

# EMPOWER GLOBAL CHARITY REPORT

January to December 2019



## Charity Objectives

The advancement of the Christian faith by the proclamation & furtherance of the gospel of God.

The promotion of the worship of God by any means (preaching & proclamation of the Christian gospel, teaching Christian doctrine & principles, production & distribution of Christian literature, media products & resources.

The relief of persons in financial need, or who are infirm for reasons of old age or sickness.

The advancement of education of Christian principles including the provision of educational establishments, materials & bursaries for the general education of children or adults on the basis of Christian principle.

## Overview

We operate church congregations in the following locations: Portsmouth, Gosport, Bridgemary, Havant, Waterlooville, Waterside (New Forest East) & Guildford.

We also support financially and provide oversight to three congregations in the Philippines.

In each congregation we provide people with the opportunity to worship together and grow in their faith in a culturally diverse Christian community.

In the UK, Family Church provides facilities for church administration, church meetings, storage of equipment as well as facilities for children's and youth work, pastoral care, Christian training programmes, community outreach programmes and social events.

There are a large number of church members involved in our charitable work. Our desire is to continue to build a strong relationship between 'church' and 'community'.

*Thanks to the generous giving of church members and friends of Family Church we have continued to provide sound Christian teaching and opportunities to worship together, as well as expand our work in local communities and overseas.*

## Family Church Global Outreach

We have an ongoing relationship with a number of churches and other organisations that work to prevent and relieve poverty. In the last year we have made financial contributions to charities in many developing nations. We have also sent individuals and teams abroad to work alongside organisations that we support. These include Overland Missions (Zambia), Stella's Voice (Moldova), Hands at Work (Southern Africa), Angel Home (India), Rainbow House (Brazil), as well as our Family Church congregations in the Philippines.

## Family Church UK

On Sunday mornings, Family Church functions as one church in many locations, where we aim to promote the worship of God by preaching the Christian gospel and teaching Christian doctrine and principles. We seek to create an environment where people can worship God freely and grow in their relationship with God and with one another as a Christian family.

Each week in all of our locations people are given an opportunity to respond to the love of Jesus by making a personal commitment to him.

Between January and December 2019 there were 197 responses to the gospel message at our church meetings. We received response cards from 63 of these people who were then followed up. Furthermore, 38 individuals attended our Discovery course (where we teach fundamental Christian principles to new Christians) and 40 people were baptised in water.

## **Pastoral Care and Training**

It is not only paid pastoral staff providing pastoral care but a large number of volunteers who work as part of our Pastoral Support Team and as Connect Group Leaders. Together we provide pastoral support, mentoring and ministerial services (such as hospital visitation, taking funerals and conducting weddings) to those who attend our congregations. We also educate new Christians with foundational Bible principles and challenge more experienced Christians to continue their journey of spiritual growth.

**Empower Bible Academy** teaches Christians how to apply their knowledge of the Bible to their daily lives. This is a two-year diploma accredited by Global Ministries & Relief Incorporated (USA) and currently runs in our Portsmouth, Gosport, Waterside and Guildford locations.

## **Synergy & Empower Conference**

Through our church network, Synergy, we provide training and support to leaders and members of churches and other Christian organisations. This year we provided training and support through a number of events, including our annual Empower Conference, which was well attended by a significant number of church leaders from around the UK & abroad, as well as by members of Family Church (adults 511, youth 77, children 62).

Through Synergy we also hold periodic events for church leaders and arrange for members of our team at Family Church to visit other churches for the purpose of building relationships, sharing resources and providing training.

We distribute books, Bibles, and a range of audio/video media resources to those attending our meetings, courses and conferences. All of the audio and video recordings produced by Family Church are made publicly available, free of charge, via our Website and App.

We run marriage preparation Classes for those who are engaged or newly married as well as marriage enrichment classes for those who wish to enrich their marriages.

Our Internship programme is for those who wish to invest their time into the church for a year (sometimes two years) alongside part-time work or study. It provides them with an opportunity to deepen their relationship with God through mentoring and Bible study whilst being exposed to a variety of Christian ministries and involved in many areas of service to the church.

## **Children & Youth**

We provide a variety of activities in a fun and safe environment for children and young people where they are taught Christian values appropriate to their age and level of understanding. As well as the programmes that we run on Sunday mornings for children and young people, we operate a variety of other activities for children and young people from the church and wider the community.

We run Momentum Youth in Portsmouth, Havant, Gosport, Waterside and Guildford. In total we have around 70 teenagers in attendance every Friday evening with many of these young people attending our church congregations on Sundays. These events provide a wide variety of fun, social and spiritual activities for young people. Each year the young people are given the opportunity to attend a residential holiday organised by the church. Along with other local churches in our Guildford location we run an annual youth event called 'Untamed'. We support this with a paid member of staff.

## **Community Outreach**

As an outreach to our communities we run a variety of activities and events. Our programme differs in each of our locations depending on the local need and the services that are provided by other local churches and charities. In the summer months we ran Community Fun Days in some of our local communities where we provided great days out for families free of charge, whilst raising the profile of Family Church. Fun Day numbers this year were as follows (with the number of people who attended the church service the next day in brackets): Portsmouth 2500 (35), Havant 6100 (36), Gosport 3500 (32), Waterside 2700 (9).

## **The Prevention or Relief of Poverty**

This year we have supported several individuals and families in need of financial help and provided assistance to those in crisis situations with rent payments and assistance with household bills, as well as providing emergency loans.

We provide emergency food hampers to those who do not have basic provisions because of financial lack. We currently operate Food Banks in Portsmouth and Gosport, receiving referrals from local agencies. We also support Food Banks in the Waterside and Guildford areas.

We run different programmes in each of our locations to support those in poverty and crisis situations such as social isolation, homelessness, substance abuse, and pregnancy crisis.

## **Plans for the Future**

Vision Offerings each year provide an opportunity for members of Family Church to give donations specifically for church growth. Such donations have been used for new or upgraded equipment, building renovations/refurb, vehicles, and activities that facilitate church growth (such as community outreach).

We will continue to help Christians grow in their faith through a wide variety of initiatives such as Connect Groups and discipleship courses. We will also provide opportunities for church members to share their faith through local community outreach and through overseas visits in support of charitable organisations and missionary partnerships.

We will continue to run activities and provide services in our communities so that people will realise the positive impact of the Christian faith on their lives, resulting in a personal relationship with Christ.

We plan to open more congregations in the UK in order to provide local communities with a place of worship reflecting the style and values of Family Church.

We intend to be well connected with churches in the UK and globally that are experiencing growth and having a positive impact on their communities. With this in mind we have now joined the Assemblies of God of Great Britain and we continue to run our own network, Synergy.

For the long-term stability of Family Church we are committed to acquiring premises for all of our congregations, starting with a local 'hub' for each congregation and moving toward premises that provide enough auditorium space for Sunday services. We are currently in the process of purchasing a large site in Portsmouth where we plan to build a new building that will provide space for our national offices and our Portsmouth congregation.