“We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.”

Colossians 1:28 (NASB)
Joy in the Journey

MICHAEL J. CARD & JOHN THOMPSON

There is a joy in the journey
There’s a light we can love on the way
There is a wonder and wildness to life
And freedom for those who obey
And all those who seek it shall find it
A pardon for all who believe
Hope for the hopeless and sight for the blind
To all who’ve been born of the Spirit
And who share incarnation with Him
Who belong to eternity stranded in time
And weary of struggling with sin
Forget not the hope that’s before you
And never stop counting the cost
Remember the hopelessness when you were lost
6

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Fellowship
- Worship
- Biblical Lifestyle
- Stewardship
- Missions
- Evangelism

1. Spiritual Health Assessment
2. Find a Spiritual Mentor
3. Take the Initiative
4. Get Involved
5. Track Your Progress
6. ...
The disciples knew what they needed to do. On the day Jesus ascended into heaven, they were left with the Great Commission:

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” -Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

Paul, who had become a servant by the commission God gave him, dedicated his life to serving God and proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ:

“We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.” -Colossians 1:28 (NASB)

We benefit from the example and teaching of the disciples today. Their lives and ministry served the purpose of presenting us complete in Christ. The following six areas reflect the 6 Areas for Development for our spiritual lives that need to be checked and maintained to have a healthy Christian life:

6 AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

FELLOWSHIP- We were created for God’s Family.
WORSHIP- We were created for God’s pleasure.
BIBLICAL LIFESTYLE- We were created by God to live according to God’s Word.
STEWARDSHIP- We were created to manage God’s resources.
MISSIONS- We were created to minister to others in Christ’s name.
EVANGELISM- We were created to share Christ with others.

The Journey is designed to help bring focus and balance to these 6 Areas for Development. In the coming months, you’ll have the opportunity to focus on the spiritual discipline you’ve committed to improve. You’ll find practical help and suggested steps to take on your journey.

You’ll soon discover The Journey is not about the time it takes to see improvement or the steps one should take to reach the destination. The goal is to learn to value the relationship we have with our traveling partner, Jesus Christ.
STEP 1. Take the Spiritual Health Self-Assessment

If you plan to travel from point A to point B, you need to know where point A is. The *Spiritual Health Self-Assessment* will give you a snapshot of your spiritual health and reveals areas that may be out of balance in your life. This will help you identify the *Areas for Development* you would like to work on and those in which you are strong.

STEP 2. Find a Spiritual Mentor

Many of us start out with good intentions but lack the discipline to follow through with our plans. Make it a point to pair up with a mentor who can help you follow through on the growth steps you choose to take. A spiritual mentor is an individual, usually of the same gender, who is committed on an ongoing basis to helping you deal with life and all that it offers. This person will encourage you, help with accountability, and actively support you as you take spiritual risks and face challenges unique to your life.

STEP 3. Take the Initiative

In this booklet you’ll find a table for each area with a beginning step (crawl), an intermediate step (walk), and a more advanced step (run) for each of the questions found in *The Spiritual Health Assessment*. Pick the step or steps you want to take for the *Areas for Development* you have chosen to work on. You’ll also find a resource page for each area that will take you further in your growth. Then work with your mentor to chart the course for your journey.

STEP 4. Get Involved: Developmental Opportunities

There is no shortage of opportunities for you to develop balance in your spiritual life by engaging in a variety of classes, projects, ministries or small groups. Throughout the year, our church offers classes and training opportunities for you to grow in the area(s) you’ve chosen to focus on. There are also ministries and mission projects that are planned throughout the year. This booklet contains listings of planned courses or activities that are church sponsored to help you advance your faith.

STEP 5. Track Your Progress

Use the *My Spiritual Health Plan*, at the back of this booklet, to chart your course, monitor your progress and celebrate accomplishments throughout the year.
### Step 1: SPIRITUAL HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Please answer all of the following questions. Check the response that indicates the degree to which the statement is true for you.

5 = Strongly Agree • 4 = Agree • 3 = Neither Agree or Disagree • 2 = Disagree • 1 = Strongly Disagree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IS THIS STATEMENT TRUE FOR YOU</th>
<th>SELECT FROM THE FOLLOWING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship: You were created for God’s family</td>
<td>I am a Christian &lt;br&gt; 5 4 3 2 1 &lt;br&gt; I am a member of Morningside Baptist Church &lt;br&gt; 5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship: You were created for God’s pleasure</td>
<td>I am dependent on God for every aspect of my life &lt;br&gt; 5 4 3 2 1 &lt;br&gt; There is no area of my life that I haven’t surrendered to God &lt;br&gt; 5 4 3 2 1 &lt;br&gt; I regularly meditate on God’s Word and invite Him into my everyday activities &lt;br&gt; 5 4 3 2 1 &lt;br&gt; I have a deep desire to spend time in God’s presence &lt;br&gt; 5 4 3 2 1 &lt;br&gt; I have an overwhelming sense of God’s awesomeness even when I am not worshipping with God’s people or feeling His presence &lt;br&gt; 5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biblical Lifestyle: You were created to live according to God’s Word</td>
<td>I know what I believe and why &lt;br&gt; 5 4 3 2 1 &lt;br&gt; I am engaged in regular, personal Bible study &lt;br&gt; 5 4 3 2 1 &lt;br&gt; I allow God’s Word to guide my thoughts and change my actions &lt;br&gt; 5 4 3 2 1 &lt;br&gt; I find that I am making better choices to do what is right when I am tempted to do wrong &lt;br&gt; 5 4 3 2 1 &lt;br&gt; I have found that prayer has changed how I view and interact with the world &lt;br&gt; 5 4 3 2 1 &lt;br&gt; I am consistent in pursuing spiritual habits that are helping me model my life after Jesus &lt;br&gt; 5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stewardship: You were created to manage God’s resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I use my time and resources to serve God</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I often think of ways to use my God-given gifts and abilities to please God</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A review of my finances shows that I think more of God than about myself</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I often pray and ask God what He would have me do with my time</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am currently serving God with the gifts and passions He has given me</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I manage my financial resources in ways that please God</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I withhold nothing from God when it comes to schedules, abilities and tithes</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stewardship Total: ____________________________

Missions: You were created to minister to others

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am aware of my church’s mission strategy</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am aware of the agencies my church supports to share the message of Jesus Christ</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I support my church’s local partnerships</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I support my church’s regional partnerships</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I support my church’s North American partnerships</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I support my church’s international partnerships</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Missions Total: ____________________________

Evangelism: You were created to share Christ with others

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I look for opportunities to share the story of how I became a Christian</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I intentionally try to meet new people with the hope that I might someday share my faith with them</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel confident in my ability to lead someone to faith in Christ (I know the basics of what I need to share)</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I constantly pray for people that I know need to become followers of Jesus</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I daily ask God to lead me to someone with whom I may share my faith</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I find that many of my conversations lead to talking about the things of God</td>
<td>5 4 3 2 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evangelism Total: ____________________________
Composite Score:

- My Fellowship Score:  
- My Worship Score: + 
- My Biblical Lifestyle Score: + 
- My Stewardship Score: + 
- My Missions Score: + 
- My Evangelism Score: + 

**My Spiritual Health Score:** = _____

Scores of 1–66 = **Spiritually Crawling:** Time to master the basics.
Scores of 67–130 = **Spiritually Walking:** Time to set higher spiritual goals.
Scores of 131–160 = **Spiritually Running:** Time to mentor others.

Keep the *Spiritual Health Assessment* with you for your information and records so you can refer back to it during the next phase of *The Journey*.

Each December, we will ask you to provide your *Spiritual Health Score* to your Bible Fellowship teacher in order for the church office to develop a composite score for our church. This will help us know where we need to focus attention and resources for our church family. We do not need your name associated with your score.
Now that you’ve completed the *Spiritual Health Assessment*, you can transfer your scores to the *My Spiritual Health Plan* at the back of this booklet, and you are ready to take the next step toward living a healthy and balanced Christian life.

Choose one *Area for Development* from the *My Spiritual Health Plan* that you want to focus on with the assistance and accountability of a mentor. On the following pages you will find suggested steps for each area with a beginning step (crawl), an intermediate step (walk), and a more advanced step (run) for each of the questions found in *The Spiritual Health Assessment*. Pick the step(s) you want to take for the area(s) you have chosen to work on. You will also find a resource page for each area with practical suggestions to take you further in your growth.

While you may need to challenge yourself to step up to the task, you also need to be realistic in your expectations; otherwise, you might become discouraged and give up. So consider starting off with a crawl step, a target you can easily hit in the next thirty days. Then you can move on to a walk step, a tangible goal that will stretch you over the next sixty to ninety days. Finally, choose a run step, something that will require a leap of faith, but through the power of the Holy Spirit will bring you to a new level of spiritual maturity.

Visit [www.MorningsideBaptist.com/mentor](http://www.MorningsideBaptist.com/mentor) to review the most up-to-date list of men and women available to serve as a mentor. You’ll find contact information and additional instructions regarding the mentoring relationship.

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**Step 2: FIND A SPIRITUAL MENTOR**

When you have selected the *Areas for Development* you want to work on and the steps you want to take, share your decisions with your mentor who will help you stay the course by praying for you and holding you accountable. Don’t try to do this alone. Isolation can lead to procrastination. But a mentor can encourage you if you’re feeling discouraged and help you up if you fall down.

Visit [www.MorningsideBaptist.com/mentor](http://www.MorningsideBaptist.com/mentor) to review the most up-to-date list of men and women available to serve as a mentor. You’ll find contact information and additional instructions regarding the mentoring relationship.

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**Step 3: TAKE THE INITIATIVE**

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Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work:
If one falls down, his friend can help him up.
But pity the man who falls down and has no one to help him up!
Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.
But how can one keep warm alone?
Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.
*Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, (NIV)*
Step 3: FELLOWSHIP

Using the lists below, CIRCLE a step you would like to take and transfer it to your *My Spiritual Health Plan* at the back of this booklet.

**Statement: I am a Christian.**

**CRAWL** Visit [www.MorningsideBaptist.com/6disciplines](http://www.morningsidebaptist.com/6disciplines) and begin implementing them into your daily life.

**WALK** Write out your testimony. Make note of the time, date, and place. Include roles people played and the desire of your heart at the time you made that decision. Keep this as a cherished document in a safe place.

**RUN** Practice sharing your testimony so that you can verbally share it in five minutes or less.

**Statement: I am a member of Morningside Baptist Church.**

**CRAWL** Attend a *Discovering Morningside New Member Class*

**WALK** Join a Bible Fellowship class. Engage in the activities, events and ministries of the church. A list of Bible Fellowship classes can be found at: [www.MorningsideBaptist.com/biblefellowship](http://www.morningsidebaptist.com/biblefellowship). Activities and events can be found on the church calendar at [www.MorningsideBaptist.com/events](http://www.morningsidebaptist.com/events).

**RUN** Assume a leadership role in Bible Fellowship, ministries and/or committees of the church. Your mentor, Bible Fellowship teacher, deacon, elder or minister can assist you.
Step 3: **WORSHIP**

Using the lists below, CIRCLE a step you would like to take and transfer it to your *My Spiritual Health Plan* at the back of this booklet.

**Statement: I am dependent on God for every aspect of my life.**

**CRAWL** Wake up with a prayer of thanksgiving to God every morning.

**WALK** Read through the Psalms. Note all the times the writer talks about his dependency on God.

**RUN** Set aside an object upon which you normally depend (i.e. smart phone). Focus on God as you set it aside and remind yourself how dependent you are on God for your life.

**Statement: There is no area of my life that I haven’t surrendered to God.**

**CRAWL** Make a list of everything in your life you have not surrendered to God. Talk with your mentor about ways you can surrender them.

**WALK** Develop a plan for giving up one thing you have held back from God. Talk with your mentor about being held accountable to do so.

**RUN** Spend time in intense prayer with God for His guidance in surrendering every area of your life.

**Statement: I regularly meditate on God’s Word and invite Him into my everyday activities.**

**CRAWL** Meditate on a verse of scripture daily, taking note of what you have learned from God.

**WALK** Set aside time to study God’s Word on a daily basis. Pray, asking God for insight into His Word and how it can apply to your life today.

**RUN** Choose scripture from your daily readings to memorize. Make it a priority to hide God’s Word in your heart.

**Statement: I have a deep desire to spend time in God’s presence.**

**CRAWL** Give God a one-minute prayer every day.

**WALK** Set aside some time every day to be alone with God.

**RUN** Identify a place you can go to focus on God and worship Him. Make it a habit to spend time in this place regularly.

**Statement: I have an overwhelming sense of God’s awesomeness even when I am not worshipping with God’s people or feeling His presence.**

**CRAWL** Study the names of God using the Psalms. Keep a journal to remind yourself what you have learned.

**WALK** Prepare yourself for worship by finding a quiet place, listening to Christian music and/or spending time in the Word.

**RUN** Recognize God’s presence in your life everyday by committing to God every thought and action.
Step 3: BIBLICAL LIFESTYLE

Using the lists below, CIRCLE a step you would like to take and transfer it to your My Spiritual Health Plan at the back of this booklet.

Statement: I know what I believe and why.

CRAWL  Read the “Core Values” of our church at www.MorningsideBaptist.com/values.

WALK  Underline verses in your Bible that are promises from God.

RUN  Enlist a mentor to help you identify upcoming classes at church that address what Christians believe.

Statement: I am engaged in regular, personal Bible study.

CRAWL  Join a Bible Fellowship class.

WALK  Read/study through your Bible Fellowship lesson in advance of the class.

RUN  Teach a Bible Fellowship class.
Statement: I allow God’s Word to guide my thoughts and change my actions.

CRAWL   Read at least one Bible verse a day.
WALK    Read the Bible straight through like a story or novel.
RUN     Make a regular habit of studying the Bible in depth. Ask a mentor to help you get started by identifying helpful resources.

Statement: I find I am making better choices to do what is right when I am tempted to do wrong.

CRAWL   Examine the areas of your life where you struggle with temptation.
WALK    Develop a plan for handling a specific temptation in your life. Find a mentor to help you.
RUN     Make confession and repentance a regular part of your time with God. Name the things you have done and commit yourself to make the right choices in the future.

Statement: I have found that prayer has changed how I view and interact with the world.

CRAWL   Pray a one sentence prayer from time to time to bring God into your circumstances.
WALK    Spend time praying through structured prayers on a daily basis.
RUN     Make spontaneous prayers a regular part of your day. Join a 10 Men Prayer Group at church.

Statement: I am consistent in pursuing spiritual habits that are helping me model my life after Jesus.

CRAWL   Develop the spiritual habit of praying. After waking each morning, take a moment to offer a prayer to God.
WALK    Attend the class: Learning to Carry the Disciples’ Cross at church.
RUN     Commit to practicing the 6 Disciplines on a daily basis. Ask your mentor to help you evaluate which habits you need help implementing.

www.MorningsideBaptist.com/6disciplines
Step 3: STEWARDSHIP

Using the lists below, CIRCLE a step you would like to take and transfer it to your My Spiritual Health Plan at the back of this booklet.

Statement: I use my time and resources to serve God.

CRAWL  Pray daily and join a Bible Fellowship Class

WALK  Make daily prayer and Bible study a part of your routine. Look for opportunities to serve in a ministry of the church. www.MorningsideBaptist.com/global-ministries

RUN  Make spending time with God a priority through prayer, learning about God, reading the Bible and discovering ways to serve Him.

Statement: I often think about ways to use my God-given gifts and abilities to please God.


WALK  Meet with a mentor to explore where your spiritual abilities can be best utilized in your church and seek to serve in those areas.

RUN  Start, or help start, a new ministry in or through the church that serves others based on the gifts and abilities God has given you.
Statement: How I use my finances shows that I think more of God and others than I do about myself.

**CRAWL**  Sit down with your mentor or a pastor to discuss the Biblical principles and teachings specific to money and budgeting.

**WALK**  Set aside time to study God’s Word on generous giving and realign your budget and spending to give yourself an opportunity to give back what you feel you can after you’ve given your tithe and after your bills are paid.

**RUN**  Cheerfully give, in accordance to God’s teaching, at least 10% of your gross income back to Him as an act of worship and obedience.

Statement: I often pray and ask God what He would have me do with my time.

**CRAWL**  Ask God how to best use your time each day, despite your busy schedule.

**WALK**  Volunteer to serve in the church, even though it requires some sacrifice of time.

**RUN**  Knowing that God expects you to manage your time wisely, joyfully and sacrificially schedule to honor and serve Him.

Statement: I am currently serving God with the gifts and passions He has given me.

**CRAWL**  Seek opportunities to utilize your abilities at church. Ask your mentor, Bible Fellowship teacher, deacon, elder or a minister to help you identify opportunities.

**WALK**  Commit to serve in a ministry of the church on a consistent basis.

**RUN**  Assume a leadership role of a ministry in the church or start a new ministry.

Statement: I manage my financial resources in ways that please God.

**CRAWL**  Ask your mentor to help you determine where you are spending your money and develop a more defined personal/family budget.

**WALK**  Re-evaluate your budget in order to align it with God’s teachings to insure you are not living outside of your means. Make adjustments as necessary.

**RUN**  Manage your finances in a way that puts God first and allows you to be a blessing to others.
Using the lists below, CIRCLE a step you would like to take and transfer it to your *My Spiritual Health Plan* at the back of this booklet.

**Statement: I am aware of my church’s mission strategy:**

*www.MorningsideBaptist.com/global-ministries*


**WALK** Pray for members of the church’s Global Missions Committee.

**RUN** Volunteer to serve on the Global Missions Committee or assist or lead a mission project.

**Statement: I am aware of the agencies my church supports to share the message of Jesus Christ.**

**CRAWL** Review the list of local and regional agencies the church supports. Learn how they share Christ through the work they do.

**WALK** Review the list of North American agencies the church supports. Learn how they share Christ through the work they do.

**RUN** Review the list of international agencies the church supports. Learn how they share Christ through the work they do.

**Statement: I support my church’s local partnerships.**

**CRAWL** Pray for leaders, needs and the effectiveness of local ministry partnerships identified on *www.MorningsideBaptist.com/global-ministries.*

**WALK** Support missions by giving regularly to the church’s budget. Support local mission projects and work financially through special offerings.

**RUN** Volunteer to visit or participate in each of the church’s local mission partnerships within the next five years.
Statement: I support my church’s regional partnerships.

CRAWL Pray for leaders, needs and the effectiveness of regional ministry partnerships identified on the Global Missions page of the church website.

WALK Support missions by giving regularly to the church’s budget. Support regional mission projects and work financially through special offerings.

RUN Volunteer to visit or participate in a regional mission partnership within the next five years.

Statement: I support my church’s North American partnerships.

CRAWL Pray for leaders, needs and the effectiveness of North American mission partnerships identified on the Global Missions page of the church website.

WALK Support missions by giving regularly to the church’s budget. Support North American mission projects and work financially through special offerings.

RUN Participate in at least one North American mission trip within the next five years.

Statement: I support my church’s international partnerships.

CRAWL Pray for leaders, needs and the effectiveness of international ministry partnerships identified on the Global Missions page of the church website.

WALK Support missions by giving regularly to the church’s budget. Support international mission projects and work financially through special offerings.

RUN Participate in at least one international mission trip within the next five years.
Step 3: EVANGELISM

Using the lists below, CIRCLE a step you would like to take and transfer it to your *My Spiritual Health Plan* at the back of this booklet.

**Statement:** I look for opportunities to share the story of how I became a Christian.

**CRAWL** Write out your testimony.

**WALK** Practice sharing your written testimony so that you can share it in five minutes or less.

**RUN** Take advantage of the yearly church evangelism emphasis by leading a group during the outreach phase.

**Statement:** I intentionally try to meet new people with the hope I might someday share my faith with them.

**CRAWL** Introduce yourself to your neighbors and invite them to church with you.

**WALK** Volunteer as the Outreach Leader in your Bible Fellowship class.

**RUN** Start and/or help start a new Bible Fellowship class.

**Statement:** I feel confident in my ability to lead someone to faith in Christ.

**CRAWL** Familiarize yourself with Billy Graham’s booklet, *Steps to Peace with God*.

**WALK** Memorize the Scripture passages outlined in Billy Graham’s booklet, *Steps to Peace with God* and carry the booklet with you.

**RUN** Memorize Billy Graham’s booklet, *Steps to Peace with God*, and be ready to share.

**Statement:** I constantly pray for people that I know who need to become followers of Jesus.

**CRAWL** Join an existing Prayer Group.

**WALK** Lead an existing Prayer Group.

**RUN** Form a new Prayer Group.

**Statement:** I daily ask God to lead me to someone with whom I may share my faith.

**CRAWL** Pray for relatives whom you know that need to come to faith in Jesus Christ.

**WALK** Pray for friends, classmates and business associates that need to come to faith in Jesus Christ.

**RUN** Prayer walk through your neighborhood.

**Statement:** I find that many of my conversations lead to talking about the things of God.

**CRAWL** Look for new people at church and become friends with them.

**WALK** Follow-up with first-time guests at church on a weekly basis.

**RUN** Teach a discipleship course on building relationships for evangelism.
How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in?
And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?
And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?
And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?
As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

-Romans 10:14-15 (NIV)


Church Membership

Anyone may request church membership at any organized event of the church. Everyone that requests membership must speak with a minister, elder or deacon:

- to share how they became a follower of Jesus Christ and/or to become a follower of Jesus Christ;
- for an assessment of their spiritual health; and,
- to impart the nature of their decision.

Establishing their credibility and a threshold of confidence concerning their relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, the potential member completes new member orientation with the ministerial staff. The staff publishes the people completing new member orientation and presents them to the church.

The church approves/accepts people as members that request membership by:

- profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior with subsequent baptism.
- transfer of letter from another Southern Baptist Church.
- followers of Jesus Christ baptized by immersion that come by statement of their Christian experience.
- followers of Jesus Christ coming from other denominations via baptism by immersion as a witness to their understanding and adherence to Baptist beliefs and doctrines.
- people that profess faith in Christ Jesus but lack baptism by immersion due to extenuating physical circumstances (baptism might prove physically harmful).

The church accepts people as members that meet these requirements and grants membership at the point of presentation. The church records new members at regularly scheduled business meetings.

Discovering Morningside- New Member Class Schedule

- Sunday, February 5, 2017
- Sunday, April 2, 2017
- Sunday, June 11, 2017
- Sunday, August 6, 2017
- Sunday, October 1, 2017
- Sunday, November 19, 2017

If you’re ready to make Morningside your new church home, fill out the “Tell Us About Yourself” on the tear-off section of the Inside Morningside (the Sunday bulletin) and check the box at the bottom to sign-up or call the church office.
Worship is our response, both personally and as a church, to God for who He is and for what He has done, expressed in and by the things we say and the way we live. It is *everything we think, everything we say, and everything we do*, revealing that which we treasure and value most in life.

The purpose of our worship is to glorify, honor, praise, exalt and please God. Our worship must show our adoration and loyalty to God for His grace in providing us with the way to escape the bondage of sin, so that we can have the salvation He wants to give us.

**Prepare to Worship**

The first step in preparing to meet God in worship is to acknowledge that God is the awesome being that He is and recognize Him as the King of Glory of all creation.

**Tips to Help You Be Prepared for a Worship Service:**

- Get a good night sleep before you attend the worship service so you will be alert
- Pray prior to the worship service, asking God to prepare your heart for worship
- Read the Bible before attending a worship service to prepare your heart and mind for worship
- Attend worship ready to participate, hungry for God’s Word, expecting God to speak and anticipating a memorable experience with your Creator

**Serve as a Worship Team Member**

In addition to being an active worship participant in the congregation, you can be a worship leader.

**Here is a list of ways you can help lead others in worship:**

- Worship Singer
- Praise Band Member
- Instrumentalist
- Soloist/Vocalist
- Audio/Visual Technician
- Staging Design or Setup
- Drama: *Costumes*
- Drama: *Actor/Actress*
- Drama: *Set Builder*

Contact our Worship Pastor or call the church office to share your desire to be a Worship Team Member and discuss ways you can serve.
Step 4: BIBLICAL LIFESTYLE

Living out our faith in a way that pleases God requires being intentional in every aspect of our lives. The Bible speaks to every situation, circumstance, hurdle, opportunity and relationship we will ever experience. We need to develop an understanding of how to read scripture with a view to apply it at our point of need.

In an effort to assist Christians in gaining scriptural understanding and incorporate faith in life situations, the following courses will be taught on a regular basis. Courses offered in Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 are indicated.

LEVEL 000—For New Believers
- Week One: Taking Your First Steps as a Follower of Jesus Christ

LEVEL 100—Growing Disciples Series
- The Call to Follow Christ
- Abiding in Christ
- Living in the Word
- Praying in Faith *(Spring 2017)*
- Fellowshipping with Believers *(Spring 2017)*
- Witnessing to the World *(Fall 2017)*
- Ministering to Others *(Fall 2017)*

LEVEL 200—Foundations of Our Faith Series
This series is comprised of these five consecutive courses. *(Spring 2017)*
- Big Bang or Big God
- 3-N-1: The Trinity
- From Sinner to Saint
- The Water, The Cup, The Bread, The Bride
- The Certainty of Things to Come

LEVEL 300—Life Application Series
- Step By Step Through the Old Testament
- Step By Step Through the New Testament
- Making Love Last Forever *(Fall 2017)*
- His Needs, Her Needs
- Love & Respect
- The Home Team
- Calm Parenting University
- Raising Achievers *(Spring 2017)*
- Building Strong Families
- The Bible and Current Events
- Spiritual Warfare *(Spring 2017)*

LEVEL 400—Disciple Maker Series
- MasterLife: The Disciple's Personality
- MasterLife: The Disciple's Victory
- MasterLife: The Disciple's Mission
- Experiencing God: Knowing & Doing the Will of God
- The Mind of Christ *(Fall 2017)*
Step 4: STEWARDSHIP

We have responsibilities as members of the church and even more so as members of God’s Kingdom to be faithful stewards. God wants us to understand the biblical roots of stewardship and how to apply it to our daily lives.

Being a good steward applies to every aspect of our lives, not just on tithing and money. Since God places such importance on stewardship, we need to understand what that means to us and all that He has entrusted to us.

God knew we would struggle with what He has given us, but He gives us the life lessons we need to become good stewards.

We’ll be offering the following two courses on a regular, repeating basis in order to lead Christians to discover ways to maximize their stewardship:

**What Kind of Steward are You?** (4 Sessions)

Dates this course will be taught, in the future, will be listed in the *Inside Morningside* (Sunday bulletin).

This course will not be a discussion that focuses only on tithing and money. Participants will learn the importance that God places on stewardship and the life lessons to become good stewards. The course will focus on the stewardship of our schedules, abilities and tithing.

**Your Money Counts** by Crown Financial Ministries (13 Sessions)

Dates this course will be taught, in the future, will be listed in the *Inside Morningside* (Sunday bulletin).

Many people are experiencing financial challenges, such as debt, a frustrating job, or inadequate savings. Recent surveys have found that over half of all divorces are the result of financial pressure at home. Suffocating materialism is robbing people of their spiritual vitality. In *Your Money Counts* you will learn that the Bible has a lot to say about money. There are, in fact, over 2,350 verses that address everything you need to know about handling money. Indeed, the Bible is a blueprint for managing your finances. Not only is *Your Money Counts* practical, but in it you will discover the profound impact handling money has on your relationship with God.
Step 4: MISSIONS

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) is a command to all followers of Jesus Christ to be missionaries. Our obedience to Christ’s command isn’t a burden to be carried, but an opportunity to share the Good News we have as a result of a relationship with Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ (2 Cor 5:20), we are to proactively share our faith in Christ with others, giving them the opportunity to make Him their Savior.

With a vision to see as many people as possible come to faith in Christ, the Global Missions Team at Morningside leads the church in implementing an Acts 1:8 strategy to provide students, families, and adults a means to accomplish the Great Commission through evangelism and church planting in Greater Columbus, regionally, throughout North America and around the world.

The following is a listing of projects and partnerships approved by the Global Missions Committee for individuals, families, or Bible Fellowship classes to engage and support. The point of contact for each ministry area is listed in parenthesis.

COLUMBUS MISSION WORK & PARTNERSHIPS
Brown Bag of Columbus (Jeff Engel)
Morningside at Steam Mill (Scott Drew)
Morningside’s Mission Congregation
Meets at: 3679 Steam Mill Rd, Columbus
Time: 9:45AM Sunday School; 11:00AM Worship
Packs of Grace (Kathy Powell/Debbie Ball)
Valley Interfaith Promise (Torre & Lori Worley)
VIP Host Week Dates at Morningside:
January 8 to January 15, 2017
June 25 to July 2, 2017
August 27 to September 3, 2017
November 26 to December 3, 2017
Mission Columbus
Christian Women’s Job Corps
Christmas Toy Shop for Kids
Clothing Distribution
Counseling Services
Financial Utility Assistance
Food Distribution
Partners in Education: Blackmon Road MS (Brandon Johns)

REGIONAL MISSION WORK & PARTNERSHIPS
Ministry to the Military (Bob Jordan)
International Friendship Ministry (Nancy Buntin)

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION WORK & PARTNERSHIPS
Boston, Massachusetts (Brandon Johns)
Morningside Student Mission Trip
Mission Trip Dates: June 10-16, 2017
Manchester, Kentucky - Mission Trip in conjunction with the Columbus Baptist Association
Mission Trip Date: June 23-30, 2017
Chattanooga, Tennessee (Brandon Johns)
Morningside Middle School Mission Trip
Mission Trip Dates: July 14-17, 2017

INTERNATIONAL MISSION WORK & PARTNERSHIPS
Israel (Mark Graydon)
Working in conjunction with the Association of Baptist Churches in Israel
2017 Mission Trip Dates:
Summer (TBD) and Fall (TBD)
#give faith

Christian people are benevolent. We give away money, food, homes, cars, toys and time so the time has come for us to #give faith.

#give faith is the first step on The Journey. It is the first part of The Journey each year and it is the first step you make when you commit your life to following Jesus.

Jesus said, “If you tell others that you belong to Me, the Son of Man will tell God’s angels that you are my followers” (Luke 12:8 CEV). So start 2017 right and #give faith.

#give faith helps you know what to give away. It teaches the basics of the message and encourages you to do what you really want to do, #give faith.

#give faith happens in Bible Fellowship through January and in your life throughout the year. This year #give faith.

The greatest privilege a Christian has is leading someone to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We never know when a chance encounter becomes a divine appointment for us to share the faith and give someone the opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Being prepared for those conversations and ready to help a person walk through that process is essential.

We want each person to know how to share the faith using a variety of means. Once you find the means that works for you, you’re always prepared to make the most of every conversation.

**Sunday, January 22 & Sunday, 29, 2017**

Each year, Morningside will take time to teach members how to use the booklet, *God’s Bridge to Eternal Life* or *Steps to Peace with God*. We’ll do this as a church-wide emphasis during Bible Fellowship.

Our Bible Fellowship classes are charged with the responsibility to develop prospect files for each class, build relationships and lead non-believers into a relationship with God. Bible Fellowship outreach teams will make in-home visits of prospects to invite them to church and to determine the spiritual condition of the people with whom they visit.

Matthew 28:19-20 is not just a great suggestion, it’s the Great Commission. All believers are commissioned, so let’s all get prepared to share the Good News!
Step 5: MY SPIRITUAL HEALTH PLAN

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My Area for Development: ____________________________  Date: ____________

My Mentor: ____________________________  Phone: ____________

What do I need to do?

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________________________________________________________________________________________
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How will my mentor help me in this process?

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What progress have I made?

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Journey is the result of the work of thirty-three members of Morningside Baptist Church who poured themselves into this project for nearly two years. Their time, effort, and prayers have produced a process that allows Christians the opportunity to take intentional steps to grow in their faith and spiritual practice.

With heartfelt gratitude and appreciation, we thank them for their contributions.
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