

M516

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REFLECTING ON 2020

December 2020 · From Rusty McMullen

The church's mission and calling can be summed up in the words of Jesus to His disciples just before His ascent in to heaven, "Go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20).



This is the commission of the church, to help unbelievers put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ and grow as His disciples. We take this calling seriously at First Baptist McAlester. We believe that everything we do as a church should be centered on and intentional about pointing people to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have found a ministry partner in Ryan Young who has helped us pursue this ministry calling.



In March of 2020 just before the craziness of COVID, our student ministry held our annual Disciple Now event. This event centers on evangelism and discipleship. Ryan Young and M516 Ministries took the lead in teaching and preaching for the weekend. The messages that Ryan preached were Gospel-centered, passionate in their expression, and filled with the Holy Spirit's unction. During the weekend we experienced a move of God among our students.

Through the 2 days of this weekend there were 26 spiritual decisions for Christ. Several of those were students who trusted Jesus for the very first time as their Lord and Savior. The Gospel was preached, and God blessed it.

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Lance McAfee, the student pastor of First Baptist McAlester, said of the weekend, “The 2020 D-Now was an event that truly focused on the name of Jesus. The theme was Focus and was a great reminder of where our hearts should be—focused on Jesus, sharing Jesus and serving others for the sake of the gospel. The students were able to take the gospel to the community and were challenged to live their faith by Ryan Young. There were many decisions, some of which were making Jesus their King. Others were encouraged to continue to share Jesus wherever they go.”

As a pastor, I take my responsibility to the preaching ministry, shepherding of the flock, and care for God’s people seriously as well. Because of this, I do not just trust anyone to teach, preach to, or train God’s people at First Baptist. Ryan Young is among the men I do trust and would allow to preach and teach anytime. - Rusty McMullen

