



Journey
at
Monahans First Assembly

a reference guide to our ministry aim

“May the hope of your destiny, erase the pain of your past.”

“Forgiveness begins here.”

“The best is yet to come.”

“The end of your road is the beginning of God’s driveway.”

“Your future is brighter and better than the dark days of your past.”

“Your yesterday doesn’t have to determine your tomorrow.”

“At rock bottom- God doesn’t kill people, He rebuilds them.”

This booklet will serve as a reference point for you. This reference guide will serve you best when others, or yourself, have questions on our ministry aims & ministry philosophies at Monahans First Assembly, (MFA for short). It is here, in this reference guide, most of your surface level questions about MFA will be answered.

Our desire to cultivate a healthy church home experience is what we eat, sleep, and breathe as a leadership team at MFA. There is not a greater experience for a Christian than that of being able to have a local church experience that enables spiritual growth and wholeness! Every serious Christian takes their personal growth in God seriously. Discovery of a church fit is part of that journey. While folks flow through this town & our fellowship, we want to provide them with this opportunity.

Visitation



Cultivation

Assimilation

One's journey from visiting MFA, to becoming a viable part of our fellowship's culture.

Phase 1 (visitation): this is the phase of the discovery of our fellowship in one way or another (friend, coworker, website, etc.). This phase is the "testing of the water" phase of their choice of church attendance while in Monahans, TX.

Phase 2 (assimilation): this process is two-fold. This is the discovery of the commitment fit. If there is a personality fit for what they are looking for, they'll choose to continue the return visits. If they feel welcomed and valued, the return visits are sure to follow. If there isn't a fit of our fellowship & what they are looking for, they'll look at other fellowships & then make an informed decision of a potential church home experience.

Phase 3 (Cultivation): this phase will include involvement & input that contributes to the overall success of this fellowship. This is where the discipleship journey takes root. This is the phase that will introduce volunteer opportunities, membership opportunity, and expose our folks to potential future leaders.

A **large** church comes second to a **healthy** church.

If a follower of Jesus has an opportunity to engage in a large church experience or a healthy church experience, without fail, their desire to **grow** in Christ will always point them to a church experience that is healthy, stable, & as drama free as possible. When new to a community, a Christian family looks for a few factors in their choice of a church home:

- Is there something for my kids?
- Is there a lot of dis-function?
- Is the music and preaching ok?

Wisdom will tell us to do our best to: “have something for the kids”, make sure the music and preaching are ok, and be excellent at hospitality (being friendly, being kind, being forgiving, being patient, etc.).

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Discipleship and Outreach

Our ministry philosophy interweaves discipleship & outreach. At MFA, we place equal value on both. It's important to be a light & show others the way to Jesus (outreach) and equally important to grow in your relationship with Jesus (discipleship).

Outreach can be accomplished in a group activity, planned and organized. Outreach is also accomplished as each one is kind to our neighbor, shining God's light through our good works (Matthew 5:16) to our individual sphere of influence (our families, our jobs, our schools, our neighborhoods, etc.). The best outreach reputation to have in a small town is this: a healthy church home experience.

MFA provides two specific opportunities of discipleship growth, Sunday morning worship service & Wednesday night bible study. These include praise celebration to God, empowerment from the Word of God, and opportunity to engage in spiritual fellowship with one another. We endeavor to provide specific discipleship needs, as the LORD provides (given proper leadership & interest): men's group opportunity, women's group opportunity, children's ministry, personal mentorship, conference/retreat opportunities, mission's trips, etc. Your gifts and talents can always be used to help grow the impact we have as a local house of worship. Maybe you can help:

- with the children's ministry
- help clean the church
- help create sermon props for the stage
- help maintain the property
- help provide cups, coffee, plates & cutlery for the kitchen
- help oversee an event for the youth
- serve on the praise team
- learn to operate the sound room
- help with planning an outreach event
- help with mentoring someone not as far along as you

...and the list goes on & on

Positions of Servanthood

There are 3 basic spheres of servanthood at MFA - elders, deacons, and volunteers. Elders oversee the spiritual health of the fellowship, whereas the deacon's primary duty will be that of oversight of the operations of the fellowship (oversight of grounds keeping, oversight of financial decisions, oversight of ministry departments, hospitality needs, etc.). Deacons are the "workhorses" of the fellowship. The pastor serves on the eldership team & fulfills necessary gaps of the deacon role to the best of his ability. The volunteer's sphere of servanthood catches all the rest of positions of service. Titus 1:5 - 2:6, I Timothy chapter 3, Acts 14:23, Acts 6:1-15, I Timothy 5:17-19

Wisdom encourages protocol when approaching the connection of influence with skillset & maturity. Case in point, wisdom says (in pursuit of excellence) to let a carpenter meet a building need and a chef meet a kitchen need - not the other way around. Wisdom tells you to not hand out titles of influence like candy prizes. To have influence over others is a high responsibility to steward. One must be a church member to have a position of significant influence at our church fellowship (elder, deacon, praise team, ministry department head, etc.). One doesn't have to be a member to serve as a volunteer. If one members themselves into this fellowship, it shows a vested interest on behalf of the fellowship, thus opening opportunity within this fellowship to advance servanthood within the Kingdom of our God.

We have many opportunities to serve the Lord at this fellowship, touch base with the leadership to help discover your best fit in serving the fellowship. Being faithful and fruitful are the fastest ways to gain influence in the Body of Christ. When God opens a small door of servant opportunity, be faithful with that & God will bring increase.

Giving

"Bring the whole/full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food/meat in My house, and test/prove Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing so much that you will not be able to contain it."
Malachi3:10

Giving to the LORD of our tithes and offerings has been a practice that has been instituted from the beginning of time (Genesis 4:3&4). The tithe is the first tenth of your income (Leviticus27:32). The tithe was brought to a local place that was connected to the framework of worship - notice, the LORD called it His house. Then, afterwards, offerings (giving to the LORD, not of the tithe) could be brought elsewhere, like the temple that resided in Jerusalem. When you give a tenth or more of your income (herds & produce) to the LORD, you are giving to HIM, not man... Malachi 3:10, Hebrews 7:8, Deuteronomy 14:23. The tithe goes locally. While your offerings may go elsewhere of choice (television ministries, helping your neighbor, charitable donations, local house of worship etc.).

God uses the phrase, "So that there will be meat in My house." When Christians defraud the local house of worship of their tithe, they get a return service that is secondary and inferior. If Christians give their tithe to the local house of worship, their experience is greater in impact by virtue of more "meat/substance" to operate from. When a local house of worship has adequate funding, it operates at an optimum level, shining the light of God brightly in the community. One's tithe should always be local & offerings be given at choice. There's an old saying, "if you don't vote, you can't complain about the election." Same goes for Christians, "if you don't tithe, you can't complain about not having a great church."

At MFA, we pray and prioritized the funding that is received. We help support orphanage efforts, feeding the hungry, clothe the naked, mission's efforts, etc. while we are doing our best to uphold our local worship experience (and facility upkeep) that is growing! We are privileged to partner with God in the work of His Spirit reaching the lost, here in Monahans & surrounding communities. Our ability to function as a local house of worship is strictly dependent on our own source of tithes and offerings.

As We Grow

Impacting our culture, where God has called us, has its challenges. We are in a small town with smaller budgets & fewer opportunities. Yet, we are to reach a visual & technologically based generation, which places a responsibility for us to maintain a visually appealing & well-kept facility operation (upkeep of a relevant website, cleaning crew, functioning bathrooms, maintained AC units, plumbing, electrical, current musical approach, projection, lighting, healthy relationships, great public examples of marriage, great public examples of victorious living, etc.)

There are countless books and conferences based on training church leadership to effectively impact their communities for the Kingdom of God. Wisdom will teach us to “not put the cart before the horse”. There are many “GOOD” things to tie up our offerings and time, we must aim for the “GOD” things to engage our offerings and time. Our journey of a growing church in this small town will require us to take it one step at a time, trusting Him to lead, guide, & direct.

We believe that fulfilling our individual puzzle piece will accomplish great glory to our God. We believe our fellowship will be able to accomplish everything presented in this guide, if we maintain priority on these two factors:

- **relationship with Jesus**
- **the Word of God as our plumb-line in all we do**