



March 2015

We Thank God for the special gift of Pastor Jeff and Chris Manion!

Jeff Manion, Senior Teaching Pastor at Ada Bible Church, is one of the most gifted and effective Bible Teachers I know. He has worked very diligently to refine and maximize his God given gift of teaching and communication. His goal is never to simply share or impart information. Jeff's passion and heart's desire is to be used by God to effect transformation in the hearts and lives of people. My family and I have been blessed by Jeff's teaching for ten years. One of my goals has been to be one of Jeff's most faithful encouragers. Chris is a very effective communicator herself. Chris prefers to use her gifts of communication, encouragement, and organization behind the scenes, off the platform—which is incredibly valuable and has lasting impact with people! The congregation of Ada Bible is blessed to have a pastor who weaves into his messages real stories of marriage and family relationships that most people can identify with and relate to. We thank God for the gift of Pastor Jeff and Chris Manion! We love you!

John and Sue Smith



What we appreciate most about Pastor Jeff Manion is his ability to communicate so clearly the Word of God, to make it real through careful historical insights as well as contemporary application. He blends just the right amount of humor and personal illustration that keeps one eager to listen and learn.

Chris is the perfect complement in Jeff's ministry! She is kind and warm and has a servant's heart. Without such a ministry partner, no pastor can be nearly as effective. Their faithfulness over the years is truly reflective of two people who love and serve God with all their hearts.

We are blessed and honored to call Jeff and Chris friends, as well as pastor. We are thankful for them both and ask God's continued blessing on their ministry.

*With heartfelt appreciation,
Fred and Marsha Sweet*



One of the most profound gifts that Jeff has given to me is a deep love for the story of the Bible. I admire his passion for helping his audience understand the setting, the characters, and the emotion of a particular passage that he is teaching. Jeff's gift lies in his God-given ability to build a bridge back to Bible-land and help us understand the story and events then building a bridge back to us in 2015.

Jeff is so skillful in helping his audience to understand the importance of a biblical passage and how we can apply its lessons to our lives today. Jeff's chief concern is transformation not information. His gift to the Church is a teaching gift that compels each one of us to follow Jesus more obediently and to fall in love with Jesus more intensely. As a fellow teammate and pastor I am deeply indebted to Jeff for his influence in my character development and my growth as a teacher and communicator.

Dan Wright

"Perseverance." Webster's Dictionary defines it as: "The act of persevering; persistence in anything undertaken; continued pursuit or prosecution of any business, or enterprise begun."

This word perfectly reflects Jeff and Chris Manion. My wife and I have served with them for 20 years – with the last 14 years as me being as a staff member at Ada Bible Church. We are so thankful for their leadership and example to our congregation.



They have labored well and placed the Lord's church as their highest priority. They have showed perseverance in their efforts and protection of the church. Anyone who has been in ministry for any period of time can tell you stories of experiencing the greatest of joys, but also experiencing seasons of deep difficulty. That's when many people exit ministry. When these times of difficulty come, that is when strength of character and perseverance show themselves. Ministry isn't always easy. It's not for the faint of heart. It's more for the Bravehearts!

We thank the Lord for Jeff and Chris Manion and the gift they have been to Ada Bible Church.

Edward & Christie Shepard

Jeff and Chris are remarkable!! So engaging and always make you feel like you are part of their family. The passion they have for Ada Bible is contagious. Love to see both of their faces when they talk about their grandson!!! Now that is pure JOY!!

Bill Payne



Jeff Manion has been a tremendous blessing to us as members of Ada Bible Church. With the loving support of his wife Chris, Jeff brings the practical simplicity of Biblical application to our lives with great skill and genuine sincerity.

Many lives are touched by his teaching whether they are unfamiliar or very knowledgeable of the scriptures. We are so blessed to be the recipients of his devotion to Ada Bible!

Blessings,

Jeff and Tori Gillesse

Pastor Jeff is an amazingly gifted teacher of God's word. Jody and I have been attending Ada Bible Church only 2 ½ years, but we've already grown so much under his teaching. Even our kids, aged 12, 15 and 21, are able to track with him each week!

The first time we came to ABC, Jeff used Genesis 1 as his text. The story of creation is, of course, familiar but Jeff showed us something we'd never seen before when he said, "It says here that the earth was dark and empty. Now, if you've ever felt that dark and empty is all you have to bring to God, let's watch and see what He can do with it." And then he read on...but we kept pondering this thought about how God creates spiritual, emotional, and physical life out of nothing.

It wasn't even his main point, yet the idea of surrendering to the Lord whatever we have, even if it's merely "dark and empty," continues to have a big impact on us today.

Another example of the effect of Jeff's teaching on us comes from last year's Satisfied series. In it Jeff unpacked a lot about the culture of Ephesus, specifically as it relates to adoption. Because all three of our children are adopted, this particular doctrine is quite precious to us. However, we knew nothing about the prolific abandonment of children by their fathers in that city, nor the way that those children could be saved from exposure to the elements and death on a hillside—through adoption!

This contextual backdrop gave the Apostle Paul's words so much more meaning, especially when Jeff added that the inheritance of an adopted son in Ephesus was both legally binding and forever secured. Blood-born children could be cut off from their inheritance for any reason by the patriarch, but, Jeff explained, adopted ones were guaranteed a future.

We continue to be comforted by this insight as it relates to our own eternal security through adoption, and are grateful to Jeff for giving it to us.

Jeff also honors his wife, Chris, frequently and publically. He is careful to appropriately reference her in a message, in a particular thank you to the congregation for something, or in the general welcome or specific holiday greeting.



It is clear that they together are pastoring this church and its members. We, too, are a ministry couple and value a public display of their partnership in the gospel.

Thank you, Jeff and Chris, for standing faithfully at the Ada Bible Church post these two and a half decades! It's indeed a privilege to send this note of encouragement your way—congratulations on being highlighted in this Pastor Care newsletter!

May God continue to bless and equip you to shepherd the flock He has entrusted to you.

Jim and Jody Sprague

Thank you Chris and Jeff for helping me follow Jesus so that I can become the person I want to be. May the Lord continue to bless you as you lead all of us at Ada Bible to follow Him.

*Keep up the great work!
Pat Tolsma*

Julie and I are grateful for Jeff and Chris' vision and leadership in guiding Ada Bible Church throughout the years. It has been a privilege to serve alongside them for the last seven years. We are looking forward to what God continues to do through them and others in the years ahead!

Dr. Kelly and Julie Bonewell



It is amazing what the Spirit of God has done at Ada Bible over the years! I have served alongside Jeff for over 25 years and have watched him pour his life into the ministry at Ada. His passion for effectively communicating the Word of God has moved from vision to reality as he has worked hard over the years to develop his gift in this area. His desire to serve the body, passion to help people understand how the Bible relates to their lives and longing to see the Body of Christ grow has been infectious. I want to honor his many years of service to the local body at Ada, but more importantly his desire to see them come to maturity in Christ. It has been an honor to serve with him!

Sam and Marci Tawney



Dear Jeff and Chris, Thank you for the gift of Ada Bible Church and your wonderful leadership. Never before have I been a part of a church where I have felt more connected or fed. For nearly thirteen years Jan and I rarely missed a service, and when we did, we made certain to listen on line. On long car rides we listened to sermons for second and sometimes third times.

Having to say, "so long for now" to my husband is the most difficult task I've ever been asked to do. I cherish my Small Group and my chair time. You have taught me how to seek Jesus and how to be in relationship with Him. I don't know how a person can let go of a loved one without Him.

The "Jeff Proverbs" were/are often repeated in my home. Jan's favorite was, "The grass is greenest where it's watered." I have two favorites, both spoken so often to grandchildren that they have them memorized. First, "Good choices lead to good consequences." Second, "Anger is the poison we take hoping to kill the rat." You two have been amazing for Jan and me, and now for me.

Love, Kathy Vonk



Jeff & Chris,

Thanks for faithfully serving the body of Ada Bible for these last 30 years and doing it well. Your passion, effort, sensitivity, relevance and clarity communicating God's Word is a blessing and gift to myself, those who hear it in person, on live stream, on the website and in various other modes. Thanks as well for your sensitivity in caring for the Ada Bible staff. They feel loved and appreciated. As you continue to teach and encourage; I pray that God will give you all you need to share Hope that only He can give; discipling and pointing us to be more "like the Christ."

I see this truth playing out in your life. "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." 1 Cor. 15:58

Love you guys, Jim McFarland



Dear Jeff and Chris,

I believe each life is an embroidered story - a carefully orchestrated pattern intricately woven into the lives of others and thoughtfully entwined through a specific period of time. I am glad for the time the threads of our lives have been woven together. Thank you for warmly including me in your lives when I first began attending Ada Bible Church. I have fond memories of drop-in visits, delicious meals and various celebrations shared with both of you.

Jeff, your messages have consistently inspired and grown me in my faith. Thank you for a heart that is wholly devoted to God so He can use you to lead others to Christ-likeness. Chris, thank you for living a God-honoring life with Jeff. A marriage that is truly one is an inspiration. Jeff, you have married 2 of my children—Trey and Lesley; and the ceremonies were perfect and unique for each one.

You buried my daughter, Ashley, moving those in attendance to a clear understanding of how precious she was.

Chris, you have graciously invited me into your home for tea while your kids cared for Keagon. The threads were briefly woven together again when, recently, Keagon cared for Preston. I hope, soon, I will once again have a place of my own for drop-in friends. There will be mixed nuts on the counter. God bless you both!

Sandy Wilcox (and Keagon)



Dear Pastor Jeff and Chris,

Thank you for the years of creative servant leadership and being willing to be used by HIM to bless so many through the ministry at Ada. We hope we can follow your example of faithfulness as a family in HIS service, and continue to accept the challenges you give us in our spiritual growth.

In HIS love,

Mike & Deb Williams



When we moved here from Chicago 3 years ago, friends of ours who attend Ada Bible, Ryan & Jill Anderson, invited us to check out their church. We were immediately hooked on Jeff's powerful and insightful teaching. We appreciate the way he weaves biblical truth with historical background information and encourages life application. One of the series that had a profound impact on us was "Satisfied", especially the chapter on comparison. The homework assignments shed light on our attitudes and where we were placing our priorities. I was challenged by a recent sermon series to realize I had been neglecting my "Chair Time" and appreciated the suggestions to incorporate my one-on-one time with God back into my daily life.

Thank you Jeff, for your honesty and humbleness as you share your own life and struggles with transparency. God is clearly using you and your gifted & relevant teaching to make a difference over these past 30 years!

Karen & Scott Coy



I must admit something here: One of my favorite questions people ask me is, "Where do you attend Church?" From that, I know I have the opportunity to share with them something very special, and that is the gift of teaching that Pastor Jeff brings to us. This gift has done so much to empower me, and to know his discipleship reaches far beyond our community and the city I love but I get to experience it first hand is so amazing.

Pastor Jeff has giving me the tools I need to grow in my faith and to be more Christ-like in my everyday walk. My wife Ena and I also love how he is always willing to share a story about raising kids, taking road trips, and his blessed marriage and walk with Chris.

And to that point, what to do and just as important what not to do to make your spouse happy; I'm taking notes as fast as I can! Lives are changing every day because of your obedient service Jeff and Chris and from my entire family we thank you!

Jeff and Ena Osterhouse



I am so blessed by Pastor Jeff and Chris. For years I have benefitted by Jeff's amazing gift of teaching. He has a very special way of bringing the Bible to life and for teaching how to apply the message to our everyday experiences.

Chris dares to go deep when people are hurting and brings a sweet kindness to those around her. I am privileged to call her my friend.

I appreciate the many examples Chris and Jeff share about their marriage and family and show us that it's not about pleasing man but it's about keeping our heart in the place that is pleasing to our Lord and Savior. I have seen over the years how they continue to work on their own marriage and family and how important it is to make that a priority.

Thank you Jeff and Chris for living life as authentically as you can, being both vulnerable and strong. And thank you for your leadership and for your friendship.

Sincerely,

Stacy Hunter



If you have a heart for blessing and encouraging Pastors throughout West Michigan, we would love to receive your prayer support and financial support. PastorCare is funded by gifts from people like you. Every contribution makes a difference! We provide confidential coaching and encouragement to pastors and spouses to help them soar!

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