

changing church

TOOLKIT | TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

**10 TOP TIPS
FOR COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

1. Mobilise your people

Lead your people on a missional discipleship journey – individuals, families, small groups, whole church. Create connections and networks within your church using social media. Inspire a shared journey using prayer guides, small group studies, sermon series.

2. Survey the community landscape

Go out. Be present. Ask. Listen. Understand. Who is here? What is the need? How is life experienced? What agencies are working here? Prayer walk the area. Adopt a posture of humility, mutuality and friendship.

3. Pray: your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven

Lament the shattered situations in your community. Repent any personal or corporate neglect or prejudice between church and community. Intercede for your community's issues and call for imagination to respond as people of hope. Invite and equip prayer walking at individual, family, small group level.

4. Reflect and imagine

Consider the issues in your community within the fullness of the gospel. What is the good news of Jesus in and for the issues you see? How can your 'good news community' enable transformation? How do you disciple your people to understand and proclaim the fullness of the gospel in these contexts?

5. Collaborate

Pray and plan alongside other Christian churches. Share resources, ideas, experience. Consult relevant organisations. Approach civic authorities and local agencies and let them know your church is able and willing to respond to community needs. Host a roundtable for renewal in your community, establishing your role alongside others.



6. Take stock

Within your own church community, prayerfully take stock of resources at individual and corporate level. What do you have (people, building, finances, skillsets, a thriving community with family and social networks, homes, friendships)? How will you adjust your church programme this year to meet new needs?

7. Work matters

Honour the role of those who work in the local community and those whose work strengthens aspects of the community: teachers, businesses, healthcare providers, police etc. Pray for the specific work done by these people and disciple people to see their work as worship.

8. Celebrate

Tell stories of community renewal within your church community – rejoice, give thanks together. Share experiences of increased faith and learning to follow Jesus into new places. Invite and encourage others to join in.

9. Listen

The church in many developing contexts has a wealth of experience in bringing the gospel to significant human need. We often send Christian workers to work with global mission organisations in Christian community development. What can we learn from our Christian family in these contexts?

10. Assess and adjust

Continue to measure the impact in the community. Continue on a journey of being present, asking, listening and understanding. Community transformation is a relational investment. How is this missional journey into the community affecting the faith and discipleship of your people?