

"...though [Jesus] was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Missio Dei Church was birthed in 2007 with the vision that it would be a church that is all about impacting lives, work places, cities, states, and countries with the gospel of Jesus Christ. From day one we have desired to be a missional church that is all about being tuned into the very heart beat of God and acting without reservation.

We resonate with Hans Kung when he said, *"A church which pitches its tents without constantly looking out for new horizons, which doesn't continually strike camp, is being untrue to its calling. . . . [We must] play down our longing for certainty, accept risk, and live by improvisation and experiment."* We are still a church on God's mission!

We believe that God is constantly calling us back to the original mission and vision of the church.

.:MISSION STATEMENT.:

To be a church with passionate faith in Jesus Christ that sacrificially loves, serves those in need, and draws people into an ever-deepening relationship with God.

As we look back to our early meetings, we were reminded that we were led to be a church that wasn't centered on Sunday mornings, but used Sundays as a launching pad for sending the people of God into His Kingdom on His mission. We desired and still desire to be a church that impacts our communities in real and authentic ways and to be a church that generous with all its resources (our time, talents and treasures). It is still our desire to create a plan that will make sending out 50% of everything that comes into the church a reality.

To put this kind of philosophy into motion requires us to constantly look and re-look at everything that we have been doing and reconsider why we were doing it and ask for a commitment from every member the Missio Dei Church family. No one can sit idly on the side and just watch. It requires every person that calls MDC their family to participate as a family member by stewarding their time, talents, treasure and the Gospel for the sake of the Kingdom. The fun thing is that we have already seen so many of the Missio Dei Family already live into this. Check this out!

- We have four healthy, bursting-at-the-seams Missional Communities that are meeting on a regular basis. Those groups have 42 adults in attendance (25 kids show up too).
- Additionally a Men's Ministry (Pursuit) has started meeting on Friday mornings. They have already walked through Wild at Heart by John Eldredge and are currently walking through Desiring God by John Piper.

- One college student started Free Coffee Tuesday. Nearly every Tuesday morning at 6:00 Todd Paben offered free coffee to Metra riders for a whole year.
- We have a faithful team of MDCers who go to [Roseland Christian Ministries](#) every Monday evening to serve the mothers and children of [Strong Tower](#).
- One individual regularly serves Roseland Christian Ministries using his time, talent and treasure by helping the [Roseland Christian Community Homes Corp](#) by remodeling homes in Roseland.
- One family that has felt God's leading to be foster parents through [Lydia Homes](#). They are currently ministering to their fourth child.
- Free Tutoring is made available to any family in the Mokena area because of faithful tutors.
- In 2009, Missio Dei Church started supporting its first missionaries: [John and Missy Camiola](#) (and their four children) who are serving in Jos, Nigeria.
- Through Advent Conspiracy, we have During Advent of '08 and '09, we were challenged to really reconsider what the Advent of Christ's coming was really about. As a culmination activity, we took special Advent offerings. Through those offerings we were able to donate \$4,365.
- Missio Dei has been generous by giving over \$3000 to support two organizations ([Samaritans Purse](#) and [Churches Helping Churches](#)) who are providing relief to the earthquake victims in Haiti and who are dedicated to seeing the church in Haiti rebuilt.
- Since March 2007, we have seen two believer baptisms and seventeen children baptized.

One of the privileges and responsibilities of the elders is to shepherd the mission and vision of the whole church. As we already are looking towards 2011, we recognize that we need to constantly keep God's mission in front of the church so that we can remind each other who God is calling us to be as faithful followers and worshipers and what He is calling us to be doing in this world.

What we have as a church, we count as pure grace from the Lord. We recognize that as the church, we must consistently remind one another of the truth that everything we have is a gift from the Lord. Scripture says that we "know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 8:9) and this refers not only to an informed mind but an inflamed heart. It is an experiential understanding of who Jesus is and what Jesus has done for us on the cross.

Jesus' death on the cross represents the most generous gift ever given – when the King of Glory gave up everything in order to reconcile us to God. Giving cheerfully, sacrificially, and consistently is a part of our worship. When we are generous with others, we are reminding one another of the great generosity of our good God.

The Elders of Missio Dei Church regularly meet together to talk and pray about and plan for the future of the church. We have been prayerfully discerning Gospel-centered, God-honoring goals for the church that represent our corporate and personal love and worship for our Savior as well as our corporate and personal responsibility to share the Good News of Jesus Christ for 2010 - 2011.

Goals for Missio Dei Church

Prayer DNA:

Arthur Wallis once said, "A move of God will last as long as the Spirit of prayer that inspired it." As a whole, we desire to see Missio Dei Church have a strong DNA of prayer that runs through each and every individual and ministry. Second Tuesday Prayer gatherings have been well attended (6% of our Sunday corporate worship attendance). Additionally, a monthly prayer gathering is great, but not nearly adequate. As Elders, we desire to see the prayer life of every member to be rich and consistent.

Growth Opportunities: Encourage daily personal prayer, continued development of the Prayer Ministry by creating a Prayer Cell which will be encouraged to multiply, investigate incorporating more prayer in our Sunday gatherings (before, during, and after), encourage intercessors to join the Prayer Ministry Group on The City, continue providing and encouraging attendance at Second Tuesday Prayer, providing a prayer "workshop" on Saturday, April 10 (more in the future).

Relational, Intentional Evangelism:

Through every member's relational, intentional evangelism, (coupled with the faithful preaching of the Gospel) we pray to see an increase in our weekly worship attendance by 25% by the end of 2010. Currently we are averaging 96 per week in our gatherings (73 adults and 22 kids). This would mean seeing 24 new people joining us in corporate worship (18 adults and 6 more kids). Additionally we are praying that through our church's faithful intentionality in sharing the Gospel, we pray to see at least 5 believer baptisms or professions of faith.

Growth Opportunities: Consistent reminder from leadership that every member is a minister and Good News sharer, Evangelism Training class to be offered using Learning Evangelism from Jesus by Jerram Barrs or The Gospel and Personal Evangelism by Mark Dever (Missional Communities will be encouraged to do this in the Fall of '10.)

Growth of Missional Communities

Too many Americans have a strange idea of being a Lone Ranger Christian. As a church, we are passionate about connecting and sharing in gospel living. Because of this Missional

Communities are critical to the spiritual and relational growth of individuals and the whole church. Our goal is that each Covenant Member is a part of some sort of Missional Community. We also want to create an exciting missional environment where Missional Communities recognize that they are to be the place/people that together are to be doing the work of the church, by reaching out to the lost and inviting them into community.

Growth Opportunities: Offer ongoing training for current Missional Community Leaders, each Missional Community must have a leader and apprentice (for the sake of multiplication), identify a women's ministry leader (or leadership team) and create a women's ministry, have Missional Communities schedule quarterly missional activities which are communicated with leadership and celebrated as a church!

Finances

- **Financially Sound:** End 2010 in the black.
- **Every person** is growing in generosity.
- **Covenant Members:** Increase average giving for Covenant Members to \$2,500 (From \$2,145 per giving unit or \$3,576 per family unit in 2009)
- **Regular Attenders:** Increase average giving from \$1,057 per adult to at least \$1,620 per adult (match national average given to charities¹)

Growth Opportunities: Financial Peace University (Fall), Giving Moments in corporate worship, Elders encouraging Covenant Members to grow in their stewardship by making quarterly contact, Stewardship Ministry offering regular stewardship updates to Covenant Members.

Working towards our Mission Goal:

For 2010, we are going to intentionally work towards having 15% of all revenue going to missions (\$19,995). This is working towards the Missio Dei 50/50 Missional Goal (50% of whatever comes in through tithes and offerings goes right back out to missions). This means we would meet our '10 commitment to the Camiolas (\$6K) and give an additional \$4,000 to meet what we were able to support them with last year (\$10K). Also, we would have an additional \$9,950 to further Gospel-centered Kingdom causes locally and globally.

Growth Opportunities: Partners in Mission team will work towards communicating out to the Missio Dei Family needs (prayer and financial), regular reports to the congregation on how we are financially meeting our 50/50 Missional Goal.

¹ Giving & Volunteering in the United States 2001, Independent Sector

These goals sound lofty for a church our size... and they are! They are powerful, God-sized dreams. However, we need to be honest; we have a long way to go.

Covenant Members for 2009:

- **10%** gave \$0 for 2009 (3/30)
- **17%** gave less than \$1 a day in 2009 (5/30)
- and **77%** have given less than 10% of a per capita income for a Lincoln-Way family (per capita income is \$31,413) (23/30)

Regular Attenders for 2009:

- **3%** gave \$0 for 2009 (1/31)
- **35%** gave less than \$1 a day in 2009 (11/31)
- and **94%** have given less than 10% of a per capita income for a Lincoln-Way family (per capita income is \$31,413) (29/31)

For the most part, at least here in North America, Christians give less than their ability. Some give according to their ability and very few give beyond their ability. For most of us, giving according to our means would stretch us. We think that giving beyond our means would break us – but in the end it won't, *because God is faithful*.

Bottom line, healthy things grow...and as a church striving to see gospel transformation in all of life, we recognize the need to call our members to growth in the every area of their lives.

- We need healthy stewardship (our time, talents and treasures) in order to support healthy ministries and healthy multiplication.
- We need healthy stewardship (our time, talents and treasures) in order to impact this city for the sake of the gospel through gospel-centered ministries and future church plants.
- We believe that as our members take on their privilege of giving of themselves and saturating their world with prayer, God will bless the church and we will see new authentic communities meeting during the week, new lives in Christ, the church budget will grow and ultimately God will be glorified.

Being in the church means we have the power and the privilege to worship God with our whole lives, pouring out our gifts, energy and resources for His mission. That is the vision that we're calling you to as covenant members and regular attenders.

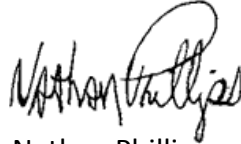
Being a member means being part of a family. The bond of this family runs deeper than flesh and blood—it's a bond formed by the blood of Jesus, uniting our hearts and calling us to unity. So let us prayerfully and boldly move forward as a church—as a family. May He be our source of

power to make these goals a reality as He sees fit. May you personally recognize our call to be faithful to the gospel, and recognize that everything we do is by God and for God (Galatians 2:20)—every part of life is to be dedicated to the ministry and mission of the gospel. May we humbly put our trust in Jesus and boldly have confidence that His name will be glorified through all that we do next two years.

Your Brothers,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Vroom". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "P".

Paul Vroom
Lead Pastor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "N".

Nathan Phillips
Elder