

# Appendix B: The MBC Strategy

## Maroubra Bay Church

### **The focus of MBC:**

MBC wants to be the vehicle to reach the Maroubra Bay with the gospel. We will focus on the 20-40 years olds group residing in apartment blocks because of their predominant in the community around the bay. Although we would like to target everybody, we believe that it is wise to use the resources God has given us to focus on one particular focus group deeply, rather than focus on all peoples generally.

We welcome anyone who seeks to join us, as the body of Christ, but our activities and style will remain focused and distinct because of that demographic.

### **Sunday Meetings**

MBC will meet Sunday morning at 10:30am at El Toro's pizza place (Formerly called Arthur's Pizza) 35 McKeon St Maroubra.

Our Sunday's ministries will include:

- A church service
- A crèche for families with young babies (up to 3 years old)

Families that join MBC that *really desire* their children to be taught separately in a 'Kid's Church' format, will be encouraged to join the 10am congregation of St Johns. Otherwise we encourage childrens' involvement with us as long as is feasible.

The Sunday service will focus primarily on expository preaching from God's Word, the Holy Bible. For more information on the shape of these services please refer to Appendix D.

Sunday meetings will regularly have lunch as part of our time together so as to build relationships and opportunities to love and serve each other and those who visit us.

### **Mid-Week Meetings**

MBC plan to start mid-week meetings that meet in one member's house with a number of strands. Each strand will overlap with a particular aspect of the 'Ministry Plan' (see below). In order to build the community feel of MBC, the Mid-Week meetings will include everyone meeting together for an intro, then breaking off into their respective groups and then reforming at the end for supper. Our hosts for this meeting have enough space to be able to provide a crèche and a variety of rooms for the groups to use.

The Mid-week meetings will run from February to December following the school terms of four ten week terms.

The plan for strand groups is this:

Term	Strand	Frequency	Ministry strategy
1	Discovery group	Twice a year for 7 weeks	Outreach plan
2	Welcome to MBC group	After the discovery group for 3 weeks	Outreach plan
3	Discipling Group	All year (four terms)	Prayer plan Discipling plan
4	Leadership Group	Start in 2013 after one year of Discipling groups (by invitation only)	Leadership development plan

### **Ministry Strategy:**

The overall ministry philosophy is that MBC would do the simple things well. In order to do this, it is hoped that the number of events will be very minimal and instead people will have time and energy to build relationships with people over God's word. To this end, the ministry plan and its component five parts is crucial. One person from MBC will oversee each of the plans below:

#### **1. Prayer Plan**

To focus our energies on God's provision and not our own abilities to make things happen. Prayer is the first and most important aspect of MBC's plan. As such everybody will be encouraged to develop their own personal prayer life and consequently the prayer life of the church. To do this everybody will be encouraged to be regular in praying for Maroubra and in particular their 'High-Fives'. High-Fives are the five people in your life, one already a Christian, and four who aren't yet, who you are committing to pray for once per week each. The concept is that each day (for five days) you would pray for one person asking God to work in their life and move them towards maturity in Christ (Col 1:28). High-Fives will be the basis of prayer in the Discipling and Leadership strands.

To deepen our corporate prayers, we will either follow St John's prayer program or develop our own to continue to force us to grow in our prayers for our suburb, our city, our country and our world.

#### **2. Outreach plan**

MBC seeks to place mission at the centre of its life. This doesn't mean that it 'exists only for mission', since it is clear that the church is God's goal in and of itself (Eph 1:22). However as disciples of Jesus, we will always make and nurture others to become and grow as disciples of

Jesus. MBC will not be investing in large programs or events to share the gospel with others. Rather it is our prayerful desire that MBC would seek to equip all its members to be able to share their faith with others in some form or another.

*a. Friendship evangelism plan*

Our evangelism plan is to instill confidence in the word of God to change people's hearts and minds. As such, we will encourage and train people to be confident enough to pray and actually seek to open the Bible with as many people as God allows. It is our goal that as MBC grows, there will be more and more open Bibles across Maroubra. The goal is to provide a proven pathway that moves from developing friendships towards meeting weekly to read the Bible together. This training will be achieved both through Sunday meetings and the Discipling Strand. To support those who find opening their Bibles with friends or to help those non-Christian friends with tricky questions, the Discovery group is the perfect mid-week opportunity for people to invite friends along to. In the Discovery group we will look at the Christianity Explored series and answer any tough questions about Christianity. Those who bring friends along, are encouraged to join the group with their friends for the seven week course.

**3. Welcoming plan**

MBC will ensure that everyone who walks through the doors of either the Sunday or Mid-Week meetings is personally followed-up by one MBC person. The goal is that each person is contacted within 7 days with either a phone call or letter and if appropriate, invited to join us at our Mid-Week meetings. See goals in Appendix C for bench marks.

**4. Discipling plan**

MBC is a church of 'disciple-making' disciples. As such, the growth of MBC's members is crucial to our ability to lead by example and make disciples. Often Christians are really busy with loads of responsibilities, yet sadly this is at the expense of their own Christian growth. At MBC we have two catch-phrases:

*'No task without training'*

and

*'Busyness is not Maturity'*

With this in mind it is MBC's goal that all Discipling Groups focus on how we can best encourage each other in our own Christian maturity and seek to bring all discussions back to the realities of life.

The second thing that we will keep in mind is that we firmly believe that God will grow us numerically if we are committed to growing spiritually ourselves. Therefore we will always seek Christian maturity and the quality of our discipleship over outreach and the quantity of disciples. Having

said this, it is clear from Scripture that mature Christians will always have a concern for the lost (see Prayer Plan above).

The Discipling groups will initially be lead by the pastor of MBC with the intention that within 1 year this will be expanded and taken over by two lay-leaders. The Discipling groups will have an informal curriculum with three parts:

1. Specialised training in what it means to be a disciple.
2. And ongoing systematic reading of Scripture – and seeking to apply it to our lives.
3. Undertaking one P.T.C. subject per year.

### **A Pastoral Chat:**

As people join MBC and grow in their faith, there will be the need to understand the culture and philosophy of MBC and the way we do ministry. To aid this, it is the desire that every new member to MBC will at some point have a 'pastoral chat' with either the minister or one of the leadership team.

This chat will encourage each member to be working on the following areas of the Christian walk:

1. Be working on their own **personal spiritual growth** in their understanding of God's word and their prayer life (Titus 2:11-14)
2. Be working on their **obedience** to Jesus as their Lord in all areas of life (Matt 5:19)
3. Be working on **their love** for all the saints (John 13:36).
4. Be working on their desire to seek **to grow others** as disciples of Jesus Christ (Matt 28:19ff)
5. Have at least one area where they **serve others**, either as a formal ministry at one of MBC's meetings or serving informally (Rom 12:7).
6. Have prayerfully thought through how they **support the work of the gospel**: locally and globally (2 Cor 8:7)
7. Have prayerfully thought through how they can **do good** in this world, either through the supporting of benevolent groups or some other practical means (Gal 6:10).

## **5. Leadership Plan**

By the grace of God, some disciples will also be leaders of disciples (1 Peter 5:1ff). It is the goal of MBC to provide specialized training for leaders in the form of a Leadership Strand in our Mid Week meetings. This meetings will revolve around training new leaders to understand the principles of gospel leadership as well as to 'en-vibe' MBC's ministry philosophy. This will involved taking new leaders through the MBC documents and also thinking through the Bible and theology.

Potential leaders will be invited to join this strand for one term out each year to focus on what it means to lead others in Christ.

## **6. Common Ministries with St Johns:**

MBC will initially have some overlap of ministry with the 6pm congregation as people from 6pm respond to the impact of MBC (in the form of socials and joint activities). However over time the main ministries that relate across all congregations will be the joint prayer ministry (in the form of Saturday prayer meetings and the Prayer Chain), overall support of the Global Mission Team and our mission partners, joint services like Christmas and Easter, and weekend away.

There are also opportunities for members of MBC to serve other congregations in various ways which will be determined by individual interest and the overall needs of St Johns (see Partnership and Unity document at [www.stjohnsmaroubra.com](http://www.stjohnsmaroubra.com))

## **Commitment for Launch Team members**

All St John's members who join the MBC Launch team will be committed to MBC in the following ways:

1. A commitment to MBC our church-home for at least 12 months
2. A commitment to praying for Maroubra and the people of Maroubra that we meet e.g. neighbours, shop workers, etc.
3. A commitment to be involved regularly at Sunday and Mid-week meetings
4. A commitment to the ministry philosophy of MBC.
5. A commitment to supporting St John's financially through electronic means. This is for two reasons:
  - a. We believe that prayerfully deciding in our hearts what to give regularly is both biblical and helpful for our faithfulness as disciples; and
  - b. Helps eliminate a administrative process of handling, counting and transporting money each week, which could otherwise be given to developing relationships with people on Sunday mornings.

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