

Vision 20/20 (2) CHURCHES

This month we are focussing our prayers around Elim's 20/20 Vision a 3-year adventure of mission to bring transformation to communities and nations. We are One movement, with One mission. The Holy Spirit has brought us to a chair's moment, a fresh season of spirit empowered mission.

Imagine Elim's future together making disciples, planting and growing churches, developing leaders and reaching nations. This week we get the privilege of praying for churches – pioneering and fruitful churches!

THEME: CHURCHES

The church is God's idea! We are called to be more than a bunch of people who meet for a common purpose. We are brothers and sisters, God is our Father! What a Father, who lavishes his love on us and then asks us to show that love to one another and to the world around us.

When we are born we are dependent upon others to meet our needs. We work and progress towards independence. Culturally we think is independence, not needing to rely on anyone for anything but providing for yourself. But God's word paints a picture of family, body, building – where each part is a person interdependent on one another.

Interdependence is what the Church is called to. A people and place committing who we are and what we have to serve God by serving others, offering our uniqueness of gifts, time, provision and seeing great fruit as each of us takes responsibility for caring for one another. We desire to see new churches pioneered and established to reach people for Christ. We want to see growing and thriving churches who care for one another and yet are missional in their approach. We see churches as people and places of love, life and light, relevantly incarnating the Gospel Good News of Jesus.

In the book of Acts we see this being played out. Not perfect disciples but a community of believers, living and doing life together, enabled and empowered by the Spirit into transformational mission. Let's be inspired to do the same.

BIBLE

Acts 2:42-47 (CSB) A Generous and Growing Church ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. ⁴⁴ Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. ⁴⁵ They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Prayer Points

- Pray for your church. Pray for the people who make up your church. Pray that you will grow in unity and diversity.
- Pray for your local community. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you afresh for mission. Pray for open doors and provisions as you step out in faith.
- Pray for another church – either locally or another Elim Church. How can you bless them and encourage them?
- Pray for your church to thrive in its vision and mission.
- That each member would do good and be good news to those around them.
- Pray that your church would be known as a people who love God, love one another and love the community they are called to.
- Pray that the church would live out its mandate of being a body, bride, army and family! How can you live this out?
- Pray for new churches to be established and all churches to be fruitful.

Creative Ideas

- Why not call up one or more churches and ask for any prayer requests. Show any images of them as a church, or if they're local grab their news bulletin and ask God to bless them.
- You could even go and prayer walk local churches in your area.
- Display your church's vision, mission and any key Bible verses. Spend some time praying into this and asking God for any words, pictures or encouragements. As you pray make a note of what he is saying and showing you.
- Have a list of all the different ministries and programmes the church runs. Pray for each group. Why not ask the team leader for any prayer requests or offer to pray with the teams before they serve?