

# FROM OUR PASTOR



Dear Members of Emmanuel,

What an exciting time this is in the life of our church! As we edge closer to our 50th Anniversary, we not only get a chance to reflect on the amazing work that God has done through our ministry, but we also get a chance to dream. We are afforded the opportunity to be inspired about what lies ahead and I truly believe it is special.

In Leviticus 25, it explains that the 50th year is a year of Jubilee, a year where freedom and new beginnings are granted for individuals and the land. So in our 50th year we are looking to gain greater freedom to touch our community and begin new ministries that will plant the seeds of the next 50 years of Emmanuel. And it all starts today.

These seeds will cultivate a brighter future for our church family and include: revamping our children's and youth ministries; starting a preschool and/or afterschool program; funding a coffee shop; and reducing our \$7.5M debt.

The challenge of beginning new ministry ventures while decreasing debt is a large undertaking. It will require sacrifice, ingenuity and, even more so, divine assistance.

But, it is a necessity. Reducing debt alone will not produce a lasting legacy for our church - the ministries that touch people will.

So I invite you to join me in this extraordinary next phase of Emmanuel:

Legacy 50:50 Honoring Yesterday, Inspiring Forever...

Humbly,

Pastor Jason C. Reynolds



## EMMANUEL

467 N White Rd,  
San Jose, CA 95127

[www.emmanuelbc.org](http://www.emmanuelbc.org)



LIFESTYLE STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

# LEGACY

# 50:50

HONORING YESTERDAY INSPIRING FOREVER

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# Lifestyle Stewardship

As believers and blessed people of God, we know that all things are possible with His help. "Lifestyle stewardship" involves the process of developing yourself spiritually and economically so that you are able to contribute to building God's Kingdom.

Lifestyle stewardship is a shared spiritual experience within the church family. Our goal is to reach beyond the limitations we have imposed upon ourselves so that we can fulfill God's vision for Emmanuel Baptist Church.

This will be accomplished through a prayerful look at our lifestyles and trusting in God to redirect our life choices so that we may be able to **give over and above our current level of giving.**

Lifestyle stewardship campaigns focus on strengthening our faith so that financial priorities take shape from our spiritual path. The challenge of Lifestyle Stewardship is to find ways, boldly and prayerfully, to let your giving touch your living.

## Our Time Is Now

"I will not offer to God that which costs me nothing." (II Samuel 24:24) King David understood the value of the gift presented to God is determined by the value of the giver.

As we honor all that has been accomplished at Emmanuel in the last 50 years, we humbly stand before God and ask what more can we do to achieve what He has laid on our hearts.

### OUR TIME IS NOW TO:

**Reassess our lifestyle.** During this spiritual journey, we are asked to take a close look at the different areas of our lives to discover a path to strengthen our relationship with God through our personal sacrifice.

**Rearrange our priorities.** As we prayerfully consider our contributions, we are asked to reprioritize our lives in accordance to God's will so that our sacrifice reflects our level of commitment to the growth of His Kingdom.

**Reallocate our resources.** As we individually and collectively shift our resources, it is important to remember that although we may be different in our ability to give, our willingness to do our part during this sacrificial giving commitment should be one in the same.

## Inspiring Forever

Emmanuel is celebrating our 50 year anniversary this year. Imagine what we can accomplish 50 years from now!

Our financial giving campaign will be a three year commitment. This investment will grow our church, reduce our debt and help to make us a greater ministry.

Our vision includes paying down Emmanuel's mortgage debt and making major improvements to the physical property.

The plan is to invest a majority of what we collect towards alleviating our debt. The remaining portion will be used as the seeds to revamping our children and youth ministry, launching our preschool and/or afterschool program, and funding our coffee house.

We aspire to establish an edifice that will effectively serve our church and our community today. We also desire to leave our descendants a legacy that will reflect our love for God and for them.

