



## Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church: Shifting Higher in 2025

A Place Where Christ's Love Abides, Worship Thrives, & Lives Are Changed

As we reflect on 2025, we are reminded that God continues to show Himself mighty in the life of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church. The theme “Shifting Higher” has evolved into a movement — one that challenges us not only to grow spiritually but to serve boldly, love deeply, and live out our mission beyond the church walls.

This year has been marked by expansion, overflow, and transformation. From the sanctuary to the streets, Macedonia has become a living example of what it means to be the Church of the Community.

### A Year of Divine Expansion

In 2025, Macedonia experienced undeniable growth and spiritual renewal. We witnessed God’s hand expanding our leadership and our reach. Two new ministers joined our ministerial staff, bringing fresh anointing and new gifts to the body of Christ. Our Deacon Board also grew, adding faithful men of service who continue to stand as pillars of strength within our church.

Word on Thursdays (W.O.T.), our dynamic Bible Study experience, has become one of the most anticipated gatherings of the week. The crowd continues to grow to overflow capacity, as members and visitors alike come expecting revelation and transformation through the Word of God.

Each week, the atmosphere is charged with excitement as Pastor Simons opens with his familiar words — “My brothers and sisters, while it’s our time to share God’s word together...” — and the congregation leans in, ready to receive a word that transforms both heart and mind.

### New Ministries. New Momentum. Same Mission.

Macedonia continues to prove that when you make room for God, He will fill it. This year, we launched several new ministries that reflect the heart of our mission and the needs of our congregation:



- First Touch Ministry – Extending a warm and genuine welcome to every guest and member who enters our doors.
- Tiny Tots Ministry – Planting seeds of faith in our youngest believers through love, learning, and laughter.
- Security Ministry – Protecting the house of God with diligence and integrity, ensuring every worshipper feels safe to praise freely.

Each ministry serves as a vital part of Macedonia's heartbeat – cultivating a Christ-centered culture with real and relevant ministry that transforms the mind, penetrates the heart, and leads souls to Christ.

### **Becoming the Church of the Community**

In 2025, Macedonia took a bold step in faith – shifting from just being a church in the community to becoming the church of the community. Under Pastor Simons' visionary leadership, we have embraced a new charge: to close the doors of the church and be the church outside the walls.

This shift has changed how we serve, how we worship, and how we show God's love in action. Our ministries, leaders, and members have gone into neighborhoods, schools, and local organizations to meet needs, offer prayer, and extend helping hands.

We have hosted community events, voter education initiatives, health screenings, youth programs, and outreach projects that remind our city that Macedonia is not just a building – we are a movement of faith, hope, and love.

This new task – to be the church of the community – has united our congregation under one mission: to meet people where they are and to represent Christ wherever we go. We are no longer confined to the sanctuary; instead, we carry the sanctuary with us.

As Pastor Simons often says, "The church is not the four walls – it's the people who walk out and bring light to dark places." And truly, Macedonia has become that light in Naples and beyond.



## Media & Modernization: Reaching Beyond the Walls

With the growth of our Media Production Room and the addition of a Social Media Manager, Macedonia's message now reaches farther than ever before. Our online ministry shares the Gospel through livestreams, reels, and digital updates that inspire hearts both near and far.

The MMBC Happenings brand continues to highlight the story of what God is doing at Macedonia. We also enhanced our Fellowship Hall with new lighting and décor, creating a warm, inviting space that reflects the excellence of our ministry.

## Membership & Ministry Growth

The Lord continues to add to His house! This year, Macedonia welcomed many new members and baptism candidates, each bringing renewed energy and joy to our church family. Every worship experience is filled with powerful preaching, passionate praise, and heartfelt prayer. Under Pastor Simons' leadership, we are united in vision, purpose, and love.

## Looking Ahead: Preparing for Greater

As we look toward 2026, our hearts overflow with gratitude and faith. God has been faithful, and greater is still coming! Macedonia continues Shifting Higher – growing in purpose, power, and presence. Together, we will keep pressing forward, walking in faith, and serving as The Church of the Community – where Christ is glorified, people are loved, and lives are transformed.

## #ShiftingHigher

