JoshGen Multiplies

Mike Davies 3 December 2020



2020 has been a challenging year. It has thrown many challenges at individuals, families and businesses. Even churches have faced serious challenges. For us in South Africa in particular, lockdown prevented us from meeting in person for several months, and many of our members have faced financial strain during this time – which could, and probably should, have led to a precipitous drop in giving. Indeed, many churches in South Africa have seen both their attendance and income drop sharply this year.

A Time for Growth

For this reason, we praise God and give Him thanks for what He has done for us and through us as Joshua Generation Church (JoshGen) during this time. We have experienced such incredible favour over the last year. Rather than shrink, we have seen tremendous growth – both in attendance at our services and in our influence around the world.

Since we reopened our services in **June**, albeit with abiding by all of the necessary COVID-19 restrictions, we have seen an average of **2,870 adults** attending church on Sundays every week**,** with a further average of **524 kids** in attendance per week. Our average, Sunday attendance, despite the COVID-19 restrictions of 50% capacity etc., has, incredibly, increased by more than 20% over last year's average attendance for the same period!

> **"We have experienced such incredible favour over the last year."**

These are astounding numbers, despite many people being fearful of attending church in person and us being forced to limit the size of our in-person meetings. Even more exciting is that, in the face of such fears and difficulties, we have welcomed **3,421 visitors** during this time. This has led to **266 first-time salvations** as well as **586 people who have returned or recommitted to the Lord.** That is over 850 people whose eternal destinies have changed! If angels celebrate over one who repents, then this is a massive reason to celebrate.

Further Expansion

Before lockdown in March 2020, JoshGen consisted of 27 congregations. This has grown over the course of the year as we planted new congregations and saw other churches join. We now have **34 congregations**, including **two 'outreach congregations'** in Grabouw and Hermanus and **two 'outreach communities'** in Randfontein and even Mauritius. Our Worcester congregation began as an outreach congregation, but in recent weeks, an existing local church in Worcester felt led by the Lord to join with us, and since then they have officially become a JoshGen congregation.

Increased Influence Online

Due to lockdown earlier this year, we were forced to provide online services. Whilst online church is not real church, this has become a tool that God has used in an incredibly powerful way. He really does work all things together for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28). Since March 2020, we have seen visitors from over **95 different countries accessing our website** (some of these from places with no access to church), and we have seen in excess of **34, 500 views of the JoshGen Live Broadcast** since it was launched at the end of June. Many of these views comprise of multiple individuals. A number of these viewers have expressed a desire to partner with us into the future. Furthermore, JoshGen saints attended the recent online Four12 Gathering that took place in October 2020. This Gathering, which took place for the first time online, saw over **5,000 people from across the world** join together to receive apostolic input.

> **"Jesus is building His church and extending His Kingdom."**

Jesus is building His church and extending His Kingdom. It is an incredible privilege to be a part of what He is doing and to partner with so many wonderful believers who love the Lord and who are willing to lay down their lives for Him.

Ample Provision

All of this would not have been possible without God's provision, which came mainly from the sacrificial and faithful giving of the saints. Such growth as we have seen has required significant investment, and we have been able to do all that we have because the resources have been made available to us. We thank, not only the Lord but every JoshGenner who has continued to

invest into the Kingdom. We may live in uncertain times, but the inheritance we store up for ourselves by putting His Kingdom first is certain.

So, “let us **not grow weary** of doing good“ (Galatians 6:9, NIV) but continue serving the Lord, **reaching out** to the lost and **encouraging** one another daily (Hebrews 3:13). At a time when much of the world is living in fear or with no sense of security, let us be a people whose **hope is in the Lord**, whose **trust is** in Him, who **rejoice** regardless of circumstances, and who **show to the world** where **real hope** truly lies.