

Five Essentials to Add Purpose to My Life

Selected Passages

The State of the Magnolia Address

Magnolia Avenue Baptist Church's Mission Statement:

"To lead people to become authentic followers of Jesus Christ."

A QUICK LOOK BACK AT OUR JOURNEY

Growth statistics for the past four years:

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-2003
Bible Study Av. Att.	887	938	1019	1060
Worship Av. Att.	1308*	1377*	1210	1212
Baptisms	66	51	76	94
Income-Undesig.	\$1,697,180	\$1,997,604	\$1,980,154	\$2,133,433
Giving to Missions	\$303,205	\$298,698	\$466,058	\$545,959

*figures include preschoolers in extended session, we no longer have extended session.

1. I NEED POWER TO LIVE ON

Isaiah 40:30-31 (NASB)

"Even youth grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not become weary."

Psalms 46:10 (NIV)

"Be still, and know that I am God."

- We have been designed to worship God.
- Worship places the focus upon God.
- Worship energizes us for ministry and life.

2. I NEED PEOPLE TO LIVE WITH

Genesis 2:18 (NIV) *"God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone...'"*

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10a (NCV) *"Two people are better than one, because they get more done by working together. If one falls down, the other can help him up."*

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NLT) *"Let us not neglect our meeting together..."*

- God has designed the church for fellowship.
- People have a need to belong.
- Only the body can incorporate someone into the body.

3. I NEED PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY

Psalms 119:19 (LB) *"I am a pilgrim here on earth; I need a map – and Your commands are my chart and guide."*

Matthew 7:24 (NCV) *"Everyone who hears My words and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock."*

- Spiritual growth is a process, it doesn't happen overnight.
- Spiritual growth is essential for reproduction to take place.
- Spiritual growth is necessary to accomplish God's plan.

4. I NEED A PLAN TO LIVE OUT

Ephesians 2:10 (NCV) *"God has made us what we are, in Christ Jesus, God made us to do good works, which God planned in advance for us to live our lives doing."*

1 Corinthians 12:4-5 (LB) *"God gives us many kinds of special abilities, but it is the same Holy Spirit who is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service to God, but it is the same Lord we are serving."*

- Ministry gives us a spiritual identity.
- Ministry keeps us from being stagnant.
- Ministry brings a touch from God to others.

5. I NEED A PURPOSE TO LIVE FOR

Acts. 20:24 (NCV) *"The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work that the Lord Jesus gave me – to tell people the Good News about God's grace."*

Matthew 6:33 (NCV) *"The thing you should want most is God's kingdom and doing what God wants. Then all these other things you need will be given to you."*

2 Peter 1:3 (NLT) *"As we know Jesus better, his divine power gives us everything we need for living a godly life. He has called us to receive his own glory and goodness!"*

- Of all creation, only man has been given the task of evangelism.
- Every believer needs to know how to share the gospel.
- My Homework Assignment

With these essentials planted firmly in our lives we are on our way to becoming authentic followers of Jesus Christ.