

Historical Perspective

In the summer of 1936 Reverend Violet LeLachuer held a three week revival service in a vacant building on the corner of Main Street. Out of this revival a group of new believers became a congregation that purchased a former meat market on Main Street and Midland Open Bible Church (MOBC) was born. From 1936 until 1941 there were a series of Pastors who gave short term leadership to the church.

In 1941 Clarence E. McKinley came to try out and the church asked him to stay as their Pastor. He said if the people were willing to work to build a church building he would be willing to stay and serve. He served faithfully for a period of 37 years. Under his leadership a church building was moved in from Capa in 1942 and sat on a new basement that served as a fellowship hall and Sunday school rooms. A parsonage was built from a railroad section house. In 1973 this parsonage was torn down and a new parsonage built. In 1985 a new fellowship hall was constructed on the east side of the church that included the meeting hall, kitchen, and classrooms. The church currently utilizes the church and fellowship hall for ministry needs.

Ministry Perspective

MOBC has been a strong influence in this area through an outward focus in ministry. There are powerful core values that have been her ministry foundation over the years.

The first of these core values is **MISSIONS**. MOBC has a strong history of giving, sending and praying for those who take the gospel message to the ends of the earth. The church remains active in supporting World Evangelism, itinerating missionaries and local mission projects. In “per ca pita giving” MOBC has historically been one of Open Bible's top giving churches to World Evangelism and targeted International Ministries giving.

The second core value that drives ministry is a dedication to **PRAYER**. The MOBC ladies group has a strong and seasoned prayer network ministering to the needs of the congregation. They also are called upon from many outside of the church to seek God for answers to needs as there's is a reputation as a group who are diligent in prayer, and have seen many miraculous answers to their intercessions.

The church's third core value is **DISCIPLESHIP**. MOBC maintains a strong teaching ministry of Sunday school for both adult and youth. Sunday evenings the church gathers for adult prayer and in-depth bible study. The church is committed to the youth of our community and still runs an after-school release time ministry, in conjunction with local churches, that allows MOBC to reach out to youth who otherwise might not have a church influence in their lives.

Lastly, the church demonstrates a strong dedication to **MINISTRY TO COMMUNITIES COUNTY-WIDE**. Haakon County Community Action, a secular nonprofit, serves by providing for the needs of the underprivileged within our community and surrounding area from the church property. The church occasionally sponsors E.M.T. Classes in the fellowship hall and the church building serve as a meeting place for other entities from across the county.

Governance

MOBC's bylaws are a mix of governance models A and B, with a board of elders serving alongside the pastor to help accomplish the church's mission to “make disciples and send missionaries.”

Community Perspective

Midland was established in 1890. The railroad system came to town in 1906. Midland became a booming community that grew to over 500 people during the early 1900s.

With the development of the interstate and trucking system the influence of the railways in America diminished. The town became less of a railroad town and more of a community supporting, and being supported by, the ranching/farming industry. The Midland area still has a very strong ranching/farming community that is served by the businesses within our town. The church is made up of mainly ranching/farming families and local business owners and retirees who now live with the community.

Over the last number of years there has been a trend within the ranching/farming communities of a need for a larger land base to support each ranching/farming operation. This has led to a decline of the number of families within area. Also, at the beginning of the 2007 school term, the local high school was merged with another school in the area as there were not enough students to maintain the high school. Midland currently maintains a school for kindergarten through 6th grade students. The number of residents within Midland holds at approximately 125 people.

Besides the Open Bible church, Midland has a Lutheran congregation and Catholic congregation which are led by non-resident pastors. Both live 26 miles to the west and pastor multiple congregations and parishes.

Midland is situated in the heart of what outdoors-men across the globe consider a "sportsman's paradise!" In addition to world class hunting for whitetail deer, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, waterfowl, ring-necked pheasants and other prized upland game birds, the area boasts incredible four-season angling for walleye, northern pike, bass, pan fish and trout, being less than an hour from the productive Missouri River chain of lakes, minutes from local private stock dams and approximately 100 miles from the famed waters of the Black Hills.

Pastoral Profile

As the five-fold gifts, and their purposes, are described in Ephesians 4:11 - 16, MOBC seeks a strong and gifted part time pastor/teacher. As a northern Great Plains ranching/farming community, MOBC's pastor will minister effectively and successfully by demonstrating a strong work ethic. There are opportunities within the community to supplement the salary package by helping out on a ranch/farm or working part time at the local bird seed packing plant.

Given the population trends in the immediate area, the pastor must have a community-pastorate mindset as he will be the only resident pastor in the immediate area and will need to work with the other pastors in the community. This is truly a rural ministry opportunity. The pastor and their spouse must also understand rural life and be comfortable in this setting. For example, Midland represents perfectly that slice of Americana called "rural America" with the nearest mall and big box stores being 60 miles away.

Possessing maintenance skills is also an asset for applicants.

Financial Package

MOBC is seeking a Part Time Pastor, and offers a reduced annual salary package. In addition to its salary package, the church offers the pastor a spacious, comfortable parsonage built in 1973 with utilities provided (water, sewer, garbage, electric, phone and internet). The parsonage is a split-level four bedroom 2 bathroom home with an attached two stall garage. The house has central air, electric heating and fireplaces on both floors. The backyard has a chain link fence which is great if you have any pets. There is also room for a garden in the back yard if one was desired.