

Kim Muller & Mike Davies

# PLANTING

## A BEGINNER'S GUIDE





**PLANTING**  
**A Beginner's Guide:**  
by Kim Muller and Mike Davies



## Planting: A Beginner's Guide

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# Why Church Plant?

## Go into All the World

God gave you the calling to start this ministry, and He will help you as you go. In John 17, Jesus prayed for the Church,

*“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” (John 17:20-21 NIV)*

This verse is about you, the church planter, and all those who will hear about Jesus through you. That’s the beauty of a multisite or a partnership of Churches—we’re all working together as one to reach the world for Christ.

The early church spread quickly as churches were planted throughout the Roman Empire and beyond. Some churches were planted by apostles such as Paul (Ephesus), whilst others started organically or were planted by ordinary believers who found themselves in a town or city without a church. It seems the church in Rome was started by a group of believers who were present in Jerusalem at Pentecost.

Obviously, Paul was a skilled master builder (1 Cor 3:10) and massively gifted, but Scripture shows us that God often works through ordinary men and women – partly to show that it is He who builds His Church, not us.

You may feel called to plant a church, or you may find yourself in a place where there is no healthy church, and God is asking you to start one! Either way, this will probably feel overwhelming, and you will undoubtedly feel inadequate. Take heart; this resource pack has been designed to help you plant an OUTREACH COMMUNITY and eventually an OUTREACH CONGREGATION where you are, by providing all the resources that you are likely to initially need.

*“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19 NIV)*

# Seek God

## Hear His Voice

Jesus promised that His sheep will hear His voice (John 10:27). All believers need to be continually seeking God and hearing His voice – all the more so when we are leading others. Every healthy church (and every believer) must be built on a foundation of Jesus Christ (1 Cor 3:11). While it is important to understand biblical principles, we do not build merely with principles but in relationship with the Lord.

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*What has God spoken to you about during this faith venture?*

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## As a Leader of God’s People Seek to:

- Know God intimately and recognise His voice.
- Know your calling from God.
- Develop Godly character - learn, develop, and self-correct.
- Build and maintain a Christ-centred marriage and family.
- Develop accountable relationships.
- Love the people of God.

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# Communicate Heart

## The Purpose of the Church

JoshGen has established a clear vision - to live out authentic New Testament Christianity, and in so doing, help change the way the world sees church. As OUTREACH COMMUNITIES and CONGREGATIONS we need to clearly communicate our vision - that innermost burning desire of what our church will be, i.e., WHY we do what we do, and our values - those fundamental beliefs that guide our thoughts, decisions and behaviour, i.e. "HOW" we do what we do, to those who are joining with us.

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1-2 ESV)*

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*What do you understand the vision and values of a New Testament church to be?*

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## Ways to Impart Vision and Values

- Know, and live them yourself - people catch who we are, not just what we say.
  - Preach and teach about them regularly and with conviction.
- Talk about them informally over meals and coffee.
- Celebrate those who set an example for believers.

## *We have provided resources that can help you:*

If you are not a naturally gifted teacher or preacher, then utilise these resources (refer to Appendix):

- Orientation course
- Rooted
- Four12 Conference Messages

# Healthy Expectations

## Realistic Goals for Your Church

Expect God to guide you and remember God has a plan for you and knows the future direction for your group. The journey may be difficult at times, but perseverance will bring reward. Don't fall under the curse of comparison, feeling pressure to grow as some other church plants do.

## Keep in Step with God's Plan

- Focus on building a healthy church, not a big church - remembering that healthy things grow.
- Set and manage realistic expectations. Don't make extravagant promises that God hasn't made - you may end up damaging your credibility.
- Celebrate every victory. If only one person were to be saved through the plant - then it is worth it.

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*What specific promises for your church plant has God made you?*

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# Lead Strong

## What Kind of Leader Do You Want to Be?

Leaders should always be practising, learning, and growing. Develop your leadership skills and intentionally become the type of leader you want to be. Even if you feel ill-equipped now, remember that if we are faithful with little, He will entrust us more (Matthew 25:23).

## Godly Leadership Requires Us to:

- Have Godly Character.
- Face challenges with faith and courage.
- Persevere in the face of opposition and resistance.
- Remain accountable, teachable, and transparent.
- Remember that God equips those He calls.
- Lead – don't just manage. Be proactive.
- Be a team player.
- Handle conflict in a godly way.

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*Are you aware of particular leadership qualities that need developing?*

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## *Resources that can help you develop your leadership:*

- Leading God's People
- Discipline in God's Household

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# Build Team

## Playing Your Part

God has designed us to work in team. God has already picked a team of people to help you build and will add them in His time; some may already have decided to join you.

Ask God to show you how He sees people and how He has gifted them. Every person has a part to play. When it comes to leadership, you may have to take risks on people who lack experience but never risk on character. Raise leaders who share your vision, even if (especially if) they have different perspectives and personality types that will complement you. Constantly and consistently train and equip leaders. Give them feedback and encourage them. Listen to them and discover what God has put in their hearts.

## Identify, Equip, Empower and Coach Your Team

- Identify those around you who share your passion and are gifted with leadership abilities.
- Identify the calling and character of potential leaders.
- Provide and encourage leadership development.
- Use apostolic gifts to help identify and equip people for the 'work of the ministry' (Eph 4:11-12).

## Conflict Resolution

*"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:15-20 NIV)*

If conflict, offence or sin arises within your team or within the body teach them to resolve it according to these scriptures:

- Cool down, pray, and then go straight to them, ensure that your heart is without offence, apologise if you took offence and tell them how you feel. Don't gossip. Don't tell anyone else.
- If they refuse to apologise and change their behaviour towards you, go ask one or two mutual co-laborers to be impartial peace makers.
- If the matter still hasn't resolved, involve other leaders or get apostolic input in order to restore peace within the Body of Christ.

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*How will you intentionally disciple and build relationship with your team?*

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*Resources that can help you develop your leadership:*

- Leading God's People
- Small Group Leaders' Manual
- Life Equipping Stations

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# Partnering

## Who Will Help You Grow?

Leading people in the church is a tough job, and you can't do it alone. It is imperative that you work in partnership with apostolic gifts who can encourage you and help add what is lacking, who can ensure that you are building well, and who can provide audits on your life and the church, as well as helping to develop a fledgling church into a thriving church that itself can help others within the field God has given us. The New Testament church model shows that every healthy church is called to partner with other churches within an apostolic field.

## How to Apostolically Partner Well

- Plant a church that is an enthusiastic and contributing partner within Four12.
- Speak often about the importance of the apostolic to your people.
- Ensure you have someone to encourage you and hold you accountable.
- Prioritise input from your primary partners within Four12.
- Encourage your people to join in conferences and to participate in our work into the nations.

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*Do you know who to contact for apostolic encouragement and accountability?*

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## *Resources to help you understand and communicate how this partnership works:*

- Ministry and Role of the Apostle
- Four 12 Conference Sessions
- Four12 Articles on Partnering

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# Keep It Simple

## What Resources Do You Need?

You don't have to hire a hall, have a big worship team, etc. to plant a church.

It may be better to start by gathering people together in a home – this is what many New Testament saints did. This minimises administration, expenses, etc. and minimises unnecessary risk. It also allows for a real sense of intimacy and family. If you don't have musicians for worship, you can use CD's/YouTube if required or stream a live worship service.

You can even stream the preaching from a JoshGen service! Likewise, you can download resources for any children's ministry.

It is possible that you will not be in full-time ministry, at least in the early days. If this is the case, you will have limited time and energy available. A church typically requires weekend services with worship, preaching and children's ministry, small groups (community), website and social media, branding, and communications, and other technological resources. Our desire is to provide much of this for you so that you are freed up to lead strongly and grow the church through a focus on pastoring people and evangelism etc.

While hiring a hall or other venue is not essential in church planting, consider the benefits: greater capacity, greater visibility, increased credibility in some people's minds, parking, and other facilities are likely more easily available.

## Key Focus Areas

- Make evangelism your primary strategy for weekend services - always allow people to respond to the gospel.
- Make people feel welcome and valued; invite them into your home, have meals together.
- Follow up quickly with first-time guests, draw them into the life of the church, and build relationships.
- Look for opportunities to share the gospel everywhere - and train your people to do the same.
- Practical considerations can have a massive spiritual impact, e.g., the venue you choose and how you lay it out.

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*Which readily available Four12 resources will you use in the early days?*

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### *Resources that can help you shepherd well:*

- Live stream of Sunday service
- Fuel
- Armoury
- Rooted
- Life equipping stations
- Setting up a meeting

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# Lay a Solid Foundation

## Structure to Support Your Vision and Team

Success doesn't just happen. At the appropriate point in time, prepare your church for the future by taking the right governance steps from the beginning. Remember that we want church to be organic, not organisational, but every organism needs some structure for life to flow effectively.

### Structural Considerations

- Prepare your church legally by setting up a constitution and establishing other administrative and legal requirements.
- Have systems in place that are appropriate for your church size and that serve you. E.g., communications, bookkeeping, etc. Don't overcomplicate things.

## How to Handle Money Wisely

Again, success starts at the beginning: start as you mean to go on! Finance is an area of great risk. Establish good financial processes now that will keep you accountable and sustain you in the future.

### How to Approach Church Finances with Integrity

- Establish strong, responsible, accountable financial principles.
- Ensure accountability and transparency. Have two people count any money given, keep clear records, be wise, and accountable with financial decisions.
- Be generous from the beginning—a generous church will attract and produce generous people.
- Teach people often and with faith about tithes, offerings, alms, and apostolic giving.

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*Do you personally follow wise, accountable financial principles?*

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### *Resources that can help you with administration:*

We could possibly provide all of the necessary administrative requirements – depending on where you are planting. Where we can't, the following information will be helpful:

- Admin section of church planters including the constitution (refer to the attached Appendix)
- Money and possessions

# Select a Venue

## How Will You Choose Your Venue?

Having the right meeting place can be very helpful. Remember, though, that even the best venue does not guarantee a healthy church. In fact, it is possible that the opposite is true: a beautiful venue, with great facilities, may attract people who only want a non-sacrificial, comfortable version of Christianity. It is possible to build a healthy church in a bad venue and a bad church in a good venue!

In the early days of Joshua Generation, the venues included a home, a life-saving club, and a community hall with virtually no facilities for babies that often needed serious clean up after being used for parties, etc. the night before.

## Some Points to Consider When Choosing a Meeting Place

- How many people are we? Will we have the right amount of space? Is a home or a hall more suitable?
  - Too large a space can make the church seem empty and lacking in atmosphere.
  - Too small a space can hinder growth as research has shown that churches generally stop growing once the venue is over 80% full.
  - A rule of thumb is to allow for 1.5 sq meters per person.
- Is the venue available mornings and/or evenings? Which meeting time is preferable for the area and demographic you are reaching?
- Is it easy to find, easily accessible? Is it welcoming?
- Is there parking, and if you are meeting in your home, can you accommodate the parking? You may need to ask your neighbours for permission to park in the street etc.
- Will noise be a consideration? Irrate neighbours can cause many problems.
- Are there any legal restrictions on numbers, etc.
- Can permanent, or temporary signage be put in place?
- Is the rental agreement acceptable?
  - Cost
  - Increases
  - Duration
  - Liabilities
- Are there facilities for babies, kids, etc?
- Is storage available for sound, AV equipment, etc. or will everything need to be stored elsewhere?

- Is the shape of the meeting hall conducive to what you wish to do?
- What are the acoustics like?
- A stage can be a help or a hindrance. With small groups, it can separate the worship team and preacher from the congregation whilst in a larger group it helps with visibility.
- Is seating available, or must you provide it?
- Is the venue available at other times (e.g., mid-week)?
- Do I have all the necessary equipment to run a service from this venue?
  - Chairs
  - Lectern/pulpit
  - Sound equipment (microphones, cables, speakers and amp, mixer)
  - Projector and laptop (for Song lyrics, PowerPoints, notices, etc.)
  - Tables
  - Tea and coffee refreshment items
- What banners/signage are required and allowed?

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# Launch Well

## Position Yourself for Growth from the Beginning

Start as you mean to go on, and don't compromise for the sake of growth. It will be tempting to compromise at times to avoid losing people, or to take shortcuts in building. Don't do it - God has given us a blueprint we must stick to - no matter how difficult it is at times.

While it's important to have a clear vision and realistic goals, remember that the decisions you make now can limit or inspire future growth. As a new leader, you may be one bad decision away from losing all credibility (a leader with a proven long track record can more easily recover from such a mistake).

## Launch in Faith and with Enthusiasm

- Launch appropriately to the nature of the plant and the demographics of your area. A big event may or may not be appropriate, but it is always beneficial to have people come and support your launch.
- It may be beneficial to start meeting together before an official start - to have a solid platform from which to launch.
- Start as you mean to go on - don't wait until you reach a certain size before you give of people, finances, etc.
- Create a place where people will feel loved and feel the presence of Jesus. Where Jesus is lifted up, men will be drawn. Train and motivate all of your people to reach out, and to live radical, authentic New Testament lives.

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*What kind of launch would be best for your church plant?*

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# Setup

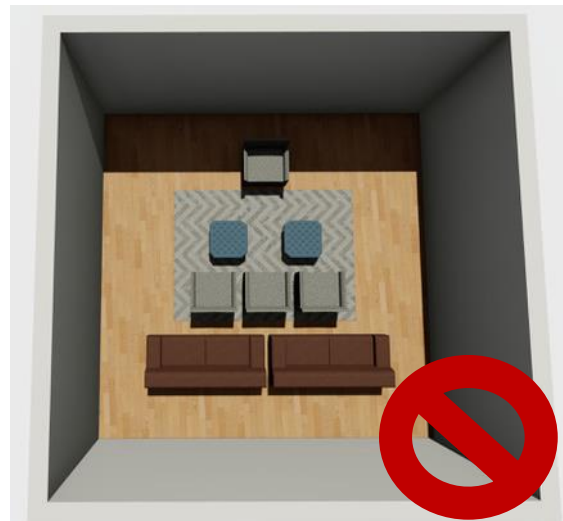
## Preparing the Venue for Meetings

Setting up and being prepared are vital elements for the way you do church. Often it's the FIRST impression that matters most. If you are 'ready' and on time, many will consider you trustworthy and faithful in the way you are stewarding what God has entrusted into your care. On the other hand, if your setup is a shambles, you will probably find fewer repeat visitors and a lower degree of commitment.

## Meeting in Your Home

- Consider the setup of your home before you meet.
- Prayerfully select what songs you will be using before the meeting. Ensure that your songs are God-focused and worshipful, with the focus on Jesus, and appropriate for where you feel the Holy Spirit wants to take the meeting. If you are using live music, ensure it has been rehearsed properly. If you are not doing live worship with a singer or worship team, utilise YouTube or other alternatives like videos or streaming of a JoshGen service.
- Ensure any sound system is set up and working well, with the appropriate volume.
- Have a way that people can see the words of the song – a projector, for example, or TV set/monitor (or song sheets if meeting in a home and this isn't possible).
- Set up your seating for the meeting in a way that it gives an open and inviting atmosphere. Create a space in which people are included and can engage with one another. Seats set up in a circle or semi-circle is conducive to a feeling of openness and engagement while chairs set up in rows create artificial barriers, and a sense of observation rather than participation. You want the people to feel that they are included in the meeting. A space at the front for people to worship is also beneficial if there is room in the venue. See the illustrations below.
- If possible, try to set up with the sun behind the congregation to avoid glare, squinting, etc. (obviously less important if you are meeting in the evenings).
- Set up refreshments (tea and coffee).
- Greet the people as they arrive, welcoming them to your home, putting them at ease, and showing them where everything is.
- Offer tea/coffee before and after your meeting – you want to be as welcoming as possible.
- Make sure they have good seats – the leaders should be the ones sitting on the floor, etc.

- Have appropriate background music playing - you want the arrival of your guests to be pleasant, easy, and comfortable - some light background helps welcome the people.



## Meeting in a Venue / Small Hall

- Set up your seating for the meeting in a way that gives an open and inviting atmosphere. Create a space in which people are included and can engage with one another. See the illustrations below.
- Seats set up in a semi-circle are conducive to openness and engagement, while chairs set up in rows create artificial barriers and a feeling of observation rather than participation. Your venue and number of people may require curved rows of seats to accommodate a larger number of people and still encourage a feeling of inclusion and engagement. If there is room in the venue, a space at the front for people to worship is also beneficial.
- Avoid having an aisle in the centre of your set up; it is preferable that you have aisles to the left and right of the centre of your setup.
- Ensure that your aisles are wide enough to accommodate prams and wheelchairs.
- Using a stage or platform is only necessary if you lose eye contact with the people sitting at the rear of your setup.
- Reserve your best parking spots for guests. It just shows you're thinking about them.

- You need people strategically placed around your church complex to greet guests, put them at ease, explain how things work (e.g., kids ministry) and where things are (e.g., toilets). However, do not restrict the welcome to just a 'welcoming team' at the building entrance, train and mobilise everyone to look out for and love guests.
- Set up an information table if possible. Include information that might help people find out more about your church's vision and values, items they can take home and read at their convenience.
- Have background music playing when people enter, to create a sense of excitement and anticipation.



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*How will you communicate the heart of church to your team so that every person genuinely cares and reaches out to the guests?*

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# Leading the Meeting

## Who Leads the Meeting?

Leading the meeting is often considered one of the most important times of the meeting as you are able to share heart, vision, and values.

As you grow bigger, you may delegate the leading of the meeting to a Leader, Deacon, or preferably an Elder, but in the early days, it is likely to be you that does it for most, if not all meetings.

## How to Lead a Meeting

Be as natural and relaxed as possible; this is not a 'formal' business meeting - this is 'Family' time. However, you will need to 'project' so even those at the back feel included, and you need to lead with faith and enthusiasm.

- Starting with prayer is helpful - if it puts the focus on the Lord (and helps quieten people).
- A good way to start the meeting is to greet everybody and welcome the visitors - in a way that puts them at ease, not by embarrassing them. Offer a warm, casual public welcome that relaxes people. If you want to make guests feel welcome, you've got to be at ease yourself. Say something like, "If this is your first time with us, we're glad you're here. We want you to take a deep breath, sit back, relax, and enjoy the service." Attempt to break down the fear barriers before people will ever open up to your message and consider coming back to your church. Get your visitors to leave their contact details so you can follow up on them.
- Allow guests to remain 'anonymous' in the service. Please don't make guests stand up. The three greatest fears people have are going to a party with strangers, having to speak before a crowd, and being asked personal questions in public. So when we ask our guests to tell us their name and where they are from in front of everyone, we subject them to all three of their greatest fears at one time. Welcome them, hand them a visitor's card and offer a free coffee where possible (people like free things and this will keep them around for longer so you can connect with them).
- Orientate the people to your venue - let them know where the various service areas are (toilets, kids' facilities, exists, kitchen, etc.)
- Announce scheduled activities for the week. If you are in a larger venue, it will be helpful to display these on a screen. You may need some printed handouts in a smaller venue like your home, or you can text these details. Consider strategically



using one (or maybe two) of these announcements to communicate vision and values (e.g., why you are having a leaders meeting).

- Prepare the people for worship; you can either pray or read Scripture to help shift hearts and focus on Jesus.
- Specifically invite any contributions like encouraging prophetic words, songs, or even tongues to be brought to whoever is leading the meeting. Filtering contributions helps prevent the meeting being 'hijacked' or 'derailed' from the direction in which the Holy Spirit is taking the meeting.
- After worship, start your preach (though you may wish to preach before worship on occasion). Transition between the two wisely; if you have come to an intimate place in worship, you would do well to maintain that focus as you start to preach.
- Your message should not be longer than 20 minutes. Some preachers can hold a congregation's attention for an hour – do not assume you are one of them! If you cannot condense what you want to say to within 20 minutes, then you are probably trying to say too much in one preach.
- In landing your message, invite a response (salvation, ministry, prayer). Consider how to ask for a response from unbelievers and then one from believers.
- Allow the Holy Spirit to move during your meeting. If things happen that are unusual for people, especially visitors (such as demons manifesting), take some time to share with them that this is a normal, biblical thing that happens when God moves.
- End the meeting by inviting people to stay behind to fellowship and have a coffee with you and each other.

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*How will you keep yielding to the Holy Spirit as you lead a meeting, communicating well for both your new members and visitors?*

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## Follow Up

Follow-up is essential for church growth. One of the most practical ways to make a sincere and lasting impact, and to advance engagement, is to make that phone call, send the text, or respond to the request that's been waiting for you in whatever way is most appropriate – and to do so within 48 hours. In the early days, this will be most impactful if it comes from the lead elder but can be delegated as the church grows.

When it comes to people, follow up is not ultimately about details and systems, it's all about creating and maintaining trust. The details and systems are just a tool for engagement and relationship based on trust. You may have visitor cards, prayer request cards, social media engagement, etc. but nothing replaces genuine loving human interaction. When people know you care and that they matter, their potential to continue to attend and engage more fully is exponentially increased.

## Final Encouragement

If we want to bring nations to the glory of our God, we have to position ourselves. The eyes of the Lord are roaming across the earth looking for a man, looking for someone with a heart positioned right. So, position your hearts well and learn the ways of the King.

*“Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, ‘See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.’ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’” (Isaiah 6:6-8 NIV)*

It is a joy to run this race that God has marked out for us, as we keep our eye on Jesus, the founder, and perfecter of our faith, in bringing the lost into His Kingdom.

# Appendix 1- Resource List

- Orientation Course  
Video resource presented by Andrew Selley  
<https://www.four12global.com/resources/orientation/>
- Rooted  
Online resource presented by Mike d'Offay  
Leaders and saints manual  
<https://www.four12global.com/resources/series/rooted/>
- T3  
Online video resource and training manuals  
<https://www.four12global.com/resources/t3-bible-programme/>
- Ministry and Role of the Apostle  
Online Booklet by Andrew Selley  
<https://www.four12global.com/resources/booklets/the-ministry-and-role-of-the-apostle/>
- Four12 Conference Sessions  
<https://www.four12global.com/resources/messages/>
- Church Planting Sessions  
Online Resource, Podcast and Transcription  
<https://www.four12global.com/resources/series/church-planting/>
- Live Stream of Sunday Services  
<https://www.four12global.com/resources/sunday-messages/>
- Fuel  
<https://www.four12global.com/resources/series/fuel/>
- Armoury  
Online video resource and training manual  
Available on request: email. [info@joshgen.org.za](mailto:info@joshgen.org.za)
- Life Equipping Stations  
Online Booklet by William Marais <https://www.four12global.com/resources/booklets/life-equipping-stations/>

- Leading God's People  
Online Booklet by Mike Davies  
<https://www.four12global.com/resources/booklets/leading-gods-people/>
- Discipline in God's Household  
Online Booklet by William Marais  
<https://www.four12global.com/resources/booklets/discipline-in-gods-household/>
- Small Group Leaders Training  
Online Booklet by Mike Davies  
<https://www.four12global.com/resources/booklets/small-group-leaders-training/>
- Money and possessions  
Online Booklet by William Marais  
<https://www.four12global.com/resources/booklets/money-and-possessions/>
- Media Tools  
<https://www.four12global.com/resources/media-tools/>
- Four12 App
- JoshGen Website, YouTube channel and Facebook live  
<https://www.joshgen.co.za/>  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCb2LX0qOBwzD\\_4nPit7jvWQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCb2LX0qOBwzD_4nPit7jvWQ)  
[https://www.facebook.com/JoshGenChurch/live\\_videos/](https://www.facebook.com/JoshGenChurch/live_videos/)
- Four12 Website, YouTube channel and Facebook live  
<https://www.four12global.com/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/four12global>  
[https://www.facebook.com/Four12Global/live\\_videos/](https://www.facebook.com/Four12Global/live_videos/)

# Appendix 2- What We Believe

## Vision and Mission

Modelled after the early church in the book of Acts, we seek to live out authentic Christianity (Acts 2:42-47) as a family of believers, devoted to laying down our lives for God and for one another. Our vision is that Joshua Generation Church will become a blueprint for other churches in South Africa, and around the world.

## Statement of Faith

- We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God. It is our final authority for faith, life and for the governance of the Church and therefore is incorporated as part of this Constitution.
- We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons, namely Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Father, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
- We believe that God created mankind in His own image, male and female. Thereafter, sin entered the first man through disobedience, resulting in spiritual death for all mankind.
- We believe that Jesus Christ had to die a substitutionary death for the sins of mankind so that we could be reconciled back to God.
- We believe in the bodily death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- We believe in His ascension into heaven and His future return to earth.
- We believe in the personality of the Holy Spirit, His regenerating work and abiding presence in the true believer. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells all true believers and that He has been sent to be the Comforter and Empowerer of the Christian Church, to produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit and give the gifts of the Holy Spirit according to the Scriptures.
- We believe that all mankind will stand before God on Judgement day to give an account for their actions, words and motives of the heart.
- We believe in the regular practice of the breaking of bread and the taking of wine / grape juice to remind us of the new covenant established through Jesus Christ's death on our behalf. We believe in the baptism of believers by immersion in water, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- We believe that all who repent of their sin and receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God.

- We believe that all Christians are called to a life of holiness, devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ and service to Him.
- We believe in the priesthood of all believers.

# Appendix 3- Constitution

## Important Elements in a Constitution

Below are a few important elements to consider when setting up your constitution. We would recommend making use of legal advice.

- Name and legal status- eg. Non-Profit and Public Benefit Organisation
- Statement of faith
- The objectives of the church
- Church governance
- Powers and prerogatives of the church- eg. Acquiring property, employing staff
- Financial management
- Membership
- Meetings and committee procedures
- Dispute resolution
- Amendments to this constitution
- Grounds for dissolution of the church

