has been Lead Pastor of MBC since 2017. He is also the founder and president of Radical, an organization aimed at serving churches for the accomplishment of the Great Commission. He has authored several books including *Radical*, *Radical Together*, *Follow Me*, *Counter Culture*, and most recently, *Something Needs to Change*. He and his wife Heather have five children.

As our Lead Pastor, David will continue to provide general oversight to the spiritual welfare of MBC alongside the Board of Elders. He will oversee the new Leadership Team to set vision for the entire church, and he will continue to serve as the primary teacher in our worship gatherings.

### MIKE KELSEY, LEAD PASTOR, PREACHING & CULTURE

Mike has been a pastor at MBC for over 13 years. Mike's long history with the church provides him with deep institutional knowledge and a unique perspective on where MBC has been and where the Lord is now leading. He and his wife Ashley have three children.

As Lead Pastor of Preaching and Culture, Mike will lead MBC to engage in current cultural issues in order to reach new and emerging generations as well as people disconnected from and disenfranchised by the church. Through increased involvement in preaching, oversight of Worship and Communications, and coaching and training of pastors, Mike will help biblically shape the culture of MBC as we engage the culture around us with the gospel.

### WADE BURNETT, LEAD PASTOR, EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Wade, Amy and their three children come to MBC from Nashville, Tennessee. Wade's path to pastoral ministry began more than 20 years ago when he and Amy helped plant a new church out of his law firm's conference room. Wade eventually left the practice of law and transitioned full-time into a lead pastor role, helping shepherd the new church from a handful of friends to more than 1,000 people across multiple locations. For the past eight years, Wade has also served as a coach and consultant for many of the largest churches in the country, most recently as a founder of The Church Leadership Group.

As our new Lead Pastor of Executive Leadership, Wade will help provide primary supervision for our church's strategy, staffing, and implementation. In that capacity, Wade will directly supervise many of our ministry directors, including Church Groups, Next Generation, Local and Global Outreach, Training, Church Planting, and Operations. As we prepare for the launch and multiplication of new MBC locations in the new season ahead, Wade will also maintain a significant focus on creating a culture of collaboration across our entire church.

We want to look to Jesus alone as the ultimate Leader of MBC. We want to be focused not on one preacher, but on God's Word. We want to be dependent not on one pastor, but on God's Spirit. For this reason, we want to foster a healthy plurality of leadership at every level of our church. This new leadership team of three Lead Pastors is designed to serve and shepherd our church alongside other pastors as well as leaders from diverse backgrounds, including men and women with unique gifts in different roles (some on staff and many not on staff) who are all working together as one body for the accomplishment of our mission.



I have been privileged to serve on our pastoral staff for the past 13 years. Ashley has been serving our church as a worship leader for the past 15 years. Together, we have been blessed to serve in a variety of roles, first at the Tyson location with our young adult ministry, then at the former MBC Silver Spring location, and most recently at our beloved MBC Montgomery County location! MBC you have become family to us, and we are so humbled that the Lord has given us the honor and opportunity to help lead our church in an even greater capacity going forward.

Many of you have witnessed God's faithfulness to our church over the years. Right now, He is giving us a fresh opportunity to proclaim the same gospel to a new generation here in our city and all over the world. Ashley and I still feel a deep longing to care for those who have been marginalized in society and are disenfranchised with religion. Those who are lost still need

to know that Jesus is the way to eternal life. Those who have been left out still need to know that God has not forgotten or abandoned them. Because He is faithful to pursue the sinner and the outcast, the weak and the vulnerable, so are we. Every generation needs a fresh gospel witness. May we be faithful to answer that call, and may God continue to be glorified in and through us in the days ahead. We love you church, and can't wait to be together again soon!

In Him,  
  
**MIKE**

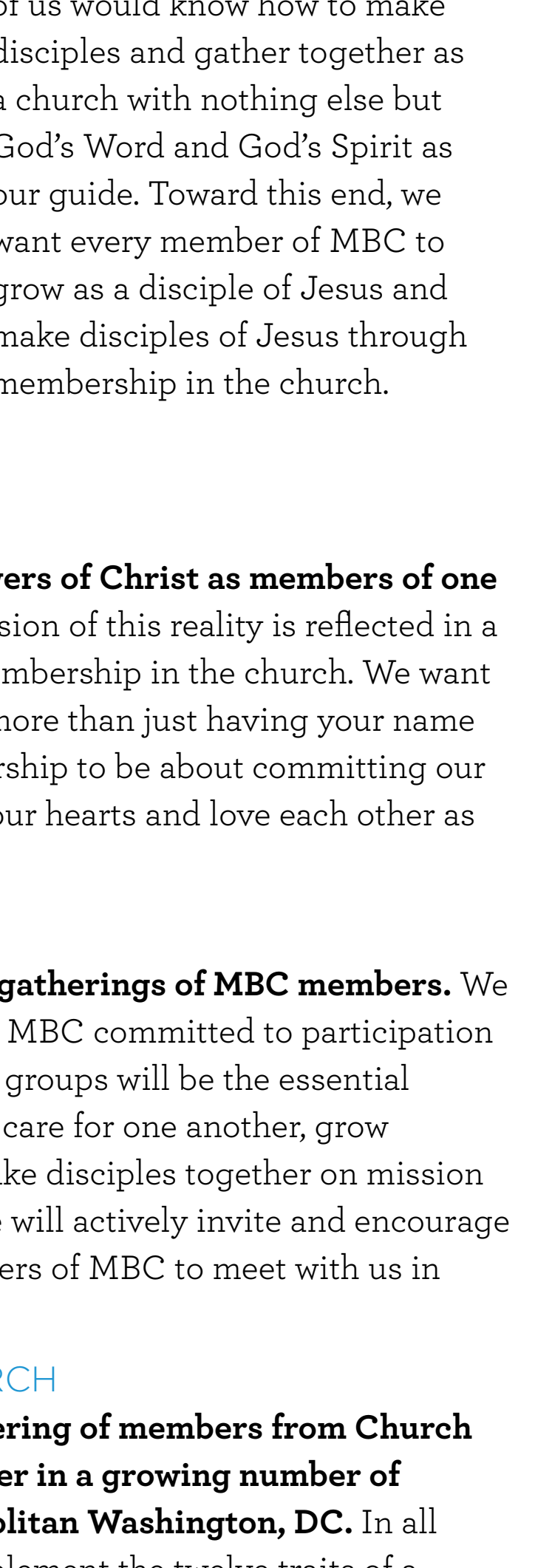
# HE IS GIVING US A FRESH OPPORTUNITY

TO PROCLAIM THE SAME GOSPEL TO A NEW GENERATION HERE IN OUR CITY AND ALL OVER THE WORLD

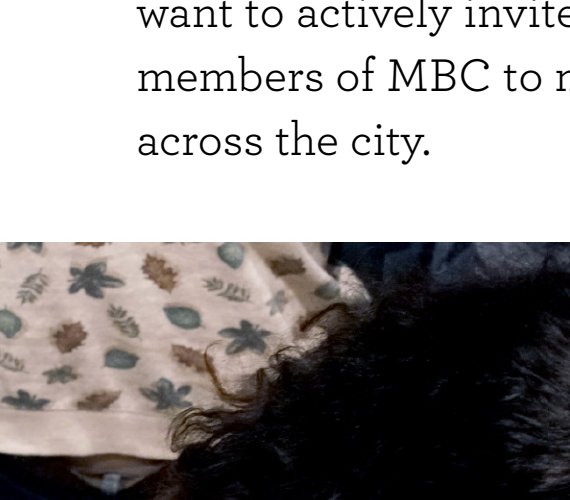
## HEY MBC FAMILY,

In 2 Samuel 7:18, King David sat before the Lord, humbled by His mercy and overwhelmed with gratitude. His prayer expresses exactly what I feel when I write to you now: "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far?"

By God's grace, my wife, Ashley, and I both grew up in ministry families. My side of the family alone represents 77 consecutive years of pastoral ministry in Washington, DC. We know God is the One who causes spiritual growth, and He did so for us in the rich soil of our diverse families and the strong local churches that discipled us. Our respective faiths were forged in the fires of thriving, predominantly Black churches, each with their own legacy of serving historically marginalized communities. We never could have planned or even imagined where that faith would lead us, but it continues to form us and inform the ministry God has given us here at MBC.



## A NEW > COMMITMENT TO CHURCH LIFE



Our aim is for every member of MBC to live in such a way that if God were to call us to move anywhere else in the world, each of us would know how to make disciples and gather together as a church with nothing else but God's Word and God's Spirit as our guide. Toward this end, we want every member of MBC to grow as a disciple of Jesus and make disciples of Jesus through membership in the church.

### CHURCH MEMBER

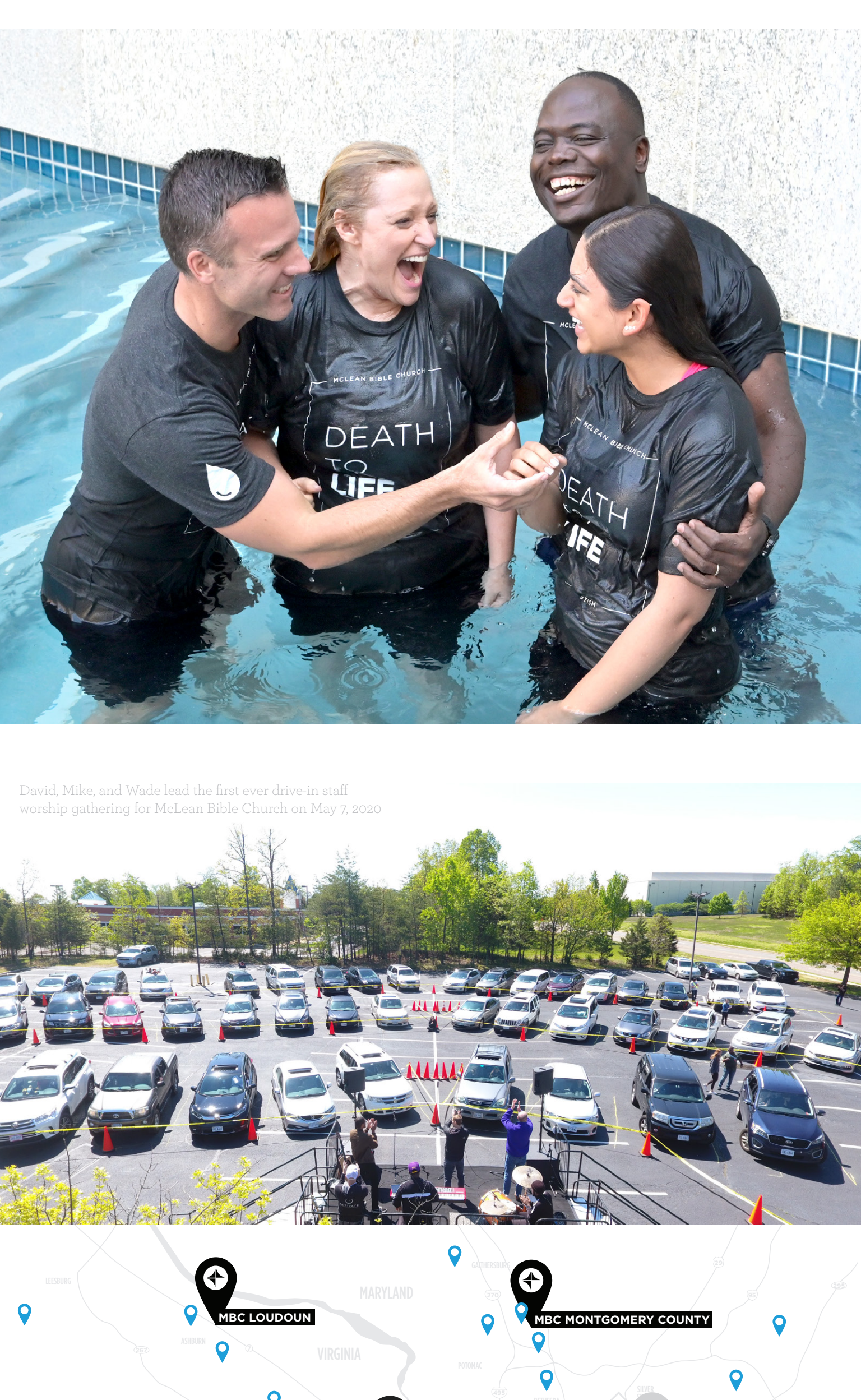
The Bible refers to followers of Christ as members of one body. At MBC, our expression of this reality is reflected in a commitment to formal membership in the church. We want membership to be about more than just having your name on a list. We want membership to be about committing our lives to love God with all our hearts and love each other as ourselves.

### CHURCH GROUPS

Church Groups are core gatherings of MBC members. We envision every member of MBC committed to participation in a Church Group. These groups will be the essential avenue through which we care for one another, grow together in Christ, and make disciples together on mission in the world. Moreover, we will actively invite and encourage people who are not members of MBC to meet with us in Church Groups.

### MCLEAN BIBLE CHURCH

MBC is a collective gathering of members from Church Groups who meet together in a growing number of locations across metropolitan Washington, DC. In all that we do, we want to implement the twelve traits of a healthy church: biblical teaching and preaching, biblical prayer, biblical evangelism, biblical discipleship, biblical membership, biblical leadership, biblical worship, biblical ordinances, biblical fellowship, biblical accountability and discipline, biblical giving, and biblical mission. We also want to actively invite and encourage people who are not members of MBC to meet with us in any of our locations across the city.



David, Mike, and Wade lead the first ever drive-in staff worship gathering for McLean Bible Church on May 7, 2020



## A NEW > RESOLVE TO MULTIPLY

As we move forward together as one church in many locations, we believe the Lord is calling us to an even greater commitment to multiplication across the metro DC area. Through starting new MBC locations, planting new churches, and partnering with existing churches, we want every person in the metro DC area to have a thriving gospel witness near them.

We are also more resolved than ever to help strengthen and support our existing locations. In practice, our commitment to collaboration means we will be operating more and more in the future as one church. We will drop the term campus, begin using the term location, and move away from titles like "Campus Pastor" and toward titles like "Pastor of MBC Arlington." We will also work to create new central roles for all of MBC's current and future locations that will look to support and resource churchwide ministries like Kid's Quest, The Rock, and Access. At the same time, there will always be freedom and flexibility for localized ministry to reflect the unique culture and context of our different locations.

Our prayer for collaboration and multiplication in the future does not just extend to MBC's own locations. We want to work with other churches and gospel partners to make disciples and multiply churches across metro DC and beyond.

### STRATEGICALLY CENTRALIZED AND HIGHLY ALIGNED COLLABORATION OVER COMPETITION

### NEW LOCATIONS AND NEW CHURCHES

I do wish there was a way to be together as we introduce both the new team and the vision we will be perfecting toward in the years ahead. The Lord's timing is just, however, and there are already many ways in which this crisis is serving to prepare MBC for our future work. For example, in the years ahead we will likely be in a much more centralized and aligned church across all of our locations. In this present crisis, the staff team has pulled together in ways that might have taken years to accomplish in more "normal" times! Even as we

## THE LORD'S TIMING IS PERFECT, AND THERE ARE ALREADY MANY WAYS IN WHICH THIS CRISIS IS SERVING TO PREPARE MCLEAN BIBLE CHURCH FOR OUR FUTURE WORK

### TO OUR NEW CHURCH FAMILY,

These past few months have been as fruitful and as challenging as any season of ministry I can remember. For the past eight years, I have had the privilege of serving, studying, and consulting with some of our country's largest churches, including McLean Bible Church. I have come to know well both the elders and the senior leadership at MBC, going all the way back to Lon's leadership.

When David called last year and asked if I was open to serving alongside him on a new leadership team — one that would include Mike Kelsey as well — our family began to pray and ask the Lord whether he was calling us to be a part of the journey at MBC in a more personal way. It has been incredible to watch the Lord's affirmation in each step of that process!

We can't wait!  
  
**WADE**



## REACHING PEOPLE > ONLINE

At the beginning of this year, none of us could have imagined how our online ministry would expand to reach multitudes of new people, seemingly overnight due to COVID-19. While we deeply value and look forward to the in-person gathering of the body at MBC, our eyes have been opened to opportunities that exist to reach so many people beyond MBC through remote means. Many of the new approaches we have taken and connection opportunities we have created will carry forward into our future strategy as a church.

- In 2020...
- HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF LIVESTREAMS AND MILLIONS OF DOWNLOADS OF SERMONS FROM 165 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES THROUGH MBC AND RADICAL WEBSITES AND PODCASTS
- MILLIONS OF VIEWS AT MCLEANBIBLE.ORG
- MILLIONS REACHED IN OVER 50 DIFFERENT LANGUAGES THROUGH FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, AND TWITTER
- Over Previous Years...
- OVER 14 MILLION DOWNLOADS OF PRAY THE WORD PODCASTS IN OVER 100 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES
- HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS PARTICIPATING IN SECRET CHURCH LIVESTREAMS FROM OVER 100 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

## REACHING PEOPLE > IN PERSON

Nothing replaces physically sharing God's love face-to-face with people. Even in a season of social distancing due to COVID-19, MBC members have spent thousands of hours delivering hundreds of thousands of pounds of food to people in need. We have worked with more than 50 community partners (Title 1 Schools, Non-profits, Food Banks, etc.) throughout our city.

However, we've not just distributed food to meet people's physical needs. We've also shared the gospel with every individual and family we've encountered so that they might know the God who alone can give otherworldly peace in the middle of a worldwide pandemic.

COVID-19 has reminded us that the church is truly not a building or an event, but a family on a mission. Together, we will do whatever it takes to love our neighbors as ourselves so that they might know the love of our God.

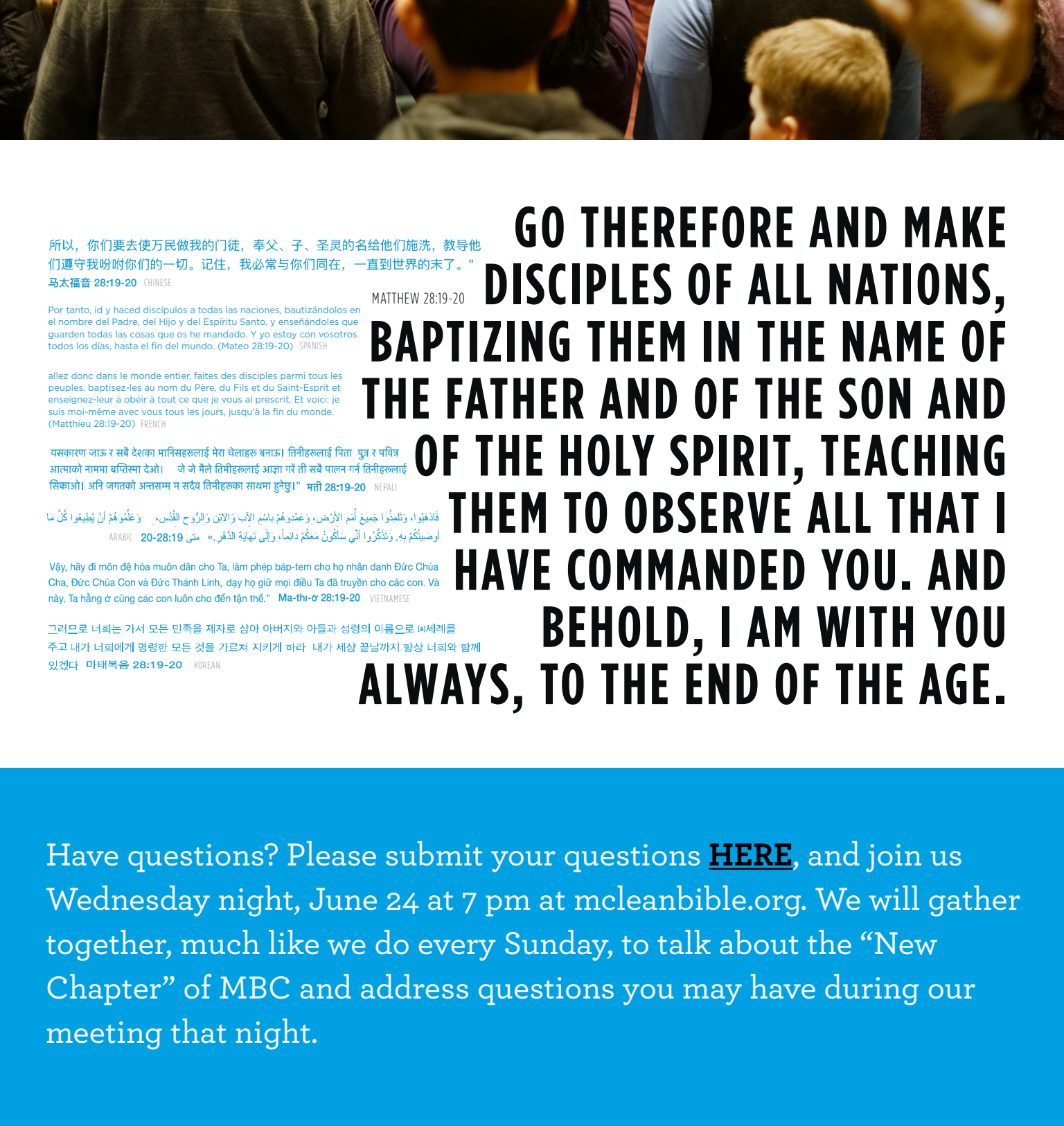
- 47,552 FOOD BOXES AND HOMELESS BAGS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED
- MORE THAN 50 COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION (TITLE 1 SCHOOLS, OTHER CHURCHES, LOCAL FOOD BANKS, ETC.)
- OVER 10,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS SERVED
- 1,061,927 POUNDS OF FOOD HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED, RESULTING IN 818,000 MEALS.

\*These numbers are as of May 30



## GOD'S FAITHFULNESS WILL CONTINUE

We will worship in person together again! As a church family, we want to emerge from this crisis stronger, more unified, and more passionate than ever. These days are reminding us that we all want to make our lives count for what matters most in eternity. So let's step boldly together into the future with faith in the God who is able to do immeasurably more than all we could ask or imagine for our good and for His glory!



GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND BEHOLD, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE END OF THE AGE.

所以，你們要去使萬國都作我的門徒，奉父、子、聖靈的名給他們施洗，教導他們遵守我所吩咐你們的一切，記着，我就常與你們同在，直到世界的末了。  
 馬太福音 28:19-20

Por tanto, id y haced discipulos de todas las naciones, bautizandolos en el nombre del Padre y del Hijo y del Espiritu Santo, enseñandolos a guardar todo lo que yo os he mandado. Y he aqui yo estoy con vosotros hasta el fin del mundo.  
 Mateo 28:19-20

Итак идите, научите все народы, крестя их во имя Отца и Сына и Святого Духа, enseñando их соблюдать все, что я повелеваю вам. И я со стою с вами до конца мира.  
 Матфея 28:19-20

Итак идите, научите все народы, крестя их во имя Отца и Сына и Святого Духа, и обучая их исполнять все, что Я заповедовал вам. И Я со стою с вами до конца мира.  
 Матфея 28:19-20

Have questions? Please submit your questions [HERE](#), and join us Wednesday night, June 24 at 7 pm at [mcleanbible.org](#). We will gather together, much like we do every Sunday, to talk about the "New Chapter" of MBC and address questions you may have during our meeting that night.