

**NEWS AND VIEWS**  
**MOUNT OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH**

3500 Edwards Mill Road, Raleigh, North Carolina 27612-5362

Phone... (919) 787-1910  
E-mail: office@mobic.org  
Web Page: www.mobic.org

*“Southern Baptists with the Full  
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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SAM GORE, Senior Pastor  
EDITH JACKSON, Prayer Coordinator

NANCY MCBRAYER, Office Manager  
MIKE KING, Maintenance Supervisor

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*“What is the mission?”* I still remember this question asked by one of my supervisors so many years ago as I served in the U.S. Air Force. He would frequently ask this as our shift began as he was giving us our briefing and inspection. Though he wouldn't say this every time we went on duty, he asked the question enough that we grew to expect it. The proper answer to his persistent question, *“What is the mission?”* was *“Keep 'em flying!”* Although none of us were qualified to actually fly the airplanes we worked around, we had a part in keeping them flying. As we patrolled the air base and provided security for the aircraft and the flight line, it was very helpful to remember that we were an integral part of the mission to keep them flying. As we carried out our day to day assignments, no matter how mundane or monotonous they may have seemed to us at the time, it was imperative that we remembered the mission and focused on the fact that we played an active part of the grand plan. An air force must be prepared to fly.

Have you ever been a part of a ministry that you felt you weren't cut out to do? In our quest to be “doing something” in church life, we can find ourselves not being made for the mission. We can fizzle out when we are supposed to be flying. It's painful to feel like a failure and have let others down. This misunderstanding of the mission can cause people to quit doing what they are doing and finally leave the church altogether... burned out and burdened down.

If you have ever dropped out of the fellowship of the church I would counsel you today with the question... *What is the mission?* Why is it important to stay connected to the local church? How can you get reconnected? Let's consider the following scripture passage.

*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*  
(Matthew 28:19-20)

What is the mission of the Church? To make disciples. And herein lies our mandate.

*It takes one to make one.* A disciple is a student who follows the teaching of the one that is followed. If we will seek the heart of God, He will be found. And He calls us to follow. As we follow Christ He will reveal to us what we were created to do. Jesus is the Creative Word of God and we come to know Him when we surrender to His Lordship, study Him, and follow Him. We were created to glorify God in the earth and serve Him for eternity. Realizing that the Lord God has made us for a mission, we can know that He gives us resources and gifts for ministry. This surely glorifies Him and it certainly motivates us. Consider these thoughts that I'm thinking.

**I. WE ARE DISPATCHED.** We are to “go”. Going implies that Someone sends us. Questions to ask ourselves are: Where are we going? And to whom are we sent? Some have stopped going...get up and go...get up and go!

**II. WE ARE DIRECTED.** We are to baptize, helping others understand and identify with the meaning of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. We are to teach others to obey the Word of God as we live out this message of the gospel. Obedience is a learned skill and we are naturally disobedient. Listening to the Lord and following direction we will come to know why He is Lord and we are not. Some things only God can do. We can trust His direction.

**III. WE ARE ACCOMPANIED.** Jesus is with us...now and forever. As we are going, when we make disciples, we are partners with God. The commander is always nearby. That should keep us focused on the mission. He is involved...it's His mission after all. He doesn't need our advice...He invites us to accompany Him as He accompanies us.

I'm reaching out to those who in prior times may have been mission active but are inactive or out of commission, so to speak. Maybe it's time that you were *recommissioned* into action...Get involved with God...in church. See you there, Lord willing...and He is!

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Sam