

A Place to Belong



A VISION FOR A MESSIANIC
COMMUNITY IN BLOOMINGTON

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(RABBI MG)



My Story



I was born into a Jewish family in Chicago and raised with a deep appreciation for my faith and heritage. I was bar mitzvahed on **Masada** in Israel and later helped prepare other students for their own bar mitzvahs.

As I grew older, I drifted away from God for a long season. Years passed, life unfolded, and my relationship with God became more distant.

Years passed.

**Then, at forty years old...
Everything changed.**

I encountered Jesus—the Messiah of Israel—and began a journey of restoration that reshaped my faith, my purpose, and my life.

Looking back, I can now see that God was preparing me for a calling greater than I could have imagined.

“ Sometimes God leads us back to where our story began so He can write a new chapter. ”



Forty Years in the Desert



For much of my adult life, I searched for purpose while building a career, writing stories, and pursuing dreams that often felt just out of reach.

Looking back, I now see that God was using every season—both the victories and the disappointments—to prepare my heart.

The Arizona desert became more than the place where I lived. It became a place of refinement, prayer, creativity, and renewal.

There, I encountered Jesus in a deeply personal way and began writing songs, stories, films, and messages centered on hope, redemption, and the Messiah.

What once felt like wandering became preparation.

“ *God doesn't waste the wilderness.
He often uses it to prepare us for what's next.* ”



CHICAGO
Childhood



ISRAEL
Heritage



ARIZONA
Refinement



FUTURE CALLING
What's Next



Why Bloomington?



In 2004, I graduated from Indiana University with a degree from the Kelley School of Business. Like many graduates, I assumed that chapter of my life was complete.

Then, years later, God began writing a chapter I never expected.

A series of songs inspired by Indiana Football—*Songs for Indiana™*—began reconnecting me to Bloomington in ways I never could have planned. What started as one song became many, reaching millions of people and opening doors to relationships, conversations, and opportunities to serve.

As I spent more time in Bloomington, I discovered something that surprised me: there was no active Messianic congregation serving the community.

What first felt like a creative assignment gradually became a deeper question:

“Lord, are You calling me back—not only to tell stories, but to help build a spiritual home?” ”

Reflection

Sometimes God brings us back to places we thought were behind us because He has prepared a future we never expected.

BLOOMINGTON

• THE CALLING •



Why Messianic?



Following Jesus didn't lead me away from my Jewish heritage.

It led me deeper into it.

As I studied Scripture, I began to see the Bible as one continuous story—from Genesis to Revelation—centered on God's covenant, His promises, and His Messiah.

Rather than replacing my Jewish heritage, following Jesus deepened my love for the Hebrew Scriptures, the biblical feasts, the Sabbath, and the rich Jewish context in which the Gospel was first proclaimed.

My hope is to help create a community where Jewish and Gentile believers—and anyone seeking God—can discover these roots together, worship the Messiah together, and grow together in faith, grace, and truth.

“
The roots are Jewish.
The Messiah is Jesus.
The invitation is for everyone.”



A Place to Belong



My hope is not simply to start another congregation.

My hope is to help cultivate a spiritual home.



A **community** where people can worship the Messiah, study Scripture, ask honest questions, build meaningful friendships, and grow together in faith.



A **place** where Jewish and Christian believers can learn from one another with humility.



A **home** where students, families, seekers, lifelong believers, and those searching for hope know they are genuinely welcome.



A **culture** where worship leads to discipleship, discipleship leads to service, and every generation is invited into God's unfolding story.

“ Before we build an organization,
we pray that God would build a family. ”



Worship. Scripture. Prayer. Life Together.

We hope to build a community where following Jesus is lived—not simply discussed.

Our rhythm would be rooted in:



WORSHIP



SCRIPTURE



PRAYER



HOSPITALITY



SHARED
MEALS



SERVING
ONE ANOTHER



We envision celebrating the biblical feasts, gathering around God's Word, praying together, encouraging students and families, and faithfully walking with one another through every season of life.



We believe spiritual formation happens not only in worship services—but around dinner tables, in living rooms, and through everyday acts of love.



More than a weekly gathering, we hope to become a people who know God, know one another, and serve Bloomington together.



“ We don’t simply want to gather each week.
We want to learn to walk with God—
and with one another. ”



A COMMUNITY
THAT GATHERS



A STORY
THAT GOES



TWO EXPRESSIONS. ONE CALLING. JESUS AT THE CENTER.

One Calling. Two Expressions.

Over the years, God has developed in me a calling to tell stories through music, films, books, and creative media.

That calling eventually became Rabbi MG Studio™—a place where stories inspire hope, strengthen families, build community, and point people toward Jesus.

This vision for a Messianic congregation is not separate from Rabbi MG Studio.

It is its spiritual home.

I believe the congregation and Rabbi MG Studio™ can serve one another naturally:



ONE GATHERS

- Worship
- Prayer
- Discipleship
- Family
- Community



ONE GOES

- Stories
- Songs
- Films
- Books
- Creative Mission

Together they become two expressions of one calling—helping people discover God's story and their place within it.

“ *One gathers. One goes.*
Both exist to point people toward the Messiah. ”



A COMMUNITY
THAT GATHERS



A STORY
THAT GOES



TWO EXPRESSIONS. ONE CALLING. JESUS AT THE CENTER.

Serving Bloomington Together

Our hope is to become more than a congregation that gathers.

We hope to become a people who serve.



Encourage local churches



Partner with ministries



Support families



Serve students



Care for neighbors



Love Bloomington well

We believe the Gospel is not only something we proclaim. It is something we demonstrate through humility, generosity, hospitality, creativity, reconciliation, and faithful service.

We do not come to build our own kingdom.

We come to faithfully participate in what God is already doing throughout Bloomington.

“ Our desire is not simply to be present in Bloomington, but to be a blessing to Bloomington. ”



LOVE GOD.
LOVE PEOPLE.
SERVE
BLOOMINGTON.



GATHER



ONE MISSION



GO

One mission. Two expressions.
Together, we love God,
love people, and serve
Bloomington with humility
and joy for the sake of the Gospel.



Starting Small. Trusting God.

Every lasting work of God begins with a *few* faithful people willing to take the next step.

We are not beginning with the goal of building a large congregation. We are beginning with the desire to faithfully follow wherever God leads.

Perhaps it begins with:



a shared meal.



worship in a living room.



prayer.



opening Scripture together.



honest conversations.



new friendships.



one person inviting another.

If this vision is truly from God, He will provide the people, the opportunities, and the growth—in His time.

Our responsibility is simply to be faithful.

“ *We are not asking God to bless our plans.
We are asking Him to reveal His.* ”



An Invitation to Pray



I don't know every detail of what this vision may become.
I simply know I cannot ignore where God has been leading me.

If this vision resonates with you, I would simply ask you to pray.



Pray for wisdom.



Pray for discernment.



Pray for Bloomington.



Pray for the people God is already preparing.



Pray that His will—not ours—would be done.

If, in time, you sense that God is inviting you to become part of this journey, I would be honored to walk alongside you.

Every meaningful work of God begins with people who first seek Him together.

“*Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.*”

— PSALM 127:1



Here I Am, Lord



I don't know every step ahead.
But I know the One who has faithfully led me this far.

Chicago.



Israel.



Arizona.



Bloomington.

I can see God's fingerprints on every chapter of my story.

If He is inviting me to help cultivate a Messianic community here, then my answer is simple:

Here I am, Lord. Send me.

My prayer is simple:

Whether through Rabbi MG Studio™, Rabbi MG Story Studio™, or this future congregation, may everything I build point people to Jesus, the Messiah, and bring glory to God.

“Here I am. Send me.”

— ISAIAH 6:8



To God Be the Glory



This vision is offered with open hands.

If it is from God, may He establish it.

If it is not, may He lovingly redirect it.

My desire is simply to faithfully steward
whatever God entrusts to me.

Wherever this journey leads—
around a table,
throughout Bloomington,
or beyond anything I can imagine—
may every step honor Him.



Every song.



Every story.



Every conversation.



Every act of service.



Every prayer.



Every life touched.

To Him alone be the glory.

“ Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more
than all we ask or imagine... to Him be glory
in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout
all generations. ”





The Journey Begins with a Conversation



If this vision resonates with you, I'd love to meet you.

Whether you're a student, family, pastor, ministry leader, someone exploring faith, or someone who simply loves Bloomington, I'd be grateful for the opportunity to meet, hear your story, pray together, and discern what God may be doing.

There is no membership to sign.

No campaign to join.

No pressure.

Only an invitation to begin with conversation, prayer, and community.

Every meaningful partnership begins with a relationship. Perhaps this is where one begins.

Let's begin with prayer.



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His Kingdom Come.

