

Milan Bible Church



Opportunity Profile
Pastor

Who We Are

Milan Bible Church is an English-speaking, non-denominational, Evangelical church. Based in Milan, Italy since 1966, it welcomes worshipers from all nations around the world. MBC is a joyful international church. It is non-Charismatic and conservative in doctrine, fitting well into the American tradition of the Bible Church. Having said that, the international portion of church draws from a wide range of denominational backgrounds, creating a richness of diversity in the church. Music at the church is moderately contemporary with a small band and worship team.



We meet in facilities rented from (shared with) an Italian sister Church. We have around 80-90 who attend our Sunday evening worship service. Our meeting hall allows some room for growth as it would hold up to about 120. The church is majority Filipino (approximately 80%) with the remaining attenders coming from a wide variety of countries.



Our History

Milan Bible Church traces its origins to a Bible study for English speakers living in Milan begun in the mid-1960's by Southern Baptists and workers from L'Abri Fellowship in Switzerland. By the mid-1970's the group had changed its name to Milan Bible Church and had invited workers from UFM International, a church-planting mission from the USA, to provide leadership for their weekly worship services.



For the next twenty years, Milan Bible Church was led on a part-time basis by UFMers workers including Ray Whitlock, Ron Fisher, Al Nucciarone, Tom Job, and Jim McMahan. By the mid-1990's the work had grown to the point where UFM International (now rebranded Crossworld) began to look for a full time pastor to lead the ministry.

In 2000, Jim Kutnow, along with his wife, Lynda, came to provide full time pastoral leadership for Milan Bible Church. They served faithfully until the end of June, 2015, when Pastor Jim and Lynda left the ministry to take up new responsibilities with Crossworld in the USA.

On July 1, 2015 Scott and Sharon MacLean, also international workers with Crossworld, assumed the pastoral leadership of the church. Scott & Sharon will be leaving Milan Bible Church at the end of June 2019 due to ongoing issues resulting from spinal injuries Sharon suffered in 2017.

Our Leadership

A self-perpetuating Board of Elders is responsible for all ministry decisions at Milan Bible Church. Those who serve as elders must meet the qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Occasionally, men who have served in church leadership in their home countries and meet MBC's qualifications for elder service are asked to consider becoming "Visiting Elders" during their sojourn in Milan.

Currently the board consists of three elders (two Filipinos and a New Zealander) plus the pastor, with plans to appoint two more elders (likely a Filipino and a Kenyan) in the spring of 2019.



Our Affiliation

Since the 1970's UFM International/Crossworld, a US based church planting organization, has provided spiritual oversight and pastoral leadership for Milan Bible Church. In 2004, UFM International changed its name to Crossworld to reflect the goal of taking the message of the cross to the entire world.

Crossworld is a global mission agency that sends Jesus-followers from all professions to make disciples in the world's least-reached marketplaces. Crossworld currently has almost 350 international staff members serving around the globe.

Our Purpose

Milan Bible Church is a local, evangelical body of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ committed to:

- Providing a place of worship, fellowship and spiritual growth for the English-speaking, international community of Milan (Hebrews 10:22–25).
- Providing clear expository preaching and teaching of the whole council of God in such a way that believers are disciplined in their walk with Jesus Christ and that unbelievers are confronted with the need for trusting him as savior (2 Timothy 4:2).



- Providing a visible witness to Jesus Christ in the city of Milan and the nation of Italy through the lives and testimonies of participating members by means of our loving unity and effective outreach ministries (John 17:21 and Philipians 1:27,28).
- Promoting the cause of world outreach through regular intercession (1 Timothy 2:1,2), with our giving (2 Corinthians 9:6,7), and by encouraging members to be regularly involved in evangelistic efforts both locally and around the world. (Acts 1:8).

Our Ministries

Worship Service, Sunday 5:25-7pm

Our services include congregational singing (led by our worship team), prayer time, and an expository message from God's Word. We celebrate the Lord's Table every 2nd Sunday of the month. We provide a nursery for pre-school kids and a Sunday School class for grade school children during the evening message.



International Bible Study, Tuesday 8-10pm

We meet at the pastor's apartment and share a light supper together before having a time of singing, prayer and interactive Bible study.

Filipino Fellowship, Thursday 7:30-9pm

Worship in Tagalog for MBC's Filipino attenders.

Filipino Bible Study, alt. Fridays 7:30-9pm

Bible Study in Tagalog for MBC's Filipino attenders.



Young Adult Group

Led by a small team of young adults, this group of mostly university students meet regularly for Bible study as well as for various activities. They communicate their plans via social media and enjoy sharing life together.

Salt & Light

Occasional meetings in which we consider Bible passages relating to our witness. We also discuss opportunities God has given us, encourage on another, share ideas and pray for each other as we seek to be salt and light in a dark and tasteless city.

Missions and Evangelism

MBC supports four missionaries (one in Italy, three outside of Italy).

Throughout the year MBC also participates in various forms outreach evangelism, such as open air evangelism, Christmas cookie/meal distribution, evangelistic meetings and VBS.

Challenges and Opportunities

MBC is strategically placed to have a great impact on the spiritually dark and needy city of Milan. The believers of MBC have the opportunity to live out God's love and glory before a nation that has been fooled into believing that religion is merely external ritual at best and a con game for money and power at the worst. This makes Italians apathetic towards spiritual things and hard to reach with the Gospel. Often seeing God's fingerprints in the life of a Christ follower is the means by which an Italian is drawn to consider the claims of Christ. Thus the potential impact of this church for Christ is huge as each believer is encouraged and equipped to see themselves as disciple makers on the mission field.



There is a large ex-pat community in Milan, with estimates as high as 19% of the population being foreigners. Many speak English as a first or second language. Among this number are:

- Christ followers who long to fellowship and worship in English.
- Those who, given the challenge of living cross culturally, would welcome the opportunity to be a part of an English speaking community containing others from their own culture.
- Those for whom cross cultural stress creates openness to spiritual truth.

MBC has the opportunity to reach out to this community of ex-pats, providing a welcoming community, a home away from home, where God's love and light come to life.



While Milan Bible Church has the potential to reach and minister to both Italians and ex-pats, the church needs to grow. Among the Filipino portion of the church (roughly 80%) the older generation will reach retirement age in the coming years and return to the Philippines. Many of the younger generation of Filipinos who were born and raised in Italy have integrated into Italian culture and moved on to Italian churches (a good thing). This may well result in a decreasing number of members as well as changes in the make-up of the church.

MBC needs to be prepared for this transition both in preparing the next generation of leaders, as well as in actively recruiting new members into the church. The potential for this growth is great, given the large number of ex-pats and the relatively few English speaking evangelical churches in Milan.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree from a theological institution or equivalent.
- Experience in pastoral ministry.
- Strong giftedness in Bible teaching / exegetical preaching.
- Cross-cultural experience preferred.
- Servant leadership – willingness to work alongside elders as a team.
- Self-motivated, initiator.
- No background of divorce or marriage to a divorced person.

Practical Details

It will be necessary for the next pastor to provide much of his own support either through raised support or other means. MBC will be able to provide a stipend of approximately €850/month.

While the ministry at MBC is in English, some knowledge of Italian will be practically necessary for day to day life in Milan.

It is highly recommended, but not necessary, for this pastor to come to Italy as a member of Crossworld. As a sending and equipping organization, Crossworld will provide training, assist in the details of obtaining the required visas and documents as well as cultural and language training.

If you feel the Lord may be leading you to Milan Bible Church, or if you would like additional information, please get in touch with us.

Scott MacLean – current pastor (until June 2019) - Scott.MacLean@crossworld.org

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