



Vision 23-26: A three-year prayerful plan for Manor Park Church, 2023-2026

Introduction

Late in 2020, on Zoom because of lockdown, we set out a prayerful vision called “Vision 2023.” It is a joy to look back and see what the Lord has done among us, in spite of the pandemic. The Lord has enabled us to continue making disciples, begin working among the elderly, enlarge the number of missionaries we support, establish and build our online presence and begin training two new trainee pastors. Groundwork on church planting is being done. And we’ve been given the school hall as a semi-permanent home. Now we want to begin prayerfully establishing a vision for the next three years.

God is a Planner

The Lord God makes plans. He created the universe using a six-day plan (Genesis 1). He planned history to bring his Son into the world, “when the time had fully come” (Galatians 4:4). The apostle Paul adopts a plan to preach in the major cities of the Roman world, from where the Gospel can travel to smaller towns and villages (see from Acts 13). It is right, therefore, for churches to develop prayerful plans, always aware that the plan may change as the Lord leads us. We note for example, that the apostle Paul has to change plans (Acts 16:6; 1 Thess. 2:18). We only see in part and so must be humbly open to the Lord’s overruling of our plans – however prayerful they might be. “In their hearts people plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.” (Proverbs 16:9)

Core Principles

Underlying our plans are the following core principles:

1. **Making disciples of all nations.** Following the Lord’s command in Matthew 28, we are passionate about making disciples.
2. **People are more important than bricks and mortar.** For the foreseeable future, our time and energies should go into building Christian communities rather than bricks and mortar (Acts 2:46).
3. **Smaller churches.** We are committed to smaller churches where most people know each because we believe that loving fellowship fosters discipleship and encourages the expression and use of spiritual gifts (see for example the lists in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12).
4. **Church planting.** We see church planting as the best means of reaching new communities with the Gospel, as difficult as the task may be (the story of Acts is the story of planting new churches).

A Seven Point Plan

As we look to the next **three years** we want, the Lord helping us, to:

1. **Make disciples.** Placing this point here as well as in the core principles ensures we do not lose sight of the primary command of Jesus. Whatever we do, making disciples through evangelism and small groups is the primary task the Lord Jesus has set for us.
2. **Evangelism** – shift the balance/perspective of our ministries more outward, including our online ministries
3. Encourage the **next generation** to grow and to serve
4. **Church plant again**, if God wills.
5. Establish outreach to the **university students** more firmly.
6. Ensure that our church is more **internationally engaged**, reflecting our church, city and the global church of Jesus Christ.
7. **Enlarge the eldership.** We need to expand the eldership, especially as we seek to plant