

emmanuel

loving God, loving people, loving the world



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

On September 8th 1996 Emmanuel church was 'birthed' in the living room of my home on Waringstown Road, Lurgan. From I was a boy I have felt a strong call of God on my life to serve His people. Having ministered in a few different church contexts for most of my life, in my early thirties my wife and I found ourselves helping a lot of broken people that had no connection with church. Unsure of what we should do with these people, but convinced of God's love and purpose for their lives, we started Emmanuel Church. We gathered and worshipped in our family home for 18 months until May 1998. God then led us to a small building in Donaghcloney of only 900sqft and it was there that our community grew to approximately 100 people. This little building became our spiritual home for almost three years and God established deep roots of His love and truth within us. We look back at these days and see them as beautiful times of preparation for His purposes for our lives.

In those days we defined these seven dreams we had for Emmanuel:

- 1. It is a dream** to have a place where the *distressed*, those in *debt* and the *discontented* can find love, acceptance, help, hope, forgiveness, guidance and encouragement. **1 Samuel 22:2**
- 2. It is a dream** of *sharing* the Good News of *Jesus Christ* with the thousands of residents in the community where God places us, co-labouring with other churches in the area. **Judges 16:26-30**
- 3. It is a dream** of welcoming a minimum of *2000 members* into the fellowship of our church family, loving, learning, crying, laughing and living in harmony together. **Ephesians 4:14-16**
- 4. It is a dream** of developing people to Christ-like *spiritual maturity* through accountable relationships, small groups and an intentional discipleship stream. **Colossians 2:6-10**

5. **It is a dream** of equipping every believer to fulfil their calling in life by helping them discover and operate in their God-given gifts and talents. **Matthew 25:14-30**

6. **It is a dream** of *impacting* our community, our county, our country, and the four corners of the earth by planting a network of Christ-centred communities; blessing and resourcing other churches; sending out workers and missionaries all over the world influencing culture with Kingdom values of justice, truth and righteousness.

Great Commandment Matthew 22:37-40

Great Commission Matthew 28:18-20

7. **It is a dream** to have a beautiful and multifunctional Church building where God can be glorified; ever-expanding to respond to the needs of the community; designed to cater to the whole person.

1 Thessalonians 5:23; Psalm 150

As our church community continued to grow we purchased our first premises at 99-103 Union Street, Lurgan. We had always sensed that the centre of Lurgan was ultimately where God wanted to position us and we moved there on February 4th 2001. Here we had 3,700sqft allowing us space to increase the numbers and facilitate the various ministries that were now developing. Again the blessing of the Lord overtook us and within a year, we saw our community double in size with a significant number of people surrendering their lives to Jesus. We recognised that once again we needed to start praying and searching for another building.

God led us to our current 'home' on Castle Lane, in the centre of Lurgan to a massive 37,500sqft. It was almost like a step too far but we believed God was in this so we went for it. We had our first service there on September 21st 2003. It has been an incredible journey of faith and adventure and we have had the privilege to see many of the original

dreams stated above come to pass. We have lived through the most wonderful mountain-top experiences and survived the most desperate darkest valleys. In it all God has remained faithful and has done exceedingly abundantly above all that we could ever ask or imagine. To Him we give all the honour glory and praise.

Philip

May God bless you as we move on together to fulfil God's call on our lives.

Philip Emerson

Lead Pastor

"He who has an ear to hear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Revelation 2:7



Our Beliefs

1. The Bible is God's complete, inspired Word, which does not change.

2 Timothy 3:15-17; Mark 13:31; Isaiah 40:8.

2. There is one true God revealed as three persons; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

***Exodus 20:1-5; Isaiah 45:5; Mark 12:9; 1 John 5:6;
John 14:26.***

3. God created the heavens and the earth and everything in them.

Genesis 1:1 & 31; John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16-17.

4. The virgin birth and sinless life of Jesus Christ. His atoning death, burial, resurrection and ascension into Heaven.

***Matthew 1:23; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:22;
1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Ephesians 1:20.***

5. Everyone who repents and believes in the Son is born again, cleansed by Jesus' blood and brought into a personal relationship with God.

***John 3:16; Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:9; John 3:5-7;
Romans 10:9-10; Galatians 4:6-7.***

6. The sacraments of water baptism of believers by total immersion and the Lord's Supper.

***Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:4-11; Colossians 2:11-12;
1 Corinthians 11:23-31; Acts 20:7.***

7. It is God's will for believers to live clean, separated and Holy lives, being changed into the likeness of the Son by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:16; Ephesians 5:27; Romans 8:29.

8. The baptism and fullness of the Holy Spirit with signs following.

Matthew 3:11; Acts 2:4; Acts 4:31; Ephesians 5:18.

9. The fruit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit demonstrated in the lives of the believers.

Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.

10. The five-fold Ascension ministries in the body of Christ for bringing believers to maturity.

Ephesians 4:11-12.

11. The Lordship of Christ and His coming again to judge the living and the dead.

Philippians 2:9-11; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.

12. Those who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Master will spend eternity in Heaven with God, those who reject Him will spend eternity in Hell with the devil, and his demons.

John 5:24, 24-29; John 14:1-3; Revelations 20:11-15.

Our Vision

During 2011 the leadership sensed it was a significant stage in our journey as a church community. We felt a call to seek the Lord for fresh vision. After an intentional process of prayer and discussion with many of our leaders God laid the following vision statement on our hearts.

'helping to rewrite the story of Craigavon, Ireland and the nations with the good news of the Kingdom of God.'

Our Key Practices

We sense this vision will be realized as we strive to fulfil the following six key practices:

1. PRIORITISING PRAYER AND PRESENCE

Committed to seeing Prayer/Presence at the centre of everything we do; God in the midst; Heaven touching earth.

2. MOBILIZING MISSION

Constant focus on the 'lost being found'; missional initiatives started; serving the poor; pursuing justice; sending people to the ends of the earth.

3. TRAINING LEADERS

*Raising men and women up to serve and support the apostolic vision. **Ephesians 4.11-12***

4. INVESTING IN YOUTH

Naming and nurturing the potential in young people and recognising our responsibility towards them.

5. GROWING AS FAMILY

Ensuring the vision is primarily relational where people are provided with a strong sense of belonging and growing in the grace of the Lord Jesus.

6. STRIVING FOR KINGDOM UNITY

Focus not on building a brand, a stream or denomination but the Kingdom of God through the bride of Christ.

Our Values

As leaders it is important to us, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to form a New Testament church culture. If we don't, the opposite will be true, the culture will form us. Our values are incredibly important to us. Our desire is that every member of Emmanuel would have the core values of

LOVING GOD; LOVING PEOPLE; LOVING THE WORLD

imprinted on their hearts.

Further to these values, in current days we sense God forming a 'new wineskin' in our church community. We believe the characteristics of this 'new wineskin' are:

- Importance of Prayer and Worship cultivating a renewed fear-of-the-Lord
- Love without condition
- Culture of honour
- Royalty and Authority
- Authenticity
- Generosity
- Expectancy and Faith
- Naturally Supernatural lifestyles
- Spiritual wisdom - speaking with the 'language of Heaven'
- Joy

For more information on the outworking of this vision please visit our website.

Our Responsibilities

A) The Elders' Responsibility towards the People

These fall into 3 main stages:

- 1) RULING** To give attention to care for.
1 Thessalonians 5:12-14
1 Peter 5:2-3
- 2) SHEPHERDING** Feeding, watching for wolves, being an example.
Acts 20:28-35
- 3) INSTRUCTING** Teaching sound doctrine, bringing people to spiritual maturity, helping people to find their gifts, talents and ministries.
1 Timothy 3:2

B) The responsibility of the People to the Elders

- a) Pray for the elders.
1 Thessalonians 5:25
- b) Not to charge an elder hastily with wrongdoing.
1 Timothy 5:19-20
- c) Financially support the elders.
1 Timothy 5:17-18; 1 Corinthians 9:11-14
- d) Esteem them highly.
1 Thessalonians 5:13
- e) Be in submission to godly leadership.
Hebrews 13:17

C) Responsibility of all who belong

1. To protect the unity of the church

- By refusing to gossip.
James 4:11
- By acting in love toward everyone.
1 Peter 1:22
- By forgiving everyone.
Ephesians 4:32
- By not criticising or condemning one another.
Romans 14:13

2. To share the responsibility of the church

- By praying for its growth.
1 Thessalonians 1:1-2
- By bringing in the unchurched.
Luke 14:23
- By being committed to the church family.
Psalms 68:1-6
- By welcoming those who visit.
Romans 15:7

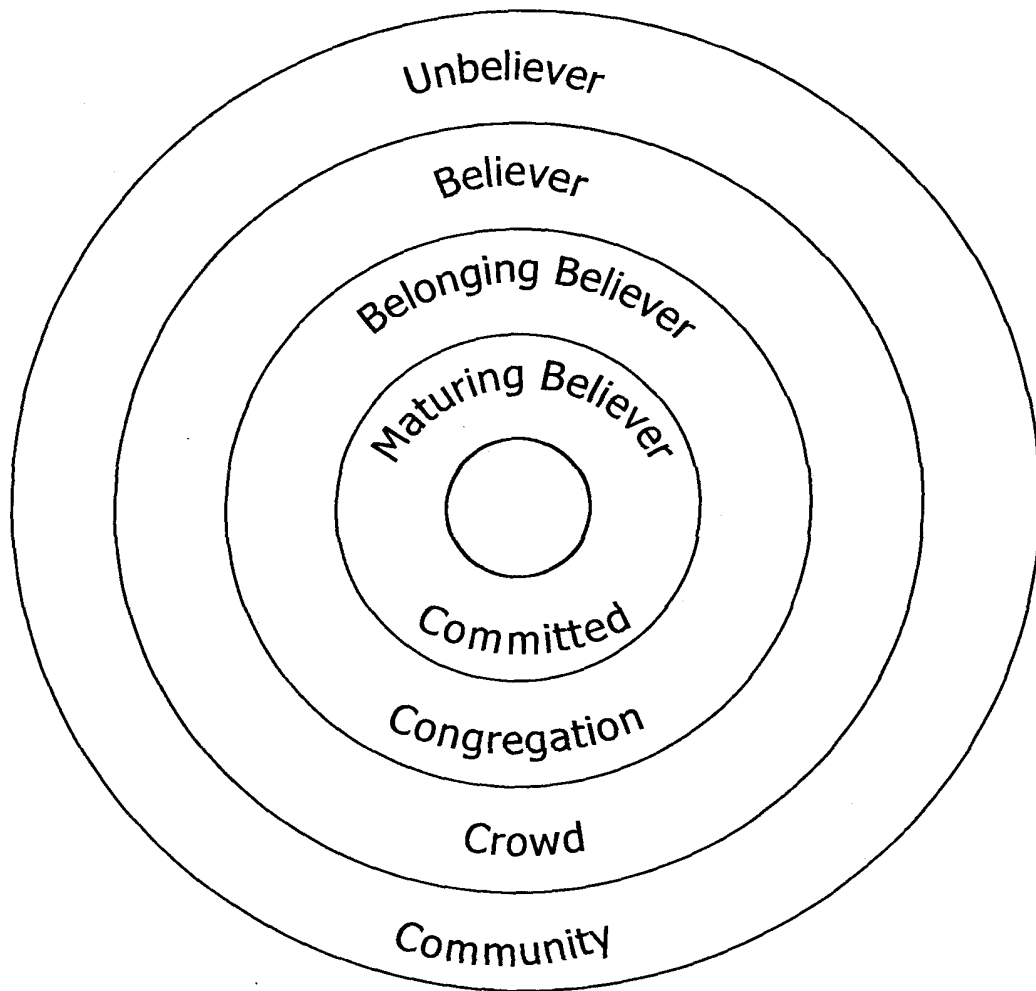
3. To serve in the ministry of the church

- By serving one another in love.
1 Peter 4:10
- By discovering my gifts and talents.
Ephesians 4:11-12
- By desiring a servant heart.
Philippians 2:3-4 & 7
- By exhorting one another.
Hebrews 10:25

4. To support the testimony of the church

- By attending Sunday gatherings, corporate prayer times and local Lifegroups.
Hebrews 10:25
- By living a holy and blameless life.
Philippians 1:27; Ephesians 1:4
- By regularly giving financially (Gift Aid declaration form).
Leviticus 27:30; 1 Corinthians 16:2
- By not going to law with one another.
1 Corinthians 6:7

From the crowd to the congregation.....



I **BELIEVE** IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS MY LORD AND SAVIOUR, have read and understood the core values and beliefs of Emmanuel Church, and am deciding that this is the church family to which I would love to belong.

Date: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

EMAIL: _____

(FOR UNDER 18's PLEASE FILL IN PARENTAL CONSENT FORM OVERLEAF)

Parental Consent Form:

I _____ give permission for _____

to attend a further meeting with an Elder and/or Youth Pastor and if accepted to then further becoming a member of Emmanuel Church Lurgan.

Signed: _____

Date: _____