



## Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church: Shifting Higher in 2024

The year 2024 began with trials that tested the faith of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. Within weeks, we lost several vital members of our congregation, leaving us heartbroken and seeking strength from the Lord. Yet, through this storm, God's faithfulness shone brightly, paving the way for a season of growth and revival. On Monday, February 26, 2024, our prayers were answered with the arrival of Pastor Jaccarie D. Simons, who was elected as the 12th pastor of our church. This historic moment made headlines in the Naples Daily News, highlighting Pastor Simons as the youngest African American pastor in Collier County.

Upon his transition, Pastor Simons shared the vision and mission God had placed in his heart:

**Mission Statement:** To Cultivate A Christ-Centered Culture With Real And Relevant Ministry That Transforms The Mind, Penetrates The Heart, And Leads Souls To Christ.

**Vision Statement:** To Be A Place Where Christ's Love Abides, Worship Thrives, And Lives Are Changed.

His first sermon, titled "**A Major Setback for A Major Comeback,**" ignited a fire within the congregation, marking the beginning of a transformative journey. Inspired by his message, the church adopted the slogan and forever hashtag, **#ShiftingHigher**, which has been our rallying cry throughout the year.



## ***Milestones of Transformation***

- April 2024: We introduced a mobile text alert system, ensuring our members stay connected and informed.
- May 2024: Macedonia celebrated 95 years of faith and fellowship, honoring our rich history and envisioning a promising future.
- June 2024: After 14 years, we launched a new website, creating a digital presence that reflects our mission. This month also marked Pastor Simons' official installation as our 12th pastor.
- July 2024: The first annual Family Fun Picnic at Sugden Park felt like a family reunion, strengthening bonds and welcoming new members into our fold.

## ***A Year of Spiritual Growth***

2024 we experienced unprecedented growth in membership and spiritual engagement. In 2024, we witnessed 10 baptisms, welcomed 21 new members, and dedicated 3 babies back to God. Bible Study returned with a fresh approach called Word on Thursdays (W.O.T.), offering life-changing series that keep members eager for more. Sunday mornings have become a highlight as Pastor Simons begins each sermon with his signature phrase: "My brothers and sisters, while it's our time to share God's word together, I'd like to preach from today's topic." Pens and notebooks are always ready to capture the wisdom he shares.

## ***Enhancing Ministry and Fellowship***

- Facilities and Infrastructure:
- A new Pastoral Administration Office was established, including a spacious office for the pastor, a conference room, and an administrative assistant's office.
- We dedicated our newly renovated Fellowship Hall Kitchen in July 2024.
- In October 2024, we opened our first Media Production Room, enabling live-streamed services, short films, reels, and virtual announcements through MMBC Happenings.

## ***Programs and Outreach***

- The LIHEAP program returned to Macedonia in September 2024, providing low-income families with assistance for their home energy needs, facilitated by our dedicated members.
- In November 2024, we blessed the community with turkeys and other resources, embodying the spirit of Thanksgiving.
- December 2024 saw our inaugural Christmas Banquet, where we raised funds and provided assistance to families in need during the holiday season.

## **Looking Ahead**

God has truly placed Macedonia on the map as a church shifting to higher levels. As we close 2024, we rejoice in the blessings and progress we've experienced, eagerly anticipating what He will do in 2025. From new programs to growing membership, Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church remains steadfast in its mission to be a beacon of light in the community.

We invite you to join us as we continue this incredible journey. Come fellowship with us and experience the shift as we embrace the next level of God's purpose for our church. Together, we are a family, united in Christ, and committed to transforming lives through His love.

## **#ShiftingHigher**

