

# Vision

The following is a comprehensive guide to the vision and practices of Emmanuel church. This vision has been compiled by elders and core members after much prayer and fasting. The existing vision of Emmanuel is encapsulated in the following statement and was articulated in a season of prayerful reflection and strategic thinking in 2013,

*'helping rewrite the story of Craigavon, Ireland and the nations with the Good News of the kingdom of God.'*

This vision was fleshed out in a strategic document compiled in 2013, entitled "Emmanuel: 2020 Vision". The Vision was framed around 6 Core Practices we sensed where the primary ways the vision above could be outworked:

- Prioritising Presence
- Mobilising Mission
- Training Leaders
- Investing in Youth
- Growing as a Family
- Striving for Kingdom Unity

Many of the initial actions from this 2013 document have been completed and subsequently removed from this updated document. Annually, we review our strategic direction and, where prompted by the Holy Spirit, tweak and freshen up the vision God is revealing to us. We also carry out a more intensive strategic review of where we are going every 3 years. With this in mind our target is to see much of this vision come to pass by 2020, but as new vision has been revealed in recent years some of the strategic aims in this document have a longer, 10 year focus.

## 1. PRIORITISING PRESENCE

*Committed to see the principle of 'encounter' at the centre of everything we do;  
God in the midst; Heaven touching earth.*

- Ever-increasing commitment to envisioning a culture of **'Hosting the Presence of God'** experienced in both the *church gathered* and the *church scattered*
- Intentionally building our rhythms of prayer, in 24-7 prayer room, until we witness, 24/7:365. This will involve constantly envisioning a culture of prayer, increasing the prayer room's accessibility via online signup and offering it as a resource to other churches/members of our community.
- Establishment of a lead team in intercessory prayer/prophetic who are skilled and gifted to minister in various environments, including:
  - Corporate Prayer (prophetic intercession)
  - Healing on the Streets
  - Prayer/prophetic ministry teams
  - Prayer clinic
  - Healing Rooms
- Worship-Team Community Development
  - Intentional pathway and environments created to grow healthy, authentic, and diligent worship teams
  - Specific investment in worship leaders/team members through quality training and mentoring.
  - To grow as a resource hub in the local area and nation, serving the body of Christ by providing training, equipping, and a sense of community for worship leaders/teams releasing worshippers into destiny and service in the local church.

## 2. MOBILISING MISSION

*Constant focus on 'lost being found'; Missional initiatives started; Serving the poor;  
Pursuing justice; Sending people to the ends of the earth.*

- **Local**

Our vision for mobilising mission in our city is best understood under the following 7 “**legacy statements**” which were dreamed up in 2015. These statements have become declarations of faith, and under each one the strategic aims are outlined.

- *A centre of hope - specialising in the work of addiction*

- Significant Development of Emmanuel Compassion Ministry - in particular acquiring a ‘**House of Hope**’ which would serve as a centralised hub for various ministries of compassion focused on helping the most vulnerable and broken in our city, in a professional and highly specified way.
- Increasing and developing the Compassion Volunteer Team that is equipped to follow up and befriend the most vulnerable and distressed, through training and input.
- Increased development of relationships with local agencies and follow up programs such as CAP, Food-Bank, Parenting Courses, Job Skills etc.
- Further Establishment of new initiatives including Renew Clothing Bank and CAP Release Groups.

- *A place where people would experience salvation/healing and restoration.*

- Providing environments and pathways to see people discover total (holistic) healing i.e. emotional, mental, physical and spiritual, healing.
- To grow Links Counselling Service professionally and with increased capacity to serve people of all ages and backgrounds and witness them walk into wholeness and increased levels of psychological wellbeing.

- To witness ‘those added daily’ as the church gathered and scattered in both sides of our community. The specific ways we seek to galvanise this type of culture are:
  - A commitment to Alpha - hosting at least one course per year, in a variety of different contexts across our local community
  - Releasing street evangelists throughout the city as catalysts for salvation on a daily basis.
  
- *A family that accepts and loves EVERYONE, where the ‘unloveable’ are fully loved.*
  - Making gatherings accessible to ethnic minorities, allowing potential for specific missional communities to be pioneered within these people groups.
  - Embedding a culture where everyone is encouraged to lay down their reputations and social status, where barriers are removed, everyone is welcomed and all our encouraged to ‘love the least of these.’
  
- *A church that prioritises, champions and serves God’s idea of the family unit in our society.*
  - Committed to establishing and serving godly relationships, marriages and family structures in various environments including; pre-marriage courses, marriage courses, parenting courses & couples counselling.
  
- *A church that would bring life to the waste, desolate and empty areas of the city.*
  - exploring opportunities to breathe creativity and hope back into areas written off and seen as desolate through Kingdom-inspired art, commerce and education

- Releasing **missional communities** with focus on specific 'unreached' areas/estates and various spheres of influence within our city in need of a gospel-presence.
  
- *A church that breaks the cycle of sectarianism and religiosity*
  - Continue to host creative and relevant BIG CHURCH SERVE initiatives, such as Lurgan Park Show; Santa Grotto; Christmas Hamper project, mobilising the whole church in servant evangelism.
  - Championing reconciliation, forgiveness and redemptive love to see cycles of systemic injustice, bigotry and religion overcome.
  
- *A church committed to championing Craigavon as a 'city of refuge'.*
  - To reverse the suicide statistics in the local area through innovative and effective awareness campaigns and follow up support.
  - Teaching a 'theology for the city,' encouraging our members to '*seek the peace of the city*' - we are 'trusted-rulers' called to broken humanity to bring about city formation for the glory of God
  - Maintain a posture of befriending and blessing different spheres of influence within our city such as Business/Schools/Councils/Agencies.
  
- *A church that champions the young people of our community.*
  - In relationship with local agencies such as 'Reach' and 'Aspire', who are committed to mentoring, educating and empowering young people within our community we seek to see young people of all ages walk fully into all that God has created them to be in various areas of life, including education, health, and spiritual formation.

- **National**

- Growing as an apostolic hub and releasing “Tobar” - the five-fold team overseeing the trans-local nature of Emmanuel’s apostolic activity. As we long to see a move of the Holy Spirit around the land, we have position Tobar to serve in 3 main ways.
  - Tobar Resource: Strengthening and supporting many of the “old wells” and established churches around the land through learning community events that help churches reset their culture around mission, discipleship and presence.
  - Tobar Family: We recognise the imperative is urgent to explore new ground, see “new wells” opened and new churches planted. Our aim is to see 10 missional communities planted in 10 of the most broken places in Ireland in the next 10 years.
  - Tobar Training: To implement a pathway for recognising, growing, and sending leaders into the missional frontier.
- Releasing and inspiring fresh/creative kingdom initiatives that champion social justice and reconciliation
- Sending teams of people on road-trips/mission trips to bless, encourage and resource other churches/communities around Ireland.

- **Global**

- Hosting Global Mission Conferences/events informing and equipping churches in how to engage in global mission.
- Continued support and encouragement of regular annual mission teams and individuals being called to the mission field.
- Cement long term partnerships with Pastor Jacob in India; Akil and Lindita in Albania; Pastor Richard in Uganda; Daughters and Iris Ministries in Cambodia.
- Through our partnership with Pastor Richard in Jandira, Uganda we aim to planting new churches throughout East Africa and train/release students who have been educated at Light for All Secondary School into pioneering kingdom initiatives.

- Development of our work amongst the Gujarati of India - an unreached people group we have 'adopted' in partnership with Frontiers - sending mission teams and supporting in prayer as we seek to see breakthrough of the gospel in next number of years.
- Over the next 10 years in partnership with OM's Jogini Project in South India we aim to help eradicate temple prostitution, supporting vulnerable women and children through increased awareness, education, medical care, skills training and safe houses. OM's vision is to see the work extend to 3000 villages around the country.
- A commitment to respond with financial and practical aid to global disaster and relief needs/operations

### 3. TRAINING LEADERS

*Raising men and women up to serve and support the apostolic vision.*

*Ephesians 4.11-12*

- We aim to develop a 'pathway to leadership' for people within the local church. This pathway operates in the following environments.
  - *CORE* - An intentional 18 month training programme during lower&upper sixth, for young men and women from local churches with leadership potential.
  - *Internship*: A quality gap-year program for 18-25's focusing on training, equipping and forming radical disciples
  - *Ignite*: A 7-month course focused on helping people discover their spiritual destiny and releasing them into their vocation with renewed kingdom authority.
  - *Leadership Training Program*: A 3-month course designed to develop those with a primary grace on their lives for leadership in the local church
  - *Cohorts*: establishing small learning communities for those God is calling as leaders and pioneers within a five-fold ministry context.
  - *Advanced Learning*: Partnering with other academically recognised organisations to offer ministry qualifications

## 4. INVESTING IN YOUTH

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

### • **Kids**

- Continuing to develop strong, committed, passionate Kingdom-Kidz teams for Sunday Gatherings, investing in new resources and facilities for these where necessary.
- Creatively teaching and growing children in Worship, Bible Reading, Supernatural, Gifts of the Spirit, Prayer, Serving/Tithing - equipping them to carry this into their schools, homes and friendships.
- Foreseeing a day when our children will bring prophetic insight and wisdom to leadership direction and decision making.
- Increasing children's involvement in Sunday Worship Gatherings in creative ways
- Empowering our own kids in creative outreach initiatives, inviting other children from the local community to attend our gathered kid's environments such as Impact, Quest and Kingdom Kidz
- Birthing new weekly programs support and helping children's development e.g. homework clubs/tuition/day care
- Developing a designated space that is inclusive of children of all abilities, beginning with investment in a specified sensory room in church.

### • **Youth**

- Creatively teaching and growing children in Worship, Bible Reading, Supernatural, Gifts of the Spirit, Prayer, Serving/Tithing - equipping them to carry this into their schools, homes and friendships.
- Development of 'Vital Sundays' - a Sunday morning program for 11-14years olds during the main Sunday Morning gathering.

- Implementing a young leaders development track releasing young people into leadership in the nation. (see reference to *CORE* in 'Training Leaders')
- Consistently observing ways to increase youth involvement across all the wider church teams.
- Deepening a heart for mission amongst our young people through annual mission teams with our church partners.
- Development of Schools Program in partnership with 'Reach' and 'Aspire'
- Seeking opportunities to increase church members representation on School Boards/Social Service Committees serving and shaping the systems that are foundational for young people's social and educational development in our city.
- Explore future opportunities for a Sports Development Centre
- Championing the foster system by supporting foster families and developing sheltered accommodation for kids at risk.
- Committed to facilitating several parenting courses and support groups each year, in various locations across our local area and in church.

## 5.GROWING AS A FAMILY

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

To explore this Core Value we have cast vision in the various microcosms of family within the wider church body.

- **Men & Women**

- Continued development of XY-Kinship and Jewels Unite, exploring many key areas for the respective sexes in the three large gatherings each will host throughout the year.

- Deepening the relational investment man-to-man and woman-to-woman throughout the body we will launching new Lifegroup's specifically for men and women around areas of interest.

- **PastoralCare**

- Continued investment in the pastoral care team to care for the needs of the body.
- Establishing teams within church who can care and provide for specific areas of greatest need within the body, training and releasing other key leaders in church who carry a pastoral grace.
- Commitment to well-organised whole-church gathered events, e.g. Church Day away, Christmas party, weekends away allowing the family to environments to simply enjoy family.

- **Discipleship**

- To see a biblical understanding of discipleship embedded in the heart of Emmanuel church, establishing a common language and practice across various accountability groups. These groups will be:
  - Organised learning environments - Lifegroups, Grow and Ignite
  - Organic life-on-life discipleship - everyday opportunities to love and grow together.
- A commitment to investment in key leaders within emmanuel training and equipping them as mature disciplers - this will involve 4 specialised training nights per year, teaching, resourcing and learning together.
- Developing and packaging Grow course for use within Emmanuel church and as a resource for other churches.

- **Newcomers**

- Rebranding and clearly identifying a new “connection area” with a reinvigorating of expectations on welcoming a new person
- Development of strong, vibrant and committed Welcome Team and Hospitality

## 6. STRIVING FOR KINGDOM UNITY

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

- Leading and strengthening Lurgan Ministers Fellowship, prompting church unity and inter-church 'prayer for the city'.
- Leading the way in embodying a culture of honour in our relationships and love for the church in Ireland in all its various forms.
- Encouraging and actively seeking kingdom connections and friendships throughout the land.
- Fulfilling our call as an apostolic hub in supporting and resourcing local churches in the nation.
- As a resource Church for 24-7 prayer in Ireland, initiating and releasing national prayer initiatives around the land.
- Gathering the 'fathers'/'mothers' in the land together to discern the Word of the Lord in these days and to steward the movements of His Spirit in love and unity.