

CHRISTIAN BECOMING MINISTRY

A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR MAKING MATURE DISCIPLES



TRINITY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Christian Becoming Ministry: A Strategic Plan For Making Mature Disciples

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Why Do Strategic Planning?

One writer said, "God works through change." Every church needs to be willing to change. The key is to change when things are going well, not when things start to take a turn for bad. Strategic Planning helps us to make the necessary changes when things are going well.

Understanding the Essentials of Strategic Planning

Essential Terms and Concepts

- ESSENTIAL #1: STRATEGIC PLANNING
 - Strategic Planning is the fourfold process that involves a point leader, who works with a team of leaders to envision or re-envision and revitalize the church by developing a biblical mission (1) and a compelling vision (2), discovering its core values (3), and crafting a strategy (4) that implements a unique and authentic church model.
- ESSENTIAL #2: STRATEGY
 - A strategy is the process that determines how your ministry will accomplish its mission.
- ESSENTIAL #3: STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT
 - Strategy development is the process that a church works through to determine the goals and objectives of each mini-strategy (small *s*) that makes up the church's overall strategy (big *s*).
- ESSENTIAL #4: FIVE MINI-STRATEGIES
 1. The Strategy for Community Outreach
 2. The Strategy of Developing a Process for Making Mature Disciples
 3. The Strategy of Forming a Ministry Dream Team
 4. The Strategy of Assessing the Church's Setting
 5. The Strategy of Raising Needed Finances
- ESSENTIAL #5: THE FIVE MINI-STRATEGY QUESTIONS
 1. Whom are we trying to reach?
 2. What are we attempting to do for them?
 3. Who will do this for them?
 4. Where will this take place?
 5. How much will it cost?

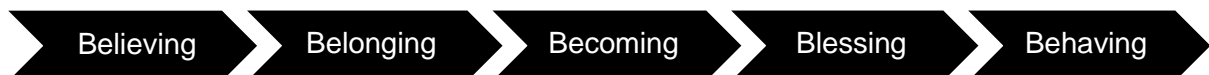
CENTRAL IDEA

We Need To Know *How* To Make Mature Disciples
And We Need To Know *What* Mature Disciples Look Like

5 STEPS FOR Making Mature Disciples

- STEP #1: ARTICULATE CHRIST'S MISSION FOR THE CHURCH
 - Our Mission Statement (MS) is based on Matthew 28:19-20 and Romans 8:29
 - MS: "To be conformed to the image of Christ and to help others be conformed to the same image."
 - Mission Means
 - In order to flesh out our mission statement, we will continue to utilize a spiritual formation initiative called "Watch With Me One Hour" (W.W.M.O.H.).
 - We originally launched W.W.M.O.H. spiritual formation initiative in 2015.
 - We need to continually remind our church family to participate within the W.W.M.O.H. spiritual formation initiative.
- STEP #2: IDENTIFYING THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A MATURE DISCIPLE
 - Essentials For Mature Disciples
 1. Believing (Conversion)
 2. Belonging (Community)
 3. Becoming (Consecration)
 4. Blessing (Contribution)
 5. Behaving (Conduct)
 - Essentials For Mature Disciples Explained
 1. Believing (Conversion) – Surrender to Jesus and know Him as Lord and Savior
 2. Belonging (Community) – Value being a part of a Bible-based community of faith
 3. Becoming (Consecration) – Show a deep commitment to becoming more like Christ
 4. Blessing (Contribution) – Contribute to the church by Serving people, Supporting the church, and Sharing their faith
 5. Behaving (Conduct) – Display a behavior that glorifies God and makes Christ real to others

COMMUNICATE THE ESSENTIALS – THE 5 Bs



- STEP #3: IDENTIFYING THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY MINISTRIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP MAKING
 - Who Is Involved In The Discipleship Making Process?
 1. The Role of God – Progressive Sanctification (Holy Spirit)
 2. The Role of the Christian – Decision (Surrender)
 3. The Role of the Church – Maturing Context (Other Believers “one another”)
 - Primary Ministries
 - Characteristics
 - Most important in helping the congregation embrace the characteristics of discipleship and become mature
 - Everyone needs to be involved in these ministries
 - Ordered: Arranged in some type of order for assimilation purposes
 - Assimilation: How people move from outside the life of the church into its life
 - How many?
 - Do a few things well
 - More is not better
 - The more you have, the less likely people will get involved in them
 - Secondary Ministries
 - What are they?
 - They offer support and back up the primary ministries.
 - They are not essential
 - Budget is different
 - Either way – both are for the Holy Spirit’s use
 - All activities are a means to an end
 - Remember!
 - There are no guarantees
 - Every activity needs purpose

- STEP #4: ALIGN THE CHARACTERISTICS AND THE MINISTRIES
 - How do we bring the characteristics together with the primary ministries?
 - Seven Step Process For Characteristics and Ministry Alignment
 1. Constructing Your Matrix
 2. Critiquing Your Matrix
 3. Correcting Inappropriate Alignment
 4. Discovering What God Is Blessing
 5. Determining When You Will Meet
 6. Remembering That “Less Is More”
 7. Communicating Your Disciple-Maturing Process
- STEP #5: MEASURE THE CHURCH’S SPIRITUAL PROGRESS
 - Step #1: Articulate the Problem
 - Do more than measure offerings and attendance
 - Measure spiritual progress
 - Do what is needed to determine disciple-making capabilities
 - Step #2: Understand the Purpose
 1. Congregational Measurement
 - Shelf life
 - Time for change
 - Surveys
 2. Individual Measurement
 - Personal growth evaluations
 - Step #3: Design a Process
 1. Counting Heads
 - Not to brag
 - To become better
 2. Congregation-Wide Survey
 - Create the survey to fit Trinity’s congregation

CENTRAL IDEA

We Need To Know *How* To Make Mature Disciples
And We Need To Know *What* Mature Disciples Look Like

"The 5 Bs"

By Pastor Trevor Crenshaw

In October 2017, we canceled M.E.A.L. (Mid-Day Education and Lunch) Ministry and Studying the Word (S.T.W.) Class. We canceled all Wednesday classes because of the weekly Strategic Planning Presentation that took place each Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m., in the church's Fellowship Hall. We educated Trinity's membership, other churches, and church leaders in the area of Strategic Planning. Our Leadership Ministry Team made presentations on strategy development as it relates to the five mini-strategies that every church needs in its overall Strategic Plan. The five mini-strategies are as follows:

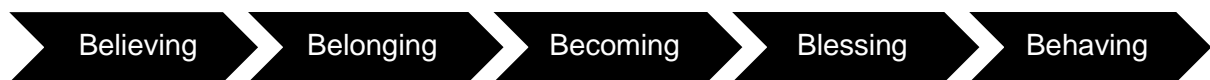
1. The Strategy for Community Outreach
2. The Strategy of Developing a Process for Making Disciples
3. The Strategy of Forming a Ministry Dream Team
4. The Strategy of Assessing the Church's Setting
5. The Strategy of Raising Needed Finances

March is Spiritual Wellness Month. C.S.O.T. (Certain Sound of the Trumpet) Ministry has developed the theme: "Becoming Spiritually Mature in Every Moment" from Colossians 1:28; 2:6-7. As a result, I would like to focus on one of the five mini-strategies that can help us to become spiritually mature in every moment. The mini-strategy that can help us to become spiritually mature in every moment is called, "The Strategy of Developing a Process for Making Mature Disciples." I would like to revisit some of the high points of the second part of the five-part mini-strategy presentation.

The central idea of the presentation "5 Steps For Making Mature Disciples" is: **We Need To Know *How To Make Mature Disciples* – And We Need To Know *What Mature Disciples Look Like***. The five steps for Making Mature Disciples are as follows:

- Step #1: Articulate Christ's Mission for the Church
- Step #2: Identify the Characteristics of a Mature Disciple
- Step #3: Identify the Primary and Secondary Ministries for Discipleship Making
- Step #4: Align the Characteristics and the Ministries
- Step #5: Measure the Church's Spiritual Progress

Under Step #2: Identifying the Characteristics of a Mature Disciple, we identified five essentials for mature disciples. We communicated the essentials in the form of 5 Bs. Below are The 5 Bs.



In 2018, we are launching The 5 Bs. During 2018 and beyond, Trinity will be intentional towards ensuring that all aspects of learning and developing have The 5 Bs as a central focus. Also, we will utilize the second "B" (Becoming) within the title of all aspects of learning and developing. For example, our Wednesday evening class is presently known as S.T.W. (Studying The Word) Class. As we move forward, a potential change will be W.E.B. (Wednesday Evening Becoming). I would like to see our congregation focus on

"becoming" more like Christ until we flesh out the words of the apostle Paul when he wrote: "continue until Christ is fully developed in your lives" (Gal. 4:19, NLT). Paul wanted the believers in Galatia to reach full maturity.

Allow me to highlight at least three essentials about spiritual maturity and the idea of "becoming." First, spiritual maturity and "becoming" is a *process*. A person will not become spiritually mature in a short period of time. I have been a Christian since 1978. Since my initial conversion, I have been in the process of "becoming" more like Jesus Christ. I am convinced that as long as I live, I will always be in the process of "becoming."

Second, we need also to understand that spiritual maturity and "becoming" requires a *plan*. No one should ever try to develop as a Christian without having a plan. Our method for spiritual maturity should include periods of incremental growth. In other words, we should have short-term goals and long-term goals for our spiritual growth. When some people experience Christian conversion, they erroneously think that evil thoughts and immoral behavior will immediately cease. Those who think this way are not thinking realistically. Changing our thought process and practices require a well-planned strategy that occurs over a span of time. Small steps in the right direction should be celebrated and consistently repeated.

Third, spiritual maturity requires *patience*. Spiritual maturity is a process that is worked out through a strategic plan that does not produce immediate change in every area of one's life. Therefore, patience is needed when a person is going through a season where there seems to be little or no growth. Every believer needs to understand that when a seed is planted, there is a season of growth that takes place under the ground that natural eyes cannot see. In the life of the believer, there is a season of growth that happens where natural eyes may not see. Therefore, patience is required as God works behind the scene shaping and molding his children in ways that He desires. Always remember that spiritual maturity and "becoming" is worked out through a *plan* that requires *patience* as the individual works through the *process* of "becoming."

Please know that I am excited about The 5 Bs and the potential impact that working through The 5 Bs can have in the life of Trinity. Also, I look forward to members of Trinity embracing the challenge to consistently grow spiritually by taking intentional steps to "becoming" more like Christ in attitude and actions. May the Lord bless our efforts to become mature disciples who **Know *How To Make Mature Disciples – And Who Know *What Mature Disciples Look Like.****

PRIMARY MINISTRIES AT TMBC

- Worship Service
- Christian Becoming Ministry
 - Back To Bible Basics Becoming (B³BS)
 - H-3 Becoming Ministry
 - Mid-Day Becoming Ministry
 - New Member Becoming
 - Sunday Morning Becoming
 - Wednesday Evening Becoming

SECONDARY MINISTRIES AT TMBC

- Certain Sound of the Trumpet Becoming Ministry (C.S.O.T)
- G.R.E.A.T. Becoming Ministry
- Leadership Becoming Ministry
- Life After Loss Becoming Ministry (L.A.L.)
- R.E.F.U.G.E. Becoming Ministry
- Senior Adult Becoming Ministry
- V.A.L.O.R. Becoming Ministry
- W.O.R.T.H. Becoming Ministry
- Young Adult Becoming Ministry (Y. A.)
- Youth and Children Becoming Ministry

Christian Becoming Ministry Profiles

Trinity Missionary Baptist Church

Christian Becoming Ministry

Mission Statement

The mission of the *Christian Becoming Ministry* is

- To help facilitate the spiritual development and maturation of the members of the body of Christ.
- To impart the wisdom of God through the Holy Scriptures for Christian doctrine, admonition, improvement, and holiness.
- To ensure that each believer is prepared and equipped to the work of ministry.

Scripture Basis for the Mission Statement

- "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" **2 Timothy 3:14-17**
- "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" **2 Timothy 2:2**

Meeting Date: Every 1st Tuesday

Meeting Time: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Meeting Place: Fellowship Hall

Christian Becoming Ministry Leader's Responsibilities

1. Serve as a spiritual leader.
2. Understand the overall mission of the church and the mission of Christian Becoming Ministry.
3. Pray daily for each person's spiritual growth and maturity.
4. Be aware the Christian Becoming needs of the body of Christ.
5. Lead the Christian Becoming Ministry Meeting.
6. Keep the Christian Becoming Ministry informed of any changes to Christian Becoming Ministry.
7. Plan and coordinate events that pertain to Christian Becoming Ministry.

Christian Becoming Ministry Assistant Leader's Responsibilities

1. Serve as a spiritual leader.
2. Understand the overall mission of the church and the mission of Christian Becoming Ministry.
3. Help maintain Christian fellowship.

4. Serve in the leader's absence.
5. Work with the ministry leader in planning, coordinating and maintaining Christian Becoming Ministry.

Secretary's Responsibilities

1. Serve as a spiritual leader.
2. Help maintain Christian fellowship.
3. Record the minutes of all meetings (if needed)
4. Prepare and read the minutes of previous meetings (if needed).
5. Maintains and preserves the group meetings for future use.
6. Prepare a copy of reports prior to the meetings for review and corrections.
7. Contact group members to pass along important information regarding the group.
8. Maintain a current file of the group member's addresses and telephone numbers.
9. Work with the ministry leader.

Name of Ministry: Back to Bible Basics Becoming Sessions (B³BS)

Mission Statement

The mission of the ***Back to Bible Basics Becoming Sessions (B³BS)*** is

- To encourage the learner through the foundation *essentials* of the Christian faith
- To equip the learner to *effectively* study the Bible using various methods
- To explain the *endurability* of the Scriptures

Scripture Basis for Mission Statement

- "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." **2 Timothy 2:15**
- "For whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that we may have hope through endurance and through the encouragement from the Scriptures." **Romans 15:4**

Meeting Date: Every Sunday

Meeting Time: 8:00 AM

Meeting Place: First Level, B³BS Room 5

Participant Age: 15 and up

B³BS Leader and Assistant Leader should

- Arrive 15-20 minutes early each Sunday.
- Continually help learners to recognize the importance of learning Bible history.
- Help learners visualize how they can use the information in their witness to others.
- Assist learners in all assigned tasks so that they fully comprehend what is being taught.
- Continually search for additional teaching aides/materials/examples, etc. to help the learner to learn.
- Meet regularly with the B³BS Aide to ensure we are all working in unison and for God's glory.

B³BS Aide should

- Touch base with Leader and Assistant Leader in each section to ensure that the B³BS room setup is handled as expected.
- Purchase any additional materials as required.
- Have room setup prior to beginning of B³BS each Sunday.
- Arrive 15-20 minutes early each Sunday.
- Maintain attendance records (signup sheet).
- Help as necessary with learner's education.
- Maintain all handout materials methodically for easy retrieval.
- Help clean room prior to B³BS dismissal each Sunday.
- Prepare for a B³BS graduation at the completion of the course materials.

Each Leader, Assistant Leader, and Aide is expected to

- Seek the guidance of God in preparation for B³BS.
- Study and prepare for each weekly lesson.
- Pray for B³BS participants.
- Focus on building relationships.
- Lead each week's B³BS, and involve participants in studying and learning God's Word through various teaching methods.
- Promote spiritual growth and unity among B³BS.
- Organize B³BS in a way that leads to harmony in B³BS.
- Communicate clear ideas to students.
- Teach with objectives in mind.
- Evaluate progress and expect learning to take place.
- Have clear visions for B³BS and individual students.
- Know each student by name.
- Teach with the spirit of love and compassion.

If you will not be able to teach your B³BS, please call ahead and inform your assistant and the pastor, to ensure that students have a teacher.

Name of Ministry: Certain Sound of the Trumpet Becoming Ministry
(C.S.O.T. Becoming Ministry)

Mission Statement

The mission of the ***C.S.O.T. Becoming Ministry*** is

- To be willing servants of God united in the Spirit of love.
- To proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ through preaching, teaching, witnessing and outreach.
- To strive to set the example of unity, accountability, fellowship and kingdom building.
- To challenge the unchurched to receive Jesus Christ and the saints of God to be more like Jesus Christ the through proclamation of the gospel.

Scripture Basis For Mission Statement

“For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?” **1 Corinthians 14:8**

Meeting Date: 2nd and 4th Sunday

Meeting Time: 7:00 – 8:00 A. M.

Meeting Place: Becoming Session Room #1 (unless otherwise specified)

Members: Pastor and Associates of the Trinity Missionary Baptist Church

Principal Function of C.S.O.T. Becoming Ministry Leader: The Leader of the C.S.O.T. Becoming Ministry is responsible for the planning and directing of the C.S.O.T. Becoming Ministry.

C.S.O.T. Becoming Ministry Leader's Responsibilities

1. Coordinate and plan opportunities for associates to develop and sharpen their ministry gifts and their abilities in the proclamation of the Word of God.
2. Provide insight into the art of preaching: the manner, matter, and purpose of preaching.
3. Provide insight into the available material and literature to help promote physical, spiritual, and psychology growth in ministry.
4. Provide insight into the five-fold purpose of the church.
5. Stress the need for soul winning on behalf of the Kingdom of God and edification of the Body of Christ.
6. Stress the need for continual spiritual formation through prayer, devotion, and daily absorption of the Word of God.
7. Stress the need for continual humility as we provide service to the church and community at-large.
8. Stress the need for continual evaluation of individual and collective performance in ministry.

C.S.O.T. Becoming Ministry Participant's Responsibilities

1. Be aware of all meeting dates and times.
2. Be on time for all meetings.
3. Be prepared for all meetings by bringing the following:
 - A life devoted to prayer
 - A life devoted to preaching ministry
 - A life devoted to daily devotion
 - A life devoted to living the Word
 - A Bible (good translation)
 - A laptop with WORDSearch Program
 - Writing material
 - Books:
 1. Minister's Personal Handbook
 2. *Certain Sound of The Trumpet: Crafting A Sermon of Authority*
 - Three critical essentials for increase and productivity in preaching ministry:
 1. Commitment
 2. Conviction
 3. Consistency

Name of Ministry: G.R.E.A.T. Job and Career Becoming Ministry

Mission Statement

The mission of the ***G.R.E.A.T. Job and Career Becoming Ministry*** is

- To *enlighten* participants on the necessary skills needed to be proficient and efficient in the area of work and employment.
- To *encourage* participants to do their best no matter the area of work or employment.
- To *empower* participants to move forward with confidence, courage, commitment, and a Christ-centered focus, as they strive to fulfill their God ordained purpose in life.

Scripture Basis for Mission Statement

- "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and favor with God and men." **Luke 2:52**
- "Therefore . . . whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." **1 Cor. 10:31**
- "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to me." **Col. 3:23-24**

Meeting Date: As needed

Meeting Time: As designated

Meeting Place: Fellowship Hall

Participant Age: 14-19

Principal Function of Leader: The G.R.E.A.T. Job and Career Becoming Ministry leader is responsible for helping to ensure that G.R.E.A.T. Job and Career Becoming Ministry stays focused on preparing young people to be proficient and efficient in their area of work and employment.

G.R.E.A.T. Job and Career Becoming Ministry Leader's Responsibilities

1. Be a spiritual leader.
2. Be committed to helping participants gain the skills needed to be capable and competent in the area of work and employment.
3. Consistently pray for G.R.E.A.T. Job and Career Becoming Ministry participants.
4. Organize and plan activities for G.R.E.A.T. Job and Career Becoming Ministry.
5. Prepare presentations that will meet the needs of the participants.
6. Make the membership aware of the available training opportunities provided through G.R.E.A.T. Job and Career Becoming Ministry.
7. Keep the participants informed as to any changes in scheduled meetings.

G.R.E.A.T. Job and Career Becoming Ministry Coordinator's Responsibilities

1. Perform tasks as requested and assigned by G.R.E.A.T. Job and Career Becoming Ministry leader.

2. Consistently offer prayer and support for the success of G.R.E.A.T. Job and Career Becoming Ministry.
3. Work with the G.R.E.A.T. Job and Career Becoming Ministry leader to encourage and motivate G.R.E.A.T. Job and Career Ministry participants to understand spiritual and non-religious concepts in order to promote development of life skills.
4. Work with the G.R.E.A.T. Job and Career Becoming Ministry leader to build loving, trusting, caring, and nurturing relationships with G.R.E.A.T. Job and Career Becoming Ministry participants.

G.R.E.A.T. Job and Career Becoming Ministry Secretary's Responsibilities

1. Keep an accurate and up-to-date record of all participants along with a mailing address and a working phone number.
2. Inform participants about any meeting changes.
3. Provide any correspondence on behalf of the G.R.E.A.T. Job and Career Becoming Ministry.

G.R.E.A.T. Job and Career Becoming Ministry Participant's Responsibilities

1. Be on *time*.
2. Be willing to *talk* openly.
3. Be willing to embrace *teaching*.
4. Be willing to *think* constructively.
5. Be willing to accomplish assigned *tasks*.
6. Be willing to work with others in *team* oriented activities.
7. Be willing to *travel* to various locations for instruction and training.
8. Be willing to *transfer* learned skills through leadership implementation.
9. Be willing to *tell* others about G.R.E.A.T. Job and Career Becoming Ministry.
10. Be willing to work toward the *transformation* of any negative behavioral conduct.

G.R.E.A.T. Job and Career Becoming Ministry Skill Focus

1. Communication Skills
2. Presentation Skills
3. Team Work Skills
4. Reading Skills
5. Continuing Education Skills
6. Behavioral Skills
7. Financial Skills
8. Business Skills
9. Leadership Skills
10. Writing Skills
11. Technology Skills
12. Community Involvement

Becoming Session: New Member Becoming Session (NMBS)

Mission Statement

The mission of ***New Member Becoming*** is

- To equip new members in the knowledge and awareness of the pastor, church history, ministries and teams, facility, and property.
- To commit to building the need to become conformed to the image of Christ.
- To restate the Mission, Vision, and Core Values of the church.
- To provide love, comfort, and support to those entering new member becoming session.

Scripture Basis for the Mission Statement

- "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Meeting Date: 3rd Sunday, Quarterly

Meeting Time: 8:00 A.M.

Meeting Place: First Level, Room 1

Participants

- Be receptive
- Practice what they have learned
- Be able to support any new member
- Become a full functioning member

Coordinator's Responsibilities

1. Take ownership of the session
2. Be prepared for the session
3. Be familiar with content
4. Be flexible in updating and changing strategies and materials

New Member Becoming will take time to briefly introduce the following eight essentials to new members

1. Salvation
2. Grace
3. Jesus The Christ
4. Sanctification
5. Prayer
6. Covenants
7. Stewardship
8. The Call To Witness

Becoming Session: Sunday Morning Becoming Session (SMBS)

Mission Statement

The mission of the *Sunday Morning Becoming Session* is

- To reach people with the Word of God.
- To teach people the Bible.
- To care and shepherd people.
- To witness to people.
- To fellowship with people.
- To lead people to worship.
-

Scripture Basis for Mission Statement

- "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." **Matthew 28:19-20**
- "All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching, for showing people what is wrong in their lives, for correcting faults, and for teaching how to live right. Using the Scriptures, the person who serves God will be capable, having all that is needed to do every good work." **2 Timothy 3:16-17**
- "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." **2 Timothy 2:2**

Meeting Date: Every Sunday (unless otherwise specified)

Meeting Place: Designated areas for becoming sessions

Meeting Time: 8:00 am – 9:00 am

SMBS Leader's Responsibilities

1. Be a spiritual leader.
2. Faithfully participate within SMBS.
3. Motivate SMBS Change Agents to develop in knowledge, wisdom, and skill for becoming better in the area of teaching.
4. Evaluate the success and impact of SMBS.
5. Keep the leadership of Trinity Missionary Baptist Church abreast as to the overall success of SMBS.
6. Consistently pray for the success of SMBS and the development of SMBS participants.

SMBS Assistant Leader's Responsibilities

1. Be a spiritual leader.
2. Faithfully participate within SMBS.
3. Make sure all SMBS books are ordered in a timely manner.

4. Submit a requisition for breakfast on the 1st level.
5. Make sure all SMBS Change Agents have read and signed the SMBS ministry acceptance form.
6. Purchase breakfast for 1st level becoming session participants.
7. Help motivate SMBS Change Agents to develop in knowledge, wisdom, and skill for becoming better in the area of teaching.
8. Help evaluate the success and impact of SMBS.
9. Assist in keeping the leadership of Trinity Missionary Baptist Church abreast as to the overall success of SMBS.
10. Consistently pray for the success of SMBS and the development of SMBS participants.

SMBS Participant's Responsibilities

1. Be on *time*.
2. Be willing to *talk* openly.
3. Be willing to embrace *teaching*.
4. Be willing to *think* constructively.
5. Be willing to accomplish assigned *tasks*.
6. Be willing to work with others in *team* oriented activities.
7. Be willing to *transfer* learned skills through leadership implementation.
8. Be willing to *tell* others about SMBS.
9. Be willing to work toward the *transformation* of any negative behavioral conduct.
10. Be willing to *transform* through growth and development.

Sessions with Change Agents Leading

- Adults/ Age: 35 – Above
- Young Adults/ Age: 18 – 34
- Teens/ Age: 15 – 17
- Intermediates/ Age: 12 – 14
- Juniors/ Age: 9 – 11
- Primary/ Age: 6 – 8
- Preschool/ Age: 2 – 5

SUNDAY MORNING BECOMING: CHANGE AGENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Each Change Agent and Assistant Change Agent is responsible for

- Seeking and promoting becoming opportunities.
- Seeking the guidance of God in preparation for becoming sessions.
- Studying and preparing for each weekly becoming session.
- Praying for becoming session participants.
- Arriving at least 15 minutes before becoming sessions.
- Leading each week's becoming sessions and involve participants in studying and learning God's Word through various teaching methods.
- Promoting spiritual growth and unity among the becoming sessions.
- Organizing becoming sessions in a way that leads to harmony.
- Focusing on building relationships.
- Communicating clear ideas to students.
- Teaching with objectives in mind.
- Evaluating progress.
- Having a clear vision for becoming sessions and individual students.
- Knowing each student by name.
- Teaching with the spirit of love and compassion.

If you will not be able to teach your becoming session, please call ahead and inform your assistant and the pastor, to ensure that students have a Change Agent.

Name of Ministry: Youth and Children Becoming Ministry

Vision Statement: To bring youth and children to Christ and to make Christ known to the world.

Mission Statement: Youth and Children Becoming Ministry mission is

- To partner with parents in the spiritual education of youth and children.
- To teach them the foundation of the Christian faith.
- To show youth and children how to apply principles learned for life.

Scriptural Basis

- "Teach your children to choose the right path and when they are older, they will remain upon it" **Proverbs 22:6**
- "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these" **Matthew 19:14**

Youth and Children Becoming Ministry Leader's Responsibilities

1. Give direction to and oversee the Youth and Children Becoming Ministry.
2. Identify the needs and interest of youth and children within the church and community.
3. Plan and develop programs for youth and children.
4. Evaluate existing programs to determine effectiveness.
5. Identify and provide ministry opportunities for youth and children.
6. Meet periodically with youth and children ministry leaders to pray and to discuss upcoming events, challenges, solutions and praises.
7. Recruit youth and children workers as needed - Provide training for youth and children workers as needed.
8. Provide counseling and spiritual direction for youth and children on an individual basis.
9. Extend outreach ministry to youth and children who visit the church.
10. Lead midweek Bible study for youth and children.
11. Plan at least one yearly youth retreat for the purpose of spiritual edification.
12. Visit youth and children who are hospitalized.
13. Participate in training opportunities yearly, or as needed.
14. Develop a youth and children ministry budget and track expenditures throughout the year.
15. Compile a youth and children ministry directory and have copies made and distribute to youth and children workers.

Youth and Children Ministry Assistant Leader Responsibilities

1. Serve as a spiritual leader.
2. Understand the overall mission of the church and the vision and mission of the Youth and Children Becoming Ministry.
3. Help maintain Christian fellowship.

4. Preside at meetings in the leader's absence.
5. Work with the ministry leader in planning and coordinating group activities.
6. Assist in group training sessions.
7. Assist with group motivation.
8. Understand the needs of group members.
9. Work to foster the church's interest and goals.

Youth and Children Becoming Ministry Secretary's Responsibilities

1. Serve as a spiritual leader.
2. Help maintain Christian fellowship.
3. Record the minutes of all business meetings.
4. Prepare and read the minutes of previous business meetings.
5. Maintain and preserve the group meeting minutes for future use.
6. Prepare a copy of the minutes prior to the meetings for review, corrections and any necessary signatures.
7. Contact group members to pass along important information regarding the group.
8. Maintain a current file of the group member's addresses and telephone numbers.
9. Work with the ministry leader.

Youth and Children Becoming Ministry Encourager's Responsibilities

1. Provide a good role model for youth and children.
2. Be available for encouragement and support throughout the week
3. Pray regularly for youth and children.
4. Share life experiences and lessons with youth and children.
5. Send cards when appropriate: birthday, get well, sympathy, congratulations, etc.
6. Participate in training opportunities.
7. Greet youth and children before service and before events.
8. Deal with disciplinary problems in a discreet manner – call parents if needed – inform youth and children's ministry leader of any problems.
9. Pray for wisdom before every event, activity or trip.

Responsibilities of the overall Youth and Children Becoming Ministry

Evangelism - Introducing youth and children to Jesus. We want all youth and children to be able to experience Jesus' love for them. In addition, we want them to discover the happiness, joy and peace that come from living a life with Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

1. **Fellowship - Our aim for fellowship with our youth and children is to create an environment of fun and excitement about being a part of God's family.** We believe in building honest relationships that lead to friendships of mutual encouragement that help our youth and children achieve their best.
2. **Discipleship - Helping each child to grow spiritually.** We strive to teach the Bible in a relevant way, so that our youth and children can understand the importance for living for Christ. Our focus is to present Christ in clear and creative ways that

impact and transforms lives. We want all the youth and children to find success in becoming all that God wants them to be.

3. **Ministry - Encouraging youth and children to serve others.** We believe in teamwork. The key to effective ministry and the fulfillment of God's plans is the wholehearted involvement of every person. We desire to invest our lives and resources in our youth and children. Our ministry to them is a priority.
4. **Worship - Giving youth and children opportunities to start and grow in their relationship with God.** Sunday Worship brings together all the other aspects of the Youth and Children Ministry. We endeavor to offer activities during worship that involve the youth and children, such as praying, singing praises to God and hearing His Word.

Trinity Missionary Baptist Church Leadership Becoming Ministry

The Leadership Becoming Ministry serves as a forum for the church's leaders to guide planning, coordination, and evaluation of the total work of the church. The Leadership Becoming Ministry depends on various church ministries and teams to implement the church's program according to assigned tasks. As the leader of the Leadership Becoming Ministry Team, the pastor is able to lead in the development of a unified program that gives major attention to priority needs.

Mission, Responsibilities, and Duties of the Trinity Missionary Baptist Leadership Becoming Ministry

Mission: To fulfill the overall mission of the church as commanded by the Great Head of the Church, Jesus Christ. In addition, through representation of all areas of the congregation, ensure that the church participates in a well-balanced and purpose driven ministry through various ministry channels, which are as follows: *Evangelism and Outreach, Worship, Fellowship, Christian Education and Discipleship, and Christian Service.*

Responsibilities and Duties of Trinity Missionary Baptist Church Leadership Becoming Ministry

- 1) Become familiar with the Team Philosophy of ministry. (There are no "I's" in Team.)
- 2) Know the spiritual and physical requirements of ministry.
- 3) Help the church understand its mission and define its priorities.
- 4) Provide input before all major decisions and recommendations are made.
- 5) Keep accurate records of all meetings and decisions before recommendations are made to the church. (Church Secretary)
- 6) Meet on a monthly basis. (More if needed)
- 7) Be accountable to the church body.
- 8) Understand the biblical basis for the "becoming" concept and strive to become a better leader who leads by following the example of Jesus Christ.
- 9) View the role of leadership as that of a "change agent."
- 10) Overall: to assist the church to determine its course, and to coordinate and evaluate its work.

Membership

Church leaders become members of the Leadership Becoming Ministry as a result of serving in leadership positions.

Members of the Leadership Becoming Ministry

The Leadership Becoming Ministry shall consist of the Pastor, Administrative Assistants, Ministry and Team Leaders.

Meetings

In the absence of the pastor, the pastor may appoint another leader of the Leadership Becoming Ministry to facilitate the Leadership Becoming Ministry Meeting. The number of leaders necessary to carry on the official business of the Leadership Ministry Team meeting shall be at least half of the total number of leaders. No meeting shall take place unless all members of the Leadership Becoming Ministry have been properly informed. Any member of the Trinity Missionary Baptist Church may attend the Leadership Ministry Team meeting only after they have contacted the Church Secretary/ Executive Assistant to the Pastor and made it known of their intentions to attend. The Leader of the Leadership Becoming Ministry will need to be informed of the attendance of anyone who is not a member of the Leadership Becoming Ministry Team. (An email address will be secured for all Leadership Becoming Members to receive announcements, communications, and memos.)

Filling Vacancies

The Pastor may select replacements for all Leadership Becoming Ministry positions.

Limits of Authority

At no time shall the Leadership Becoming Ministry view itself or act in a manner which projects to the church body that it is the final authority in the church. The Church Body still holds the right to vote on all major decisions involving the church.

Slogan for the Trinity Missionary Baptist Church Leadership Becoming Ministry

“ One body **working** together,
suffering together and
rejoicing together
through the Spirit of God.”

I Cor. 12:26

Name of Ministry: Mid-Day Becoming Session

Mission Statement

The mission of the ***Mid-Day Becoming Session*** is

- To *present* opportunities for Christian growth during a day time hour for those who are not able to attend Wednesday Evening Becoming Session.
- To *promote* Christian development through Bible study, book reading, assignments, and discussions.
- To *provide* participants with a small meal and an opportunity for an increase in faith, fellowship, and following the Lord Christ Jesus.

M.E.A.L. Ministry Slogan: "Get A Spiritual and Physical Meal"

Scripture Basis for Mission Statement

- "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers" **Acts 2:42**

Meeting Date: Every Wednesday

Meeting Time: 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Becoming Session: 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch: 1:30 – 2:00 pm

Meeting Place: Fellowship Hall

Principal Function of Mid-Day Becoming Session Leader: The Mid-Day Becoming Session Leader is responsible for helping to ensure that Mid-Day Becoming Sessions consistently accomplish the mission of Mid-Day Becoming Session with Christ-centered *schooling, socializing, supping, and supplications.*

Mid-Day Becoming Session Responsibilities

1. Serve as a spiritual leader.
2. Understand the overall mission of the church, mission of Christian Becoming Ministry, and mission of Mid-Day Becoming Session.
3. Pray daily for the spiritual growth and maturity of Mid-Day Becoming Session participants.
4. Be aware of the needs of those who participate in Mid-Day Becoming Session.
5. Lead the Mid-Day Becoming Session in any matters of business and organizational structuring.
6. Keep the Mid-Day Becoming Session informed of any changes.
7. Plan and coordinate events that pertain to Mid-Day Becoming Session.

Mid-Day Becoming Session Assistant Leader's Responsibilities

1. Serve as a spiritual leader.
2. Understand the overall mission of the church, mission of Christian Education Ministry, and mission of Mid-Day Becoming Session.

3. Help maintain Christian fellowship within Mid-Day Becoming Session.
4. Serve in the Mid-Day Becoming Session leader's absence.
5. Support and work with the Mid-Day Becoming Session leader in planning, coordinating, and maintaining Mid-Day Becoming Session in a loving and Christ-centered way.

Mid-Day Becoming Session Secretary

1. Serve as a spiritual leader.
2. Help maintain Christian fellowship within Mid-Day Becoming Session.
3. Record the minutes of all meetings.
4. Prepare and read the minutes of previous meetings.
5. Maintain and preserve the group meeting minutes for future use.
6. Prepare a copy of the minutes prior to the meetings for review, corrections, and any necessary signatures.
7. Maintain a current file of the participant's addresses, telephone numbers, and emails.
8. Contact Mid-Day Becoming Session participants to pass along important information regarding the Mid-Day Becoming Session meetings, activities, and scheduling.
9. Support and work with the Mid-Day Becoming Session in a loving and Christ-centered way.

Mid-Day Becoming Session Participant's Responsibilities

1. Be on *time*.
2. Be willing to *talk* openly.
3. Be willing to embrace *teaching*.
4. Be willing to *think* constructively.
5. Be willing to accomplish assigned *tasks*.
6. Be willing to work *together* with others in Mid-Day Becoming Session oriented activities.
7. Be willing to *tell* others about Mid-Day Becoming Session.

Mid-Day Becoming Session Lunch Coordinator

1. Plan ahead for lunch within future Mid-Day Becoming Sessions.
2. Educate Mid-Day Becoming Session serving team members about proper food preparation.
3. Implement new ways and means of providing better food services for M.E.A.L. Ministry participants.
4. Determine the food service needs of Mid-Day Becoming Session.
5. Order proper amount of food to be served within Mid-Day Becoming Session.
6. Take necessary precautions to ensure the most sanitary means of service.

Mid-Day Becoming Session Assistant Lunch Coordinator: To serve in the absence of the Mid-Day Becoming Session Lunch Coordinator.

Responsibilities of Mid-Day Becoming Session Serving Team

1. Dress appropriately for food preparation and food service.
2. Serve with a spirit of thankfulness and gratitude.
3. Make sure that each person has everything that is needed to properly enjoy their meal.
4. Make sure the food service line maintains a spiritual and Christian atmosphere.
5. Make sure the kitchen area is always clean, neat, and organized.
6. Follow all church polices.

Name of Ministry: R.E.F.U.G.E. Becoming Ministry
(Reading and Evaluating For Understanding, Growth and Empowerment)

Mission Statement

The mission of ***R.E.F.U.G.E. Becoming Ministry*** is

- To read and discuss books (from various authors), that are conducive to theological and spiritual growth.
- To be consistent in reading and understanding all designated books and reading material.
- To take part with other R.E.F.U.G.E. Becoming Ministry participants in wholesome discussion that emerges from critical reading of all assigned books and reading material.

Scripture Basis for the Mission Statement

- “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen” **2 Peter 3:18**

Meeting Date: 2nd, 3rd, 4th Wednesday

Meeting Time: 11:30 pm – 12:30 pm

Meeting Place: Fellowship Hall

Participants

- Participation will be limited to 25 participants.
- Must sign the R.E.F.U.G.E. Becoming Ministry Sign-Up Sheet.
- Must obtain the assigned book or reading material (all assigned books and reading material will be ordered or obtained by the R.E.F.U.G.E. Becoming Ministry Secretary).

Principal Function of Leader: To ensure that the R.E.F.U.G.E. Becoming Ministry ministers to the needs and concerns of all participants.

R.E.F.U.G.E. Becoming Ministry Leader’s Responsibilities

1. Serve as a spiritual leader.
2. Understand the overall mission of the church and the particular ministry in which leadership is rendered.
3. Pray daily for each participant.
4. Be aware the overall needs of each participant.
5. Assign one person to lead the discussion each week.
6. Seek to include all participants in each discussion.
7. Develop a list of various books and material that will be read and discussed each month (\$20 max per book).
8. Plan, coordinate and maintain R.E.F.U.G.E. Becoming Ministry.

R.E.F.U.G.E. Becoming Ministry Assistant Leader's Responsibilities

1. Serve as a spiritual leader.
2. Understand the overall mission of the church and the particular ministry in which leadership is rendered.
3. Help maintain Christian fellowship.
4. Serve in the leader's absence.
5. Work with the ministry leader in planning, coordinating and maintaining R.E.F.U.G.E. Becoming Ministry.

R.E.F.U.G.E. Becoming Ministry Secretary's Responsibilities

1. Record any important information that is necessary for planning, coordinating and maintaining R.E.F.U.G.E. Becoming Ministry.
2. Contact participants to pass along important information regarding R.E.F.U.G.E. Becoming Ministry.
3. Maintain a current file of participant's telephone number and email address.
4. Work with the ministry leader to assist in recoding all important documentation.

R.E.F.U.G.E. Becoming Ministry Participant's Responsibilities

1. Be dedicated to critical reading of any books or reading material for R.E.F.U.G.E. Becoming Ministry.
2. Be prepared to share and participate in fruitful discussion with other R.E.F.U.G.E. Becoming Ministry participants.
3. Have a spiritual mind that is open to gaining new information for the purpose of transformation.
4. Seek to learn valuable information from various books, reading material and other R.E.F.U.G.E. Becoming Ministry participants.

Name of Ministry: Senior Adult Becoming Ministry

Mission Statement

The mission of the *Senior Adult Becoming Ministry* is

- To recognize and understand the spiritual and physical needs of senior adults and to know that God is concerned about senior adults.
- To teach the value and worth of senior adults in the life of the church.
- To be committed to providing a venue where senior adults can build relationships with persons of their own peer group.

Scripture Basis For Mission Statement

- "And even in your old age I am he..." **Is. 46:4**
- "Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth."
Ps. 71:9

Meeting Date: 1st Wednesday

Meeting Time: 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Meeting Place: Fellowship Hall

Principal Function of Leader: To ensure that the senior adults engage in opportunities of worship, fellowship, Christian development, and Christian service.

Senior Adult Becoming Ministry Leader's Responsibilities

1. Serve as a spiritual leader.
2. Give direction to and oversee the senior ministry.
 - Identify the needs and interest of seniors within the church and community.
 - Plan and develop programs for the senior's ministry, making sure they agree with the senior ministry mission statement.
 - Identify and provide ministry opportunities for senior adults.
3. Meet monthly with senior adult ministry members to pray and to discuss challenges, solutions and praises.
4. Visit with and minister to senior adult members in their homes and when they are hospitalized or moved to a nursing home.
5. Participate in outreach ministry to senior adult guests who have visited the church.
6. Lead prayer and devotional discussion in appropriate senior adult meetings.
7. Pray daily for needs and concerns of senior adults.

Senior Adult Becoming Ministry Assistant Leader's Responsibilities

1. Serve as a spiritual leader.
2. Preside at meetings and perform the duties of ministry leader in the absence of ministry leader.
3. Understand the overall mission of the church and the particular ministry in which leadership is rendered.
4. Help maintain Christian fellowship.

5. Work with the ministry leader in planning and coordinating group activities.
6. Assist in group training sessions.
7. Assist with group motivation.
8. Understand the needs of group members.
9. Work to foster the church's interests and goals.

Senior Adult Becoming Ministry Secretary's Responsibilities

1. Serve as a spiritual leader.
2. Help maintain Christian fellowship.
3. Record the minutes.
4. Prepare and read the minutes of previous business meetings.
5. Prepare a copy of the minutes prior to the meetings for review, corrections and any necessary signatures.
6. Contact group members to pass along important information regarding the group.
7. Maintain a current file of the group member's addresses and telephone numbers.
8. Work with the ministry leader.

Senior Adult Becoming Ministry Participant's Responsibilities

1. Provide an opportunity for spiritual growth within the lives of senior adults.
2. Provide an opportunity for social interaction among senior adults.
3. Provide service opportunities for senior adults.

Becoming Session: Wednesday Evening Becoming Session

Mission Statement

The mission of the *Wednesday Evening Becoming* is

- To reach people with the Word of God
- To teach people the Bible
- To care and shepherd people
- To witness to people
- To fellowship with people
- To lead people to worship

Scripture Basis for Mission Statement

- "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." **Matthew 28:19-20**
- "All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching, for showing people what is wrong in their lives, for correcting faults, and for teaching how to live right. Using the Scriptures, the person who serves God will be capable, having all that is needed to do every good work." **2 Timothy 3:16-17**
- "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." **2 Timothy 2:2**

Meeting Date: Every Wednesday (unless otherwise specified)

Meeting Place: Designated areas for becoming sessions

Meeting Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Sessions with Change Agents Leading

- Adults/ Age: 18 – Above
- Youth/ Age: 13 - 17
- Junior & Children/ Age: 4 – 12

WEDNESDAY EVENING BECOMING: CHANGE AGENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Each Change Agent and Assistant Change is responsible to

- Seek and promote Becoming opportunities.
- Seek the guidance of God in preparation for becoming sessions.
- Study and prepare for each weekly becoming session.
- Pray for becoming session participants.
- Arrive at least 15 minutes before becoming sessions.
- Lead each week's becoming sessions, and involve participants in studying and learning God's Word through various teaching methods.
- Promote spiritual growth and unity among the becoming sessions.
- Organize becoming sessions in a way that leads to harmony.
- Focus on building relationships.
- Communicate clear ideas to students.
- Teach with objectives in mind.
- Evaluate progress.
- Have clear visions for becoming sessions and individual students.
- Know each student by name.
- Teach with the spirit of love and compassion.

If you will not be able to teach your becoming session, please call ahead and inform your assistant and the pastor, to ensure that students have a change agent.

Name of Ministry: Life After Loss Becoming Ministry (L.A.L. Becoming Ministry)

Mission Statement

The mission of the ***L.A.L. Becoming Ministry*** is

- To *enlighten* participants, through Biblical based teaching, that highlights the potential for grief recovery.
- To *encourage* participants to work through the process of grief recovery.
- To *empower* participants through the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit to provide strength, comfort, guidance and encouragement.

Scripture Basis for Mission Statement

- “But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope” **1 Thess. 4:13 (KJV)**
- “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God” **2 Cor. 1:3-4 (KJV)**

Meeting Date: Presently (Thursdays for Grief Share)

Meeting Time: 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Meeting Place: Fellowship Hall

Principal Function of Leader: The L.A.L. Becoming Ministry leader is responsible for helping to ensure that the L.A.L. Becoming Ministry stays focused on meeting the needs of those who have suffered loss through death.

L.A.L. Becoming Ministry Leader’s Responsibilities

1. Be a spiritual leader.
2. Be committed to helping participants to work through the process of grief recovery.
3. Consistently pray for L.A.L. Becoming Ministry participants.
4. Organize and plan special speakers and activities for L.A.L. Becoming Ministry.
5. Make the membership aware of the available resources provided through L.A.L. Becoming Ministry.
6. Keep the participants informed as to any changes in scheduled meetings.

L.A.L. Becoming Ministry Assistant Leader’s Responsibilities

1. Perform the responsibilities of the leader in their absence.
2. Assist the leader in ensuring the success of the L.A.L. Becoming Ministry.

L.A.L. Becoming Ministry Secretary’s Responsibilities

1. Keep an accurate and up-to-date record of all participants along with their addresses and phone numbers.
2. Inform participants about any meeting changes.

3. Provide any correspondence on behalf of the L.A.L. Becoming Ministry.

L.A.L. Becoming Ministry Participant's Responsibilities

1. Seek the grace, love and power of God for strength and healing during grief recovery.
2. Be committed to participating in at least 11 monthly sessions that will help participants to work through grief recovery.
3. Trust God to work through L.A.L. Becoming Ministry and any additional resources that are provided for grief recovery.

Name of Ministry: Y. A. Becoming Ministry (Young Adult)

Mission Statement

The mission of the *Y. A. Becoming Ministry* is to

- Shine the light of Jesus Christ among family members, classmates, co workers, and all who are in need of the Light of the world.
- Share one's testimony of the good news of Jesus Christ with all of humanity so that others might come to know the power of God.
- Secure opportunities for young adults to experience the love of God through opportunities for becoming more like Christ.

Scripture Basis for the Mission Statement

- "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden" **Matthew 5:14-16**
- "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" **Matthew 28:19-20**
- "For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren" **Romans 8:29**

Meeting Date: Every Thursday

Meeting Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Place: Fellowship Hall (Unless otherwise specified)

Principal Function of Y. A. Becoming Change Agents: To ensure that the Y. A. Becoming Ministry meets the needs and concerns of Y. A. Becoming Ministry participants.

Change Agent's Responsibilities

1. Serve as a spiritual leader.
2. Pray daily for wisdom in ministering to participants and for the strength to be a good role model.
3. Be a good role model, living above reproach, spending time in personal spiritual development and ministry and showing the love of Christ.
4. Be aware of activities and events that could involve young adults.
5. Seek to include young adults in the overall ministry of the church.

Assistant Change Agent's Responsibilities

1. Serve as a spiritual leader.
2. Understand the overall mission of the church and the particular ministry in which leadership is rendered.

3. Help maintain Christian fellowship.
4. Preside at meetings in the change agent's absence.
5. Work with the other change agent in planning and coordinating group activities.
6. Assist in group training sessions.
7. Assist with group motivation.
8. Understand the needs of group members.
9. Work to foster the church's interest and goals.

Secretary's Responsibilities

1. Help maintain Christian fellowship.
2. Record the minutes of any business meetings.
3. Prepare and read the minutes of previous business meetings.
4. Maintain and preserve the group meetings for future use.
5. Prepare a copy of the minutes prior to the meetings for review, corrections and any necessary signatures.
6. Contact group members to pass along important information regarding the group.
7. Maintain a current file of the group member's addresses and telephone numbers.
8. Work with the ministry's change agents.

Responsibilities of Y. A. Becoming Ministry

1. To be led by the Holy Spirit in fulfilling the Great Commission.
2. To coordinate spiritual and biblical information to share in groups sessions.
3. To provide counseling, guidance, prayer, and support.
4. To provide ways and means for desirable persons to worship with Trinity.
5. To be willing to assist anyone with challenges, circumstances, or confusions through the enlightenment and empowerment of God's Word.

Participant's Responsibilities

1. Be on *time*.
2. Be willing to *talk* openly.
3. Be willing to embrace *teaching*.
4. Be willing to *think* constructively.
5. Be willing to accomplish assigned *tasks*.
6. Be willing to work with others in *team* oriented activities.
7. Be willing to *travel* to various locations for group sessions.
8. Be willing to *transfer* learned skills through leadership implementation.
9. Be willing to *tell* others about Y. A. Becoming Ministry.
10. Be willing to work toward the *transformation* of any negative behavioral conduct.

Y. A. Becoming Ministry Focus

1. Relationships
2. Knowing Your Purpose
3. Money Management
4. Apologetics
5. Assurance of salvation
6. Prayer
7. Time Management
8. Leadership
9. Family
10. School
11. Politics
12. Stress

Name of Ministry: Men's Becoming Ministry (V.A.L.O.R. Becoming Ministry)

Mission Statement

The mission of the ***V.A.L.O.R. Becoming Ministry*** is

- To bring men into an enlightenment of the presence, the character, and the power of God
- To build the character, confidence, and morale of men in the 21st century, to challenge men to surrender and commit to a relationship with God, a relationship with family, a relationship with other Christian men, and a relationship with the Word of God and the body of Christ

Scripture Basis For Mission Statement

- "And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, 'The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valor.'" **Judges 6:11-12 (ESV)**

Meeting Date: 2nd Saturday in the Month

Meeting Time: 8:00 am

Meeting Place: Fellowship Hall

Principal Function of V.A.L.O.R. Becoming Ministry Leader: The Leader of the Men of V.A.L.O.R. Becoming Ministry is responsible for planning, training, and directing.

V.A.L.O.R. Becoming Ministry Leader Responsibilities

1. Continue to develop a personal relationship with God through prayer, Bible study and worship.
2. Pray with and for the members of the V.A.L.O.R. Becoming Ministry.
3. Plan and organize training opportunities for men to become spiritual leaders in the home, church, and community.
4. Plan yearly conferences and retreats for prayer, fellowship, and encouragement of men.
5. Plan special activities and special projects for men: prayer breakfasts, church improvement day, father/son events, sports outings and recreational events.
6. Develop a mentoring network where spiritually mature men can identify with and give guidance/support to men going through similar situations.
7. Lead men in biblical discussion groups.
8. Lead men to share concerns, answers to prayer, struggles, biblical advice and how others have effectively handled temptations and situations.
9. Lead men to share their faith with others for the advancement and enlargement of the kingdom of God.

V.A.L.O.R. Becoming Ministry Assistant Leader Responsibilities

1. Serve as a spiritual leader.
2. Understand the overall mission of the church and the particular ministry in which leadership is rendered.
3. Help maintain Christian fellowship.
4. Preside at meetings in the leader's absence.
5. Work with the ministry leader in planning and coordinating group activities.
6. Assists in group training sessions.
7. Assist with group motivation.
8. Understand the needs of group members.
9. Work to foster the church's interest and goals.

V.A.L.O.R. Becoming Ministry Secretary Responsibilities

1. Serve as a spiritual leader.
2. Help maintain Christian fellowship.
3. Record the minutes of all business meetings.
4. Prepare and read the minutes of previous business meetings.
5. Maintain and preserve the group meeting minutes for future use.
6. Prepare a copy of the minutes prior to the meetings for review, corrections and any necessary signatures.
7. Contact group members to pass along important information regarding the group.
8. Maintain a current file of the group member's addresses and telephone numbers.
9. Work with the ministry leader.

Ministry Responsibilities

1. Partner to promote the presence, the character, and power of God.
2. Partner to produce character, confidence, and morale, for men in the 21st century.
3. Partner to propel men into a relationship with God, a relationship with family, a relationship with other Christian men, and a relationship with the Word of God and the body of Christ.

Men's Ministry

Vision Statement:

*The men of
Trinity Missionary Baptist Church
are seeking to be men of
"V.A.L.O.R."*

V	ictory	(Rom. 8:37)
A	ccountability	(Rom. 14:12)
L	ove	(Rom. 13:8)
O	rder	(Rom. 15:5)
R	ecovery	(Rom. 5:8)

Name of Ministry: Women's Becoming Ministry (Women of W.O.R.T.H. Becoming Ministry)

Mission Statement

The mission of the ***W.O.R.T.H. Becoming Ministry*** is

- To help bring women into a more intimate relationship with God.
- To recognize and understand God's awesome power more clearly while growing in the knowledge of Him.
- To teach godly morals and principles to young women through the Word of God.

Scripture Basis For Mission Statement

- "Now I have given up everything else--I have found it to be the only way to really know Christ and to experience the mighty power that brought him back to life again, and to find out what it means to suffer and to die with him. So whatever it takes, I will be one who lives in the fresh newness of life of those who are alive from the dead. I don't mean to say I am perfect. I haven't learned all I should even yet, but I keep working toward that day when I will finally be all that Christ saved me for and wants me to be. No, dear brothers, I am still not all I should be, but I am bringing all my energies to bear on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God is calling us up to heaven because of what Christ Jesus did for us."
Philippians 3:10-14 (TLB)

Meeting Date: 1st Saturday

Meeting Time: As designated

Meeting Place: Designated Area

Principal Function of Women of W.O.R.T.H. Becoming Ministry Leader: The Leader of the Women of W.O.R.T.H. Becoming Ministry is responsible for planning, training, and directing.

W.O.R.T.H. Becoming Leader's Responsibilities

1. Continue to develop a personal relationship with God through prayer, Bible study and worship.
2. Pray with and for the members of the Women of W.O.R.T.H. Becoming Ministry.
3. Plan and organize training opportunities for women to become spiritual leaders in the home, church, and community.
4. Plan yearly conferences and retreats for prayer, fellowship, and encouragement for women.
5. Plan special activities and special projects for women: prayer luncheons, mother/daughter brunches and recreational events.
6. Develop a mentoring network where spiritually mature women can identify with and give guidance/support to women going through similar situations.

7. Lead women in biblical discussion groups.
8. Lead women to share concerns, answers to prayer, struggles, biblical advice and how others have effectively handled temptations and situations.
9. Lead women to share their faith with others for the advancement and enlargement of the kingdom of God.

W.O.R.T.H. Becoming Assistant Leader's Responsibilities

1. Serve as a spiritual leader.
2. Understand the overall mission of the church and the particular ministry in which leadership is rendered.
3. Help maintain Christian fellowship.
4. Preside at meetings in the leader's absence.
5. Work with the ministry leader in planning and coordinating group activities.
6. Assist in group training sessions.
7. Assist with group motivation.
8. Understand the needs of group members.
9. Work to foster the church's interest and goals.

W.O.R.T.H. Becoming Secretary's Responsibilities

1. Serve as a spiritual leader.
2. Help maintain Christian fellowship.
3. Record the minutes of all business meetings.
4. Prepare and read the minutes of previous business meetings.
5. Maintain and preserve the group meeting minutes for future use.
6. Prepare a copy of the minutes prior to the meetings for review, corrections and any necessary signatures.
7. Contact group members to pass along important information regarding the group.
8. Maintain a current file of the group member's addresses and telephone numbers.
9. Work with the ministry leader.

W.O.R.T.H. Ministry Participant's Responsibilities

1. Unite in order to bring women into a more intimate relationship with God.
2. Unite to recognize and understand God's awesome power more clearly.
3. Unite to study and understand God's Word for spiritual growth and maturity.
4. Unite to teach godly morals and principles to young women through the Word of God.

Women's Ministry

Vision Statement:

*The women of
Trinity Missionary Baptist Church
are seeking to be women of
"W.O.R.T.H."*

W	orking	(Prov. 31:17 - TLV)
O	rder	(I Cor. 14:40 - KJV)
R	elationship	(Ps. 133:1 - TNLV)
T	hanksgiving	(Ps. 34:1-3 - TLV)
H	ope	(I John 3:2-3 - AMP)

Name of Ministry: H-3 Becoming Ministry (Health, Heart & Healing)

The Vision of the *H-3 Becoming Ministry* is

- "To help the body of Christ to develop and maintain physical wellness."

Mission Statement

The mission of the *H-3 Becoming Ministry* is

- To learn to strengthen and maintain excellent health through physical wellness attentiveness, physical wellness training and physical wellness activities.
- To share how to treat and prevent common chronic diseases through scripture, prayer, and lifestyle changes; while maintaining a godly attitude about health.
- To learn from God's Word His eternal desire and goal for our physical wellness.

Scripture Basis For Mission Statement

- "A cheerful look brings joy to the heart; good news makes for good health" **Prov. 15:30 NLT**
- "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person's strength" **Prov. 17:22 NLT**
- "Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body" **1 Cor. 6:19-20 NLT**

Ministry Meeting Place: Fellowship Hall or Designated Area Determined By Ministry Leader

Physical Wellness Date: As needed

Physical Wellness Time: As needed

Physical Wellness Meeting Place: Fellowship Hall or designated area

Principal Function of H-3 Becoming Ministry Leader: The Leader of the H-3 Becoming Ministry is responsible for planning, training, and directing.

H-3 Becoming Ministry Leader's Responsibilities

1. Develop a personal relationship with God through prayer, Bible study and worship.
2. Pray with and for the members of the H-3 Ministry.
3. Plan and organize H-3 Ministry meetings, as needed.
4. Secure special speakers for H-3 Ministry Meetings.
5. Plan and organize health fairs, screenings, walk-a-thons and mission trips.
6. Plan and organize physical training opportunities.
7. Ensure that each participant reads, understands, and signs a H-3 Becoming Ministry physical wellness disclaimer form to be obtained for the H-3 Becoming Ministry secretary.

8. Work with Kitchen Ministry Leader or nutritionist to encourage healthy eating.

H-3 Becoming Assistant Leader's Responsibilities

1. Serve as a spiritual leader.
2. Understand the overall mission of the church and H-3 Becoming Ministry.
3. Help maintain Christian fellowship.
4. Preside at meetings in the leader's absence.
5. Work with the ministry leader in planning and coordinating ministry activities.
6. Assist in ministry training sessions.
7. Assist with ministry motivation.
8. Understand the needs of the ministry participants.
9. Work to foster the church's interest and goals.

H-3 Becoming Ministry Secretary's Responsibilities

1. Serve as a spiritual leader.
2. Help maintain Christian fellowship.
3. Record the minutes of all meetings.
4. Prepare and read the minutes of previous meetings.
5. Maintain and preserve the group meeting minutes for future use.
6. Prepare a copy of the minutes prior to the meetings for review, corrections and any necessary signatures.
7. Contact group ministry participants to pass along important information regarding the ministry.
8. Maintain a current file of the ministry member's addresses and telephone numbers.
9. Work with the ministry leader.

H-3 Becoming Ministry Participant's Responsibilities

1. Promote two-way communication between the church community and the H-3 Becoming Ministry.
2. Increase understanding of health and wellbeing by providing education programs, guest speakers, trainers, and printed materials.
3. Improve the health and wellbeing of individuals within the church and community by providing useful resources and connections to service that help people to become physically well.
4. Meet regularly for physical wellness attentiveness, physical wellness training and physical wellness activities.

Trinity Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor Trevor Crenshaw

Watch With Me One Hour

2015-2019 Spiritual Formation Initiative

I am elated and grateful for the opportunity to share a word concerning our *Watch With Me One Hour* 2015-2019 Spiritual Formation Initiative. Toward the end of 2014, God placed this vision and theme in my heart. Initially, I thought the name would be *Watch With Me One Hour* 2015 Spiritual Formation Campaign. The initial idea did not come to fruition because I thought the word "campaign" would sound too much like fundraising. I figured people would associate the word "campaign" with a challenge to *raise money* instead of a challenge to engage our responsibility to Christian Education from an active and consistent role. Therefore, I selected *Watch With Me One Hour* 2015 Spiritual Formation Initiative.

The word "initiative" can mean "an introductory act or step; leading action; readiness and ability in initiating action; an enterprise; and one's personal, responsible decision." Our *Watch With Me One Hour* 2015 Christian Education Initiative is an initial step and a catalyst to initiate active involvement in Christian Education at Trinity Missionary Baptist Church. Also, it is an enterprise (a creative and a bold way) of challenging people to make a personal and responsible decision to learn more about the God who called and saved us in Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4).

I would like to stress the essential need for believers to acquire as much knowledge about God as possible. In the words of Kyle Idelman, we need more understanding of the Lord, not to be a fan of God, but for the purpose of following him in an intimate and loving relationship. St. Richard of Chichester said we should want to "know God more *clearly*, so that we can love him more *dearly*, and follow him more *nearly*." Regarding our knowledge of God, Kenneth Boa postulated, "The better we know God, the better we know ourselves." As well, Boa explained that when we learn more about God, we will discover that God is a *relational* being who desires to have intimacy with his intelligent creation that can *respond* properly to God's love for right *relationships* on a horizontal level. When we grow in our knowledge of God, we will develop what I call a "straw complex." When Thomas Aquinas, the theologian, philosopher, and author gained a better understanding of God, he said, "All that I have written seems like straw compared to what has now been revealed to me (about God)." When we broaden our understanding of God, "Our greatest mental, physical, and social achievements are straw compared with one glimpse of the living God" (Boa). I have to agree with Kenneth Boa when he said, "The more impressed [we are with God], the less we will be impressed by people, power, and things." Nothing should impress us more than the things that we know about the living God.

It is imperative that we become impressed with God to the point that we are willing to surrender to God's will for our spiritual development through the *Watch With Me One Hour* 2015 Spiritual Formation Initiative. Even though this is an essential and imperative mandate, I must admit that it is countercultural for us to pour ourselves into learning and discovering more about the God who called and saved us. We live in a world and culture that has plenty of things that are jockeying for our time, our attention, our love, and our

energy. When we focus on the characteristics of this present world and culture, instead of focusing on God, we will never move beyond biblical ignorance, spiritual stagnation, and spiritual instability. Sadly, we will have fallen victim to the allurements of meandering in mediocrity.

Furthermore, even though this initiative will help to ensure that we swim against the current of a culture antithetical to God, there will always be those who, for various reasons, who will not participate in this initiative. There are at least four reasons that people may offer (verbally or non-verbally) for not committing to the *Watch With Me One Hour 2015* Spiritual Formation Initiative.

Some will say, I do not have enough *time*. Like Martha, they would prefer to spend time *laboring* rather than spend time *learning* at the feet of Jesus (Luke 10:38-42). In response to Martha's stated objection to Mary's involvement in Christian Education, in Luke 10:38, Jesus said to Martha, "Mary has chosen the good part" (she made the right choice). Jesus did not intend to communicate that it was wrong for Martha to be working. He knew that it is always better if we seek to feed our souls before we feed our bodies.

Furthermore, there will be those who do not value biblical *teaching*. Many got saved at an early age by the preaching and teaching of God's Word. Even though the Word of God was valuable for salvation, for many, the Word of God is no longer useful toward the continuation of one's salvific journey. Paul told Timothy, the same Word that saved him as a child, was still "profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." (2 Tim. 3:14-17).

As well, there will be those who do not value the high priority that should be placed on the *transference* of the tenets of the Christian faith. Every Christian is a teacher. Every day we teach someone something either consciously or unconsciously. Consequently, there is need to engage in purposeful Christ-centered teaching. Paul highlighted the need for intentional Christ-centered teaching that prevents generational gaps that are replete with biblical ignorance, spiritual stagnation, and spiritual instability. Instead of being unconcerned, we must show concern for our responsibility of entrusting what we know about the Lord to faithful individuals who will be competent to teach others (2 Tim. 2:2).

Moreover, there will always be those who shy away from initiatives of this magnitude because they do not want to face any *tests*. In the same pericope, Paul said that when we encounter difficulty in the advancement of Christian Education and training, we should "endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2 Tim. 2:3). When it comes to Christian Education, many of God's soldiers are missing in action. Many are not away due to an inability that prevents them from enduring the rigors of diligent study of God's Word. They have gone A.W.O.L. (Absent Without Leave). However, the Captain of our salvation (Heb. 2:10) needs dedicated soldiers who are willing to face the hardship and

challenging days of reading, studying, meditating, and applying God's Word when tempted to become deserters in the area of Christian Education.

Even though we may have those who shy away from the difficulties of Christian Education, we have a great example of how to overcome the obstacles in the person of Jesus Christ. On the night of the Passover, as he entered the Garden of Gethsemane, the Pascal Lamb of God faced some difficult times. Jesus had to encounter the reality of his imminent death, but he did not fear death. Also, on the night of the Passover, Jesus confronted the overwhelming reality of the prepared cup. As he faced the reality of death and his prepared the cup, Jesus wanted his disciples to accompany him as he confronted his dilemma. On this night, Jesus felt the heavy weight of Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 5:21 when he wrote, "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in him."

On the night when our Savior's "heart [was] full of sorrow, to the point of death" (Matt. 26:38), he had his disciples close by; Peter, James and John even closer (Matt. 26:37). Jesus wanted to include his disciples in his moment of intense suffering and his feelings of mental and emotional anguish. After his initial conversation with his heavenly Father, Jesus returned and found his disciples, not alert and not watching, but sleeping. Therefore, Jesus said to Peter (really to all of them), "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour?" (v. 40). We look at their failure to comply with Jesus' command to be "watchful," and we ask, "How could they go to sleep at a time when Jesus expected them to be alert and attentive?" Instead of asking, "How could they go to sleep?" I think a more suitable question would be: what can we learn from Jesus' question about our need for watchfulness as it pertains to our perseverance, our prayers, and our spiritual progression?

I. *Support our Savior, Jesus Christ (Matt. 26:33, 35, 40-41a)*

When Jesus commanded his disciples to watch, he only demanded that they fulfill their previous *promise*. Notice what had transpired in (v. 33) and (v. 35). During the last dialogue between Jesus and Peter, upon hearing Jesus say, "I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered" (v. 31), Peter responded in (v. 33) by saying, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will not be made to stumble" (v.33). Jesus told Peter, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times" (v. 34). In (v. 35a), Peter responded by saying, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" Matthew added that all of the disciples agreed with Peter's words (v. 35b).

The same men who vowed never to stumble, and the same men who pledged their commitment to follow Jesus, even to the point of death, on this night, they could not keep their eyes open long enough to support Jesus. In the hour when he was unfortunate and going through a moment of intense mental and emotional stress, they could not remain

awake. Jesus was not telling them to do something that was impossible; he was telling them to do something that he knew was realistically achievable.

I would like to suggest today that our *Watch With Me One Hour* 2015 Spiritual Formation Initiative is something that we *promised* to do and it is not an impossible priority, but very achievable. When was the promise made? Every person who is a disciple of Jesus Christ should be a learner of Christ. It means that we are committed to a lifetime of supporting Jesus Christ through Christian Education. To fulfill this mandate, it is imperative that we not be caught sleeping when we should be alert and watchful in our support of Jesus Christ. In Romans 13:11, the apostle Paul said, "And do this, know the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed." John G. Butler correctly stated, "Many Christians belong in this category of sleeping and need to wake up and start living a better Christian life. [The reason many are not is because] [t]hey have been drugged into a sinful slumber through the corrupt activities of the world . . ." We need to hear the clarion call within at least two words: "Wake Up!" We cannot sleep and support the Master at the same time. We cannot sleep and study at the same time. We cannot sleep and progress in sanctification at the same time. We cannot surrender and sleep at the same time. It is imperative that we "Wake Up!"

II. Give Attention to Life in the *Spirit* (Matt. 26:41a, 41b)

Thankfully, the problem with the disciples was not a lack of enthusiasm. Jesus knew that the disciples did not lack passion. It is evident by their strong commitment to never stumble and follow Jesus unto death that they had plenty of interest. However, Jesus also knew that they lacked moral stamina. They had good intentions, but they had failed to understand the implications of their words. Jesus knew their insufficiencies; therefore, in (v. 41a) he said, "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation." Notice that he challenged them to do more than stay awake. He told them to prepare spiritually so they would not wander into a moment of temptation that was designed to keep them from fulfilling their mission. Jesus knew his disciples were in danger of not fulfilling their mission when he said, "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matt. 26:41a). Another translation reads as follows: "You want to do what's right, but you're weak" (Matt 26:41b). Jesus clearly understood the disciples had a desire to do what was right, but in their strength, it would be a set up for failure.

Notice that their mission was nothing like his mission. Their purpose was not to die with Jesus; however, they were about to see Jesus die on the cross of Calvary. As a result, they would be tempted by the idea of deserting Jesus and going into hiding. Sooner than this, the enemies of Jesus would arrive to apprehend their Jesus. For all of these things, Jesus knew that they were not ready. That is why he told them to "Watch and pray" (Matt.

26:41). In the moment of temptation, the only way that they would be able to overcome their physical weaknesses would be their commitment to spiritual preparation.

Key Principle: *We will never overcome our moments of temptation to bail out on the Lord in the face of difficulty if we are not spiritually prepared.* In the text, the disciple's preparation included "watchfulness and prayer." It suggests that one of the ways that we can prepare for our moments of temptation is through Christian Education. That is why we offered pledge cards with four opportunities for Christian Education during our 2015-2019 Christian Education initiative. I am glad to say that we can add another medium of Christian Education to the list with our **M.E.A.L. (Mid-Day Education and Lunch) Ministry.**

I know that the majority of people in this mid-day Bible study are senior adults, but that is fine with me. Senior adult Christians face temptation too. Knowing this, it is critical that this generation of seniors be spiritually prepared. I will admit, once you reach a certain age, you will discover that temptation is more in thought than it is in physical practice. Because of the limitations of the body, temptation is centered more on thoughts about sin than it is committing actual sins of the body. The temptations are more spiritual than they are physical. For many seniors, it is more tempting to hate rather than love others unconditionally. It is more tempting to harbor unforgiveness than it is to forgive. It is more attractive to worry than it is to be at peace. It is more attractive to be sad than it is to have joy. It is more tempting to lust than it is to be in love with the living God.

On the other hand, those lesser in age are always confronted with the temptations of body and mind. There is still the temptation to take our body and become busy to the point that we have no time for prayer, no time for reading, no time for studying, and no time for meditating on God's Word. Those lesser in age will always have to overcome the temptation to subject both mind and body to the pleasures of this world to the point that there is no room for spiritual preparation.

Key Principle: *Temptation will attack us in the place where we are most vulnerable.* The enemy knows the proper approach for every person. Someone else's temptation may not be our temptation because it is not in an area of our weakness. The most important thing to remember is that we need to be prepared spiritually so that we will resemble our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in thought and behavior at the moment of our temptation.

III. The Flesh Can Cause a *Spiritual Setback* (Matt. 26:51-54)

While they were in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus checked on his disciples at least three times (v. 40, 42, 45). After the last time, Jesus informed his disciples that Judas was present to betray him (v. 46). After Judas kissed Jesus, the Lord responded in a non-threatening way (v. 49). Then Jesus's enemies laid hands on him and took him captive. Matthew recorded, "Suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear." John 18:10

adds light on the identity of the one who had a sword and cut off the Malchus' ear. John says that it was Peter who drew his sword and almost decapitated Malchus (John

Was it wrong for Peter to have a sword? Was it wrong for Peter to defend his Savior? The answer to the first question is no. According to Luke 22:38, to show his association with Isaiah 53:12, "to be numbered with the transgressors," Jesus gave his approval for two swords. The answer to the second question is, Jesus may have approved the possession of two swords, but he never intended for any of the disciples to use the swords to defend him or to fight as one of the zealots (sacarii - dagger men).

Nevertheless, I would like to commend Peter for following through on his words that he would be willing to die with Jesus (Matt. 26:35). John indicated that it was "a detachment of soldiers" (John 18:3). A detachment was about 600 soldiers. That made for eleven plus Jesus against 600 soldiers, but Peter was willing to fight until death with only two swords.

On the other hand, we have to fault Peter for his lack of spiritual preparation that led to his misunderstanding of the purpose of the swords. Peter was operating from an earthly perspective, while Jesus was working from a heavenly perspective. Peter was trying to prevent them from taking Jesus, who was more than willing to go because he knew that God's plan must be fulfilled.

Therefore, in (vv. 52-54), Jesus said, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?"

To help Peter to see the situation from a heavenly perspective, Jesus told Peter "I got something a whole better than a sword. I could ask for 12 legions of angels." A Roman legion was about 6,000 soldiers. If my math is correct, $6,000 \times 12 = 72,000$. He would not need half of those because in the Old Testament in 2 Kings 19:35, one angel killed 185,000 soldiers in the Assyrian camp of Sennacherib.

We do not need to look down on Peter for his failure to see things from a heavenly perspective. As I prepare to take my seat, I would like to suggest that many of us made some grave mistakes in life, because we did not take time to engage in spiritual preparation. Somebody made a terrible mistake in their marriage, because they did not take time to prepare spiritually, and they approached their marriage from an earthly perspective. Somebody made a terrible error in their finances because they did not take time to develop spiritually, and they engaged their finances from a human perspective. Somebody here made a terrible mistake on their job because they did not take time to prepare spiritually, and they engaged their position from an earthly perspective. Somebody here made a terrible error in their faith walk with God because they did not take time to prepare spiritually, and they engaged their faith walk with God from an earthly

perspective. Somebody allowed the flesh to cause them to have a spiritual setback. Even though it is a setback, it ought to be temporary.

The reason why I said temporary is because, when Peter acted from the flesh and cut off Malchus' ear, Luke the physician recorded that Jesus touched his ear and healed him (Luke 22:50). Before he went to Calvary, Jesus took time to help Peter to recover from his momentary setback. Peter did not experience his last setback. In Matthew 26, he went on to record the fulfillment of Jesus' words to Peter that he would deny him three times before the cock would crow. In that moment of temptation, Peter failed again because he failed to prepare spiritually. But the good news is, in the midst of Peter's step back, Jesus was able to step up and die for the sins of the world.

After they took Jesus from judgment hall to judgment hall . . . after they lied on him with false witnesses . . . after they tried him on trumped-up charges . . . after they found him guilty even though he was innocent . . . they whipped him all night long. They placed a crown of thorns on his head. They put a cross on his shoulders. They marched him out to a hill called Golgotha where they put nails in his hand and nails in his feet. They stretched him wide and hung high between heaven and earth. On Calvary, he died from the sixth to the ninth hour. On Calvary, he shed his blood for the remissions of sins. On Calvary, he died until he said, "Father, it is finished. Into thy hands I commend my spirit." He gave up the ghost and they laid him a borrowed tomb where he stayed in the grave for three long days. But the good news is, early Sunday morning, He rose from the grave. The hymnologist said,

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!

If Peter were here today, he would probably say, "Because he lives, I was able to recover from by setback. Because he lives, I was able to step up and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ until 3,000 souls got saved in one day. Because he lives, I was able to share the gospel with Jews and Gentiles like Cornelius. Because he lives, I was able to write these words, 'His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his glory and goodness. Through these, he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires'" (2 Pet. 1:3-8, NIV).

Delivered 2-1-15

By Pastor Trevor Crenshaw

@TMBC

Overview and Outline of the 2015 Pastor's Annual Address

By: Pastor Trevor Crenshaw

Annual Address Theme

Watch With Me One Hour 2015 Spiritual Formation Initiative

Background: Matthew 26:36-54

Textual Emphasis: Matthew 26:40-41, 51-54

Theme Focus

Can Jesus count on us to remain alert and vigilant in our perseverance, our prayers, and our spiritual progression?

Introduction

- It is imperative that we commit and surrender to God's will for our spiritual development through the *Watch With Me One Hour* 2015 Spiritual Formation Initiative.
 - Even though this is an important and imperative mandate, there will be those who, for various reasons, will not participate.
 - Four reasons that people may offer (verbally or non-verbally) for not committing to the *Watch With Me One Hour* 2015 Spiritual Formation Initiative
 1. They do not have enough *time* (Luke 10:38-42)
 - Laboring vs. Learning
 2. They do not value Biblical *teaching* (2 Tim. 3:14-17)
 - Continuity vs. Cessation
 3. They do not value *teaching* others (2 Tim. 2:2)
 - Accountability vs. Apathy
 4. They do not want to face any *tests* (2 Tim. 2:3)
 - Dependability vs. Difficulty
 - On the night of the Passover, as he entered the Garden of Gethsemane, the Pascal Lamb of God faced some difficult times
 - Jesus encountered the reality of his imminent death, but he did not fear death.
 - He confronted the overwhelming reality of the prepared cup, from which only he could drink.
 - As he faced the reality of death and his prepared cup, Jesus wanted his disciples to accompany him as he confronted his dilemma (being made sin, (2 Cor. 5:21).

Relevant Question: Regarding Jesus' words to his disciples (Peter, James, and John), what can we learn about our need for watchfulness as it pertains to our perseverance, our prayers, and our spiritual progression?

Synthesis

I. We should *support* our Savior, Jesus Christ (Matt. 26:33, 35, 40-41a)

- Jesus is only telling us to fulfill our *promise* (Matt. 26:33, 35)
- Jesus does not tell us to do that which is not *possible* (Matt. 24:40)

II. We need to know that it will take life in the *Spirit* (Matt. 26:41a, 41b)

- Jesus is concerned about our *perseverance*, our *prayers*, and our spiritual *progression* (Matt. 24:41a)
- Jesus knows what it will take to complete any God-assigned *purpose* (Matt. 26:41b)

III. We need to know that the flesh can cause a *spiritual setback* (Matt. 26:51-54)

- Jesus knows the vulnerabilities of our failure to *persevere*, *pray*, and *progress* spiritually (Matt. 26:51)
- Jesus' desire is that we operate from a heavenly *perspective* (Matt. 26:52-54)