

# **MILFORD BIBLE CHURCH**

## **Church Profile**

### **Our Area**

Located in the northeastern corner of Pennsylvania near the Delaware River, bordering New Jersey and New York, Milford Bible Church is an independent, evangelical Bible church which began in 1961. The church draws its congregants from a region that includes the small towns of Milford, Matamoras, Shohola, Port Jervis, NY, Montague, NJ and beyond. These rural communities are approximately a ninety minute drive from New York City and a one hour drive from Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, Pennsylvania.

The region comprises residential, commercial, light industrial, and various vacation resort areas. Although still considered rural, Pike County, PA, where the church is located, has been one of the fastest growing counties in the state for the past ten years. With its numerous lakes, streams and scenic forests, the region provides excellent opportunities for outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking and boating.

### **Our Facilities**

The present Milford Bible Church building was completed in February, 2003. The sanctuary, including the main floor and balcony, seats up to 900 people. There are twenty Sunday School and Christian Education rooms, as well as a church library, two nurseries with a fenced children's playground area, a youth room, three Pastor's studies, a church office and a choir room.

Our newly completed full-size gymnasium provides ample space for youth and adult recreation, including basketball, volleyball, roller skating, teen rallies, as well as socials and outreach ministries. A modern kitchen facility, designed to accommodate large dinners and receptions, is presently being completed.

The church is situated on fifteen beautiful acres that include a small stream and pond.

### **Our Ministries**

The Milford Bible Church exists for the glory of God. Further, God is most glorified when His work is done in His way (according to Scripture) and in His power (the power of the Holy Spirit). Scripture alone is our final authority for faith and practice. Therefore, all programs of the Milford Bible Church are developed and evaluated on the basis of their faithfulness to biblical truth and their effectiveness in maturing the saints and presenting Christ to the unconverted and uncommitted.

Ministries in the category of worship and Bible teaching include the Sunday AM Worship Service, Children's Sunday School, Adult Sunday School electives, Sunday PM Service, Prayer Meeting, Children's Worship, Men's and Women's Bible studies, Scripture Memory Program and various conferences.

In the area of Outreach and Evangelism, Milford Bible Church places great importance on missions and supports a large number of missionaries and missionary organizations both at home and abroad. Other programs that can be included in this category are our annual VBS program, Sportsmen's Dinner, Christian concerts, Women's Outreach Conference and Ladies' Tea, as well as on-going ministries such as M.O.P.S. (Mothers of Pre-Schoolers), Heart to Heart, Visitation, and UPWARD Basketball, which presently has approximately 250 boys and girls enrolled.

Several programs have a primary focus in the area of discipleship, such as our youth programs, The Outlet, Christian Service Brigade, Pioneer Clubs, Celebrate Recovery, and Woman to Woman.

Programs that provide opportunities for fellowship and for encouraging and upholding one another include Pairs and Spares (our seniors' ministry), small groups, F.O.C.A.S. (Fellowship of Christian Adult Singles), College and Career, and Guess Who's Coming to Dinner.

Support ministries include Nursery, Ushers, Greeters, Multimedia, Sunday Evening Craft Hour, Choir, Praise Team, Library and Chat Room.

### **Our People**

Milford Bible Church presently ministers to approximately 300 family units. Our people come from diverse backgrounds and offer an extensive variety of abilities, talents and gifts to this local church body. There is a healthy balance of age groups from the youngest to the oldest. Throughout the history of the Milford Bible Church, its people have demonstrated a consistent love for the Lord and His Word, a record of faithful service, and a love and support for their pastors.

### **Our History**

Milford Bible Church had its roots in a small Bible study group that began in a home in Milford in April, 1961. The study was led by a lay Bible teacher and contractor from the area.

Meetings soon shifted to the Pinchot Grange Hall at 303 West Ann Street, the site where the church was located until 2003.

In August, 1961, the church was received into the membership of the Bible Protestant Conference and soon after, in October, became officially incorporated. The Bible Protestant Conference was a small fellowship of Bible-believing churches committed to a strong stand against the trend toward liberalism in the major denominations. In January of 1962, Rev. Richard Metcalf was called as the first pastor of the church, known then as the *Milford Bible Protestant Church*.

From 1963 until 1986, four different pastors served the church. These years saw some growth in the congregation and a few expansion projects to the church building. In October, 1977, the church officially changed its name to the *Milford Bible Church*.

In December of 1986, Milford Bible Church called Rev. Rodney Ryle to his first pastorate. Pastor Ryle came to a congregation of 80 members and labored faithfully for the next twenty years. During those twenty years under his leadership, the church experienced significant growth in the lives of its people and the numbers in attendance.

As a result of the growth, numerous renovations were made to the building, adjoining property was purchased, and additional staff was hired. When the property on Ann Street could be expanded no more, the church began a second Sunday morning worship service and began to look for new property on which to build. The fifteen acres on Route 01, our present site, was purchased in 1996 and construction of the present church building was completed in February of 2003. A serious injury, resulting from a fall at the church, led Pastor Ryle to a decision to resign the pastorate in December, 2006. Presently, attendance averages approximately 550.