

## MVBC STUDENT MINISTRY PURPOSE OVERVIEW

### I. The Validity of a Ministry Purpose (Statement)

- a. If you don't know where you're going, then you won't know when you get there.
- b. If you aim for nothing, then you will hit nothing. You must know what your "bullseye" is or what your "target" is in order to hit it.
- c. We will never know if we have "reached our goal" or if we "need improvement" if we do not know what our purpose is.
  - i. Evaluation is impossible if we do not have a purpose.
  - ii. Certainly there may be "unwritten" purposes that each of us has in our mind that qualifies for "success," but if we don't have a unified purpose that is based on values that we all agree on, then we, as a team and as a church, will remain mostly confused, and irritated as to our role in the church and in life.
- d. With a clear purpose, we can know why we are doing what we are doing. Without a clear purpose we are simply "doing things" with little or no purpose behind doing those activities. We will have no reason to start "something new" or to "cut a program out" if we do not know our purpose, which is based on our values.
- e. Having a stated purpose will help keep us all accountable as to what we are doing and why we are doing it. Also, we will be able to inform parents, students, and church members about our purpose when they ask us, "Why we are doing this event?" or "Why don't we do this instead?" We can respond "this" is in line with what our purpose is and "that" is NOT in line with what our purpose is. This is not saying that events are not evaluated, but simply that we will have an informed answer as to why we are doing what we are doing.

### II. The Overarching Purposes of the Church

- a. There are various models to ministry, but we will stick with a simple one that I know well. **The five purposes of the church may be stated this way:**
  - i. **Evangelism**—Outreach to the lost. "Winning Souls" into the Kingdom. Bringing the unchurched to the church. Going and seeking out the unchurched to take the gospel to them. Door-to-door. Tracts. Sharing your testimony. Romans Road. Etc.

- 1. **Why Evangelize?**— 1.To see God glorified in another human being. 2. To obey Jesus in Matt. 28:19-20. 3.B/c we want them to go to heaven. 4.B/c we love others.
- ii. **Discipleship**—A disciple is a “learner.” Discipleship encompasses Walking with God, Looking like Jesus, and Practicing the spiritual disciplines/habits that help one to grow closer to God.
  - 1. **What is the “heart” of discipleship?**—To grow closer to God and love Him more. To be equipped to do His work.
- iii. **Fellowship**—Connecting with one another. Becoming unified in our hearts with one another. To encourage and support one another in the Word.
  - 1. **What is the “heart” of fellowship?**—Connecting with others and loving others.
- iv. **Worship**---Connecting with God. Loving God. Adoring God. Magnifying God. Making most of Him and little of yourself. Enjoying God. Spending time in His presence to receive healing for our hurts and to provide a haven of peace and protection.
  - 1. **What is the “heart” of worship?**---Connecting with God in order to make Him “big” and ourselves “small.” Our “hiding place” from the storms of the world.
- v. **Ministry**---Feeding the poor. Helping the homeless. Helping and serving others. Meeting the needs of others. Healing the hurts of others. Compassion, kindness, and mercy. Touching the lives of others in a way that is meaningful to them. Giving water to the thirsty. Mowing someone’s lawn. Etc.
  - 1. **What is the “heart” of ministry?**---Compassion for others. A Servant’s heart.

### III. “Value words” that sum up the 5 Purposes

- a. **Connect**—To give students the opportunity in the different programs of the youth ministry and the church as a whole to connect with:
  - i. **God (Worship, Discipleship)**—(Matthew 22:37-40)
  - ii. **Other Students in the Church (Fellowship, Ministry)**—(John 17:23, Ephesians 4:3, Romans 15:5)
  - iii. **The Church as a Whole (Fellowship, Ministry)**—(1 Peter 4:10, Hebrews 3:13, Hebrews 10:25)

- b. **Content**—To provide Biblical content to answer, combat, and replace the influence of the world (1 Peter 3:15, 2 Corinthians 10:5, Philippians 4:8, Romans 12:2). **(Discipleship)**
- c. **Commission**—To motivate and mobilize students to change the world through mission and evangelistic opportunities with the hurting and the lost (Matthew 28:18-20, Matthew 22:39, John 13:14-15) **(Evangelism, Ministry, Worship)**

**IV. Proposed Purpose Statement for MVBC Youth Ministry based on the 5 Purposes of the Church and the “Value Words” Stated Above**

- a. **“MVBC youth ministry exists to provide opportunities for students to connect with God and with others, to provide Biblical content to answer, and combat the influence of the world, and to commission students to reach out to the lost and the hurting with the love of Jesus Christ.”**

**V. Results of a Purpose Statement**

- a. After a purpose statement has been agreed upon and carefully crafted, based upon core values that are based upon Biblical principles, **THEN** PROGRAMS ARE DEVELOPED BASED UPON THE PURPOSE STATEMENT!
- b. We can evaluate the effectiveness and purposes of every event and program in the youth ministry based upon our purpose(s).
- c. **BALANCE!!** We need to make sure that we are having each one of these purposes in place in our youth ministry.
  - i. We will need to evaluate where we are **CURRENTLY IMBALANCED** based on the purposes of the church.

**VI. Where do our current youth ministry programs stand in light of the 5 purposes of the church?**

- a. Sunday School—Discipleship, Fellowship (traditionally for evangelism!!)
- b. Sunday Night Bible Study—Discipleship (traditionally!), Fellowship.
- c. Wednesday Night Service—Worship, Discipleship.

- d. Youth Night Out—Fellowship, Evangelism.
- e. Bi-monthly mission projects---Ministry, Evangelism.
- f. First Priority---Worship, Fellowship, Ministry (when we do it).
- g. Winter Retreat to NC, Centrifuge, Rafting Retreat—Fellowship, Worship, Discipleship.
- h. M-fuge—Ministry, Evangelism, Worship, Fellowship.
- i. Operation Christmas Child—Missions, Evangelism, Fellowship.
- j. Christmas Party, New Year’s Party—Fellowship.
  - i. How effective are each of these events in light of our overall purpose statement? Are students connecting with God? Are they being taught Biblical content to combat and answer the world’s content? Are they being commissioned to go out and reach the lost? Are we balanced?

**VII. Each Event Should have a Target Group. Five Target Groups may be:**

- a. **Community Students**—Committed to not attending church. They are living apart from Christ. The “Unchurched.”
  - i. **Current MVBC Events targeted for Community Students:**
    - 1. **Youth Night Out, Christmas Party, New Year’s Party, Wednesday Nights. Events that are “fun” and “fellowship oriented” or that are “less religious” will be, it seems, most attractive to Community Students.**
- b. **Crowd Students**—Committed to attending our church. They are hearing about Christ. May or may not be saved.
  - i. **These students need to be “hooked into” the Wed. night and the Sunday night programs, and even the monthly fellowships if they are not attending already.**
- c. **Congregation Students**—Committed to a small group. They have a relationship with Christ and with other Christians.
- d. **Committed Students**—Committed to spiritual habits. They are growing in Christ.
  - i. **Current MVBC Events targeted for Committed Students:**
    - 1. **Sunday Night Bible Study b/c it’s more Discipleship oriented.**
- e. **Core Students**—Committed to doing ministry. They are serving because of Christ.
  - i. **Current MVBC Events targeted for Core Students:**

1. Bi-monthly mission projects, Operation Christmas Child, Interpretative Movement, Plays/Skits, Youth Choir/Band. Need to offer and find ways for students to serve that are willing to serve. Discover their gifts, find if they are willing, and then plug them into a ministry somewhere.

## **VIII. Topics and Teachings for 2009 & Beyond**

### **a. Wed. Nights:**

- i. Wednesday Nights will oscillate between Doctrinal (Fuel) and Topical issues lasting between 2-6 weeks apiece. Wednesday nights will be more focused to anyone (Core and Non-Core students) since we will deal with general topical and general biblical teachings.
- ii. Wednesday Nights are more oriented towards a youth worship service with times designated and planned to seek God and to heal emotionally, spiritually, even physically, in His presence. The goal will be to eventually let the students lead more as they develop in their walk with Christ by actually leading worship and maybe even teaching.
  1. Fuel: Salvation, Fuel: Cults, Fuel: Christ, Fuel: Worldviews-God-Bible, Dating/Relationships, Self-Image/Appearance, Drugs/Alcohol/Substance Abuse, Peer Pressure/Influence, Priorities.
    - a. With the more “topical” issues such as dating, self-image, drugs, peer pressure, and priorities, there will be opening activities that attempt to tie into these issues, and the format will be more discussion-oriented, even though there will be times of straight teaching as well.
    - b. For the Fuel sessions, there will be much more straight teaching and, depending on the amount of time of the videos, less time for opening activities that may or may not tie into the theme. There may just be games to draw the group closer, or that are fun, for example, since the projector will be more in use then.

**b. Sun. Nights:**

- i. Sunday Nights will be more discussion-oriented and will be planned for the more serious students in mind. All students are welcome to all our events, but we will focus Sunday Night more towards discipleship.
  1. Way of the Master Evangelism Training, Possibly Fuel: Cults, Apologetics (Which includes objections, difficult passages, world religions, etc.), Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life which focuses on: Prayer, Bible Study, Worship, Journaling, Silence, Solitude, and other means of connecting with God. Other studies as deemed necessary.

**c. Sun. Mornings (Sunday School):**

- i. Sunday Mornings are more discussion-oriented and are meant to have general Bible teachings for both Core and Non-Core Students.
- ii. At the moment we are using the Student Life Bible Study, which is a 6-year plan that takes youth from junior high all the way through high school.
  1. The study focuses 6 key areas that help students to get the “big picture” of God’s Word. The areas include: Christ, Character, Community, Covenant, Consecration, and Commission.
  2. The 8 doctrinal truths that the 6 key areas are consistently judge against and filled with is: God Is, The Bible is God’s Word, People Are God’s Treasure, Jesus is God and Savior, The Holy Spirit is God and Empowerer, Salvation is By Faith Alone, The Church is God’s Plan, and The Future is in God’s Hands.

**For more info. on our Sunday School curriculum, please see**  
[www.studentlifebiblestudy.com](http://www.studentlifebiblestudy.com)

**\*\*The information above was first presented at a youth ministry team meeting in January of 2009.**