

THE WAY

EMMANUEL FAITH QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | SUMMER/FALL 2022





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Summer Peaks, Fall Valleys



When we lived in Colorado, one of my favorite summertime activities was climbing some of the 14,000-foot peaks in the state. There are 58 of them! I loved the adventure, the challenge, and the sense of accomplishment you have when you get to the top. One of the things that you realize when you stand on top of a 14er is that nothing grows that high. You're above the tree line and with the exception of a little bit of grass and a few miniature flowers, no vegetation can be found. However, as your feet stand on the rocky ground, the vast landscape in view as you gaze out is covered in lush, green forest. The growth doesn't take place on the mountain peaks but in the valleys.

I think that's a metaphor for our lives as well. We tend to imagine that God shows up in the radical and the extreme. We assume he does his best work in our lives on the mountain top. The reality is that most of the growth happens in the valley. We're challenged and developed in our normal day-to-day existence. I'm reminded of the story of the transfiguration where Jesus took a few of the disciples up onto a mountain and appeared to them in a bright, luminous white light. Peter wanted to preserve the experience of the mountaintop and he said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah" (Matthew 17:4). He wanted to make it last and maybe even assumed that growth would happen in that place better than in his normal existence. But Jesus wouldn't let them stay there. He knew that life is lived in the valley.

As our summer begins to wind down, I think many have the same feelings Peter did. We want to preserve the excitement of vacations, beach days, and BBQs, but God won't let us stay there. Oswald Chambers wrote, "We are not made for the mountains, for sunrises, or for the other beautiful attractions in life – those are simply intended to be moments of inspiration. We were made for the valley and the ordinary things of life, and that is where we have to prove our stamina and strength." Maybe it's good for us to remember that growth and life are often born in the valleys of life rather than on the mountain tops. As summer comes to a close and we begin our descent toward fall, let's do so with a sense of anticipation that God will be faithful to strengthen, sustain, and grow us – all the more as we get back into our "normal" schedules.

I hope you've had a great summer. I know we're going to have a growth-filled fall together!

Grace + Peace,
Ryan Paulson, Lead Pastor



InterGen Takes a Road Trip

By Cheri Wright, Communications Director

This April, 28 adults from our InterGen ministry took a trip to see the Ark Encounter, Creation Museum, and other attractions on a road trip through North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky. I recently spoke with long-time EFCC member, Bev Amsbury, who was one of the travelers. She gave me some insights into what a blessing the trip was for those who participated. None of the travelers had visited these locations before, so it was a great experience for all of them to make new friends while they enjoyed learning about some of God's amazing people from the past.

Bev said, "I stood in awe when I saw the ark." She realized just how much faith Noah must have had to have gone through with its construction. The Creation Museum was also a highlight for the group as they walked through the details of God's miraculous design. The group is hoping to put together some future trips, so be sure to watch for announcements in the worship guide or weekly email.

"Tonight, I stayed late talking to a man who was raised Catholic who said, 'This is the first time that Jesus has made any sense to me.'"

Earlier that day, he had also met with a man who was attending Alpha for the second time. He told Josh that attending had ignited something new in him and he asked what he needs to do in order to be a leader for the group next time.

He also shared the story of one of the ladies attending who had gone through one of the worst days of her life. That day, she found out that her son-in-law (and father of her two grandkids) had died in a very traumatic way. She spent all day patiently waiting for a coroner and dealing with death. If anyone had an excuse to not show up to a meeting, it was her. However, she came that night and told us, "I knew I needed to be with my people."

This year, we're building on the success of Alpha by creating our own new class called "Exploring the Way of Jesus." This will be a great class for anyone at any place on their journey, but is specifically designed for believers of any age who want to explore what it means to live out our mission of living in the way of Jesus with the heart of Jesus. Each Wednesday, we'll have interactive live teaching in English with Pastor Josh and Spanish with Pastor Esteban Tapia. We'll kick things off on Wednesday, September 14, at 6:30pm in the Chapel downstairs rooms. Check our website soon for more information and to register.

Lives Transformed at Alpha

By Cheri Wright, Communications Director

Have you heard about Alpha? This is a weekly course that we have offered recently where people can explore the Christian faith with others. It's a series of conversations focused on the questions of life, faith, and meaning in a safe, low-pressure environment. This past spring, 22 people attended the group meetings that were led by Pastor Josh Rose, and many told him of the huge impact it had on their lives. Here are a few of their stories from Pastor Josh:





Kids and Students Experience Life Change at Summer Camp

By Cheri Wright, Communications Director

This summer in June, kids entering 3rd through 12th grade had the opportunity to travel away from home and enjoy a week of friends, worship, games, and messages from God's Word. Forty-two of our youngest campers from FaithKids went to Indian Hills camp in Jamul, where they dove into Romans 12:2 and learned what it means to live a Transformed Life! Five kids even saw their own lives transformed when they asked Jesus into their hearts. For fun activities, students rode the zip line, tried their hands at archery, swam, ate, and pet some pretty cool donkeys. We're grateful that an awesome week was had overall.

Our Junior High ministry went to a new camp, Hume SoCal in Big Bear, where students heard the message that the Bible is not a truth, but rather it's the truth! Of the 88 kids who went to camp, four came home with a brand new relationship with the Lord. We praise the Lord for the great impact going to camp had on these student's lives.

Hume Lake has been a tradition for our High School students for decades, and this year 202 of them joined in for an amazing week. We're excited to share the news that 10 students made a first-time decision for Christ, and 25 shared about the transformation in their lives as a result of being at camp! Some of the transformations included finding their identity in Christ, making new commitments of obedience to the Lord, and a new excitement to share His message in our community. Both the small group and one-on-one discussions that are possible at camp led many of the students to a greater understanding of what it truly means to be saved. We praise God that so many students were inspired to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus.

Big Things Are Happening at Emmanuel Faith Preschool

By Jessica Feliciano, Preschool Director

Emmanuel Faith Preschool ministry was privileged to serve over 108 children and families during the 2021-22 school year. Of those families, 52 children participated in the preschool promotion held on June 3. This ceremony celebrated the learning that happened throughout the year including readiness for kindergarten and much more.

Throughout the school year, the Preschool staff shared the love of Jesus with children and families by providing love, support, and intentional lessons. The lessons served to provide the knowledge and skills needed as the children transition to kindergarten and beyond. Through daily Bible lessons, prayer, and chapel times, children learned that God is with them wherever they go, and that Jesus can be their very best friend. Believers can talk to him whenever, wherever, and he listens to us when we're happy or sad. The children also learned about God's plan for the Preschool and for each and every one one of us. We know we can trust in the Lord; his plans are good and his plans are best.

The Preschool staff is very thankful for all the families that they partnered with this past school year. The staff looks forward to the upcoming year when they can share the love of Jesus with several more children and families. Thank you to the many families that have shared about this ministry with others in our community.

Global Outreach Update

By Luke B., Outreach Pastor

The Outreach Fund supports a great amount of ongoing ministry: 12 local community partners, Love Esco initiatives, and 16 global partners and 67 missionaries. In this newsletter issue, we want to highlight several new global projects we launched in the past 12 months. All that to say, we're strategically focused on partnering with local believers to take the Good News to places we cannot easily access as Americans. These projects go "above and beyond" and were made possible by planned giving and the amazing generosity of some of our Emmanuel Faith Church members.

Yemen

Yemen is one of the least reached countries in the world today and remains inaccessible to foreign missionaries due to war and religious extremism. However, aided by supernatural dreams and breakthroughs, hundreds of new underground Christian small groups have grown and multiplied dramatically despite the hostile environment. EFCC is helping equip the Yemeni believers to lead their emerging movement.

China

The Chinese government is actively surveilling and suppressing religious movements, but underground churches continue to multiply and have begun to send out their own missionaries abroad. Emmanuel Faith is at the cutting edge of missions by helping train and develop a new missionary movement from China which has amazing potential to impact people and places we cannot access as Americans. As China's influence rises, this work will have great ripple effects around the world.

Mali

EFCC provided funding to send six new indigenous pastors to plant churches in Muslim communities. We also sponsored two solar projectors to present the Jesus Film in remote areas and for clean water projects that enable access to these unreached communities in North Africa.

Iran

The underground church in Iran has been growing exponentially over the past decade. New believers have a great desire to have the physical "holy book" even though the mere possession of it puts them at great risk. About 3,000 Bibles per month are being smuggled into Iran to support 48,000 believers in 3,200 underground groups.

Syria

While the war in Syria is no longer in the news, the millions of refugees it created remain displaced across the region. Working with our partners in Lebanon, Emmanuel Faith enabled ongoing outreach to 400 Syrian refugee families and trained 100 church planters in war ravaged Syria.

India

North India, the birthplace of Hinduism and Buddhism, is home to hundreds of millions of people who are destined to live their entire lives without ever hearing the Good News. EFCC is partnering with a local house church movement to equip and send Indian pastors to plant churches among 20 unreached people groups.

Sports

Sports allow the Gospel to travel across



national, religious and socio-economic barriers, from professional athletes to children in the most remote villages. Emmanuel Faith Church is helping equip 1,400 sports ministry leaders in 22 of the hardest-to-reach countries in North Africa, Middle East and Asia to do what Play As One ministry does here in Escondido - make disciples in the world of sports, fitness and play.

To learn more about EFCC's impact in the community and around the world, scan the code to sign up for our Weekly Outreach Updates.



Jesus Speaks into a Yemeni Woman's Dreams



Fatimah*, a prison warden, had a reputation for being cruel and intimidating. She excelled at her job, but Fatimah had a secret. Ever since she was a little girl, she had dreams about Jesus -- the prophet that Christians followed. Every three years, Jesus would appear in her dreams. One day a new prisoner was brought to Fatimah -- a woman known to be a Christian. Fatimah called her into her office, and behind closed doors asked her about Jesus. They began to meet regularly to talk about Jesus until one day the prisoner was released.



Fatimah was married to a very devout man. In their culture, sons are highly valued as heirs. When Fatimah found herself pregnant, her husband looked forward to having a son to continue his family name. When the time came, Fatimah gave birth and delivered a baby girl. Enraged, her husband disowned the child and divorced his wife. Distraught and with no one to turn to, Fatimah remembered the Christian woman from prison and sent her a message asking to meet her the next day. Thankfully, the woman received her message and agreed to a meeting.



That night, Fatimah fell into a troubled sleep. Once again, Jesus came to her in her dreams. This time he offered her a red Bible, but in her dream she was afraid to accept it.

The next morning the two women met. The former prisoner placed a red Bible in Fatimah's hands. As tears sprang to her eyes, Fatimah shared about her dream and decided right then to follow Jesus. She believed that God was promising to provide for her and her daughter. Fatimah became a part of the small community of believers and is now a leader in the movement in Yemen



**Name has been changed to protect identity.*



A Word From Our Elder Board

By Zack Swinscoe, Chairman, Board of Elders

I recently heard a phrase that I am still ruminating about. It was, “The truth of God never changes, but the delivery does!” As I ponder that, I think of how God has used and is using Emmanuel Faith to spread the Good News of Jesus! I think of how the pandemic changed the way so many people now receive His Word. I remember hearing stories during the pandemic of families that watched EFCC sermons as a family with some who hadn’t or had no desire to come to church. I remember stories of some receiving Christ from watching the message online. The “delivery” had changed but the truth of God’s Word had not!

In the past weeks, I have had the opportunity to hear from leaders in church movements in both China and India. I marvel at the stories of how many end up in prison for “delivering” God’s Word to the lost. But while in prison, they find that many come to know Jesus! Does that sound like an Apostle Paul story from the Bible? When bad things happen, we tend to wonder where God is, or why He allowed the bad things to happen. But God uses all things for good.

I chuckled as I heard Pastor Levi, the director from The Anchor military ministry in Oceanside, share how they

regularly play Bible stories on their big screen TV that come from the Christian cartoon series, Super Book. Because many of these young men and women have grown up watching some of the Japanese cartoon shows, they are attracted to this method of “delivering” up the message of God. They are then able to connect with those stories as they study the Bible together.

So, how can you and I, we at Emmanuel Faith, deliver the Good News to those around us and to the ends of the earth? I believe the fields are ripe for harvesting and we all can deliver or show the Heart of Jesus in the Way of Jesus! Sometimes it’s as simple as a loving smile. Sometimes a cookie can sweeten the conversation. Sometimes it’s in the most broken moments of someone’s life. Can we be like human antennae, watching and listening for the Holy Spirit to point us in the right direction? God sent His son to deliver the greatest news that could ever be told and will never change! It’s up to us now to deliver that message.

Please be praying for your Elder Board as they look for new ways to deliver the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Volunteers in the Spotlight

By Cheri Wright, Communications Director

Have you ever picked up a worship guide (formerly called the bulletin), on a Sunday morning and wondered, "Who makes these every week?" If so, I'd like to introduce you to our team of volunteers and staff who are dedicated to keeping you informed and inspired. It all starts with the cover, and Nate Keating, our Modern Worship Director, puts hours of thought and design into the art we'll use to fit with each sermon series. It then goes to John Roberts, our amazing Communications Specialist, who has been on church staff for over 20 years. He creates the content, prints, cuts, and folds over 2,000 guides in English and Spanish each week. Finally, it comes to our wonderful team of volunteers. They come in faithfully each Friday to help add the paper inserts that provide the sermon outline, and other periodic inserts and flyers. Some of them have been volunteers at the church for decades and have seen our handouts change from the multi-page bulletins of the past into the trim worship guides we have today. They, and our staff members, consider it a blessing to come together and serve all of you in our church family.

If you're looking for ways to serve and make an impact here at Emmanuel Faith, then be sure to pick up a copy of our serving opportunities guide, coming out in August.



VBS at Emmanuel Faith!

By Cheri Wright, Communications Director

This July, FaithKids brought about the return of vacation Bible school to our campus. With 500 kids and more than 225 volunteers in attendance each day, this week was full of excitement, fun, and some great teaching about the one, true God! The theme this year was Mystery Island and kids entering kindergarten through 6th grade were invited to come on a search to find the ultimate treasure of salvation. Through energetic music, exciting games, fun crafts and engaging lessons, all the kids heard the wonderful message that Jesus loves them. Faith Kids wishes to express their deep gratitude to all the volunteers who gave their time and the many people who made donations of craft supplies, snacks, and even financial gifts. Your generosity helped us make a huge impact on the lives of kids from Emmanuel Faith and our community.





Life Is Better Together!

Find a class, group, or event at Emmanuel Faith

Sundays

9am

- Classic Service in the Worship Center
- Modern Service (video venue) in the Chapel
Infants to 6th grade in the Children's Center

10:45am

- Modern Service in the Worship Center
- Spanish Service (live service) in the Chapel
Infants to 6th grade in the Children's Center
Junior High in the Young Adults Room
High School in the Youth Center Amphitheater

5pm

- Modern Service in the Worship Center

Adult Bible Fellowships

These fellowship groups offer places where you can build meaningful relationships, learn about God and His work, and join together in prayer and service. Groups meet on Sundays and run throughout the year. Visit efcc.org/abf to learn more.

Family Feast

On the first Sunday of each month, join us for a complimentary dinner to celebrate communion and what God is doing in our lives! Meets in the Holy Grounds Café immediately following the service.

Midweek Programs

Tuesdays

- Young Adults in the Young Adults Room, 7pm

Wednesdays, 6:30-8pm

- KidsClubs for 4 years to 6th grade in the . . . Children's Center (starts August 24)
- Junior High in the Young Adults Room (starts August 24)
- High School in the Youth Center Amphitheater (starts August 24)
- Adult Classes & Groups (start September 7)

First Wednesday Prayer Nights

We'll unite our hearts in prayer, experience the Lord's presence, and enjoy some much-needed renewal. First Wednesday of each month.

Serving Opportunities - Make an impact!

Sunday Mornings

Welcome Teams
Holy Grounds Café
Worship & Production Teams
Kids and Youth

Wednesday Nights

Kids and Youth

Other Church Needs

Inside and Outside Maintenance Teams
Outreach Community Volunteers
Photography and Video Volunteers
Special Event Teams

Save the Dates

8/3 - Prayer Night

8/7 - Sunday Fun Day

8/17 - Worship Night

8/28 - Baptisms on the Field

***8/31 - Wednesday Kids and Students
Programs Begin***

9/6 - Wednesday Adult programs launch

9/18 - Newcomer's Lunch

10/2 - Sunday Fun Day

10/16 - Membership Class

10/29 - Harvest Party

11/6 - Global Sunday

11/10-13 - All-Church Campout

12/9-11 Christmas Concerts

***For more information about
upcoming events, visit
efcc.org/events or scan
the QR code.***





Worship Night

Connect with God and each other in a fun, vibrant, authentic night of worship as we come together as a church family to lift high the name of Jesus. Join us to lift praises and worship the Lord on Wednesday, August 17 at 6:30pm. For more information, visit efcc.org/events.

Baptisms

Have you made the decision to follow Christ by obeying His command to be baptized? Our next time of baptisms will take place out on the field Sunday, August 28, right after the 10:45 service. Sign up to take the baptism class on August 21 and join in with those who want to make a public declaration of their faith. To learn more, visit efcc.org/events