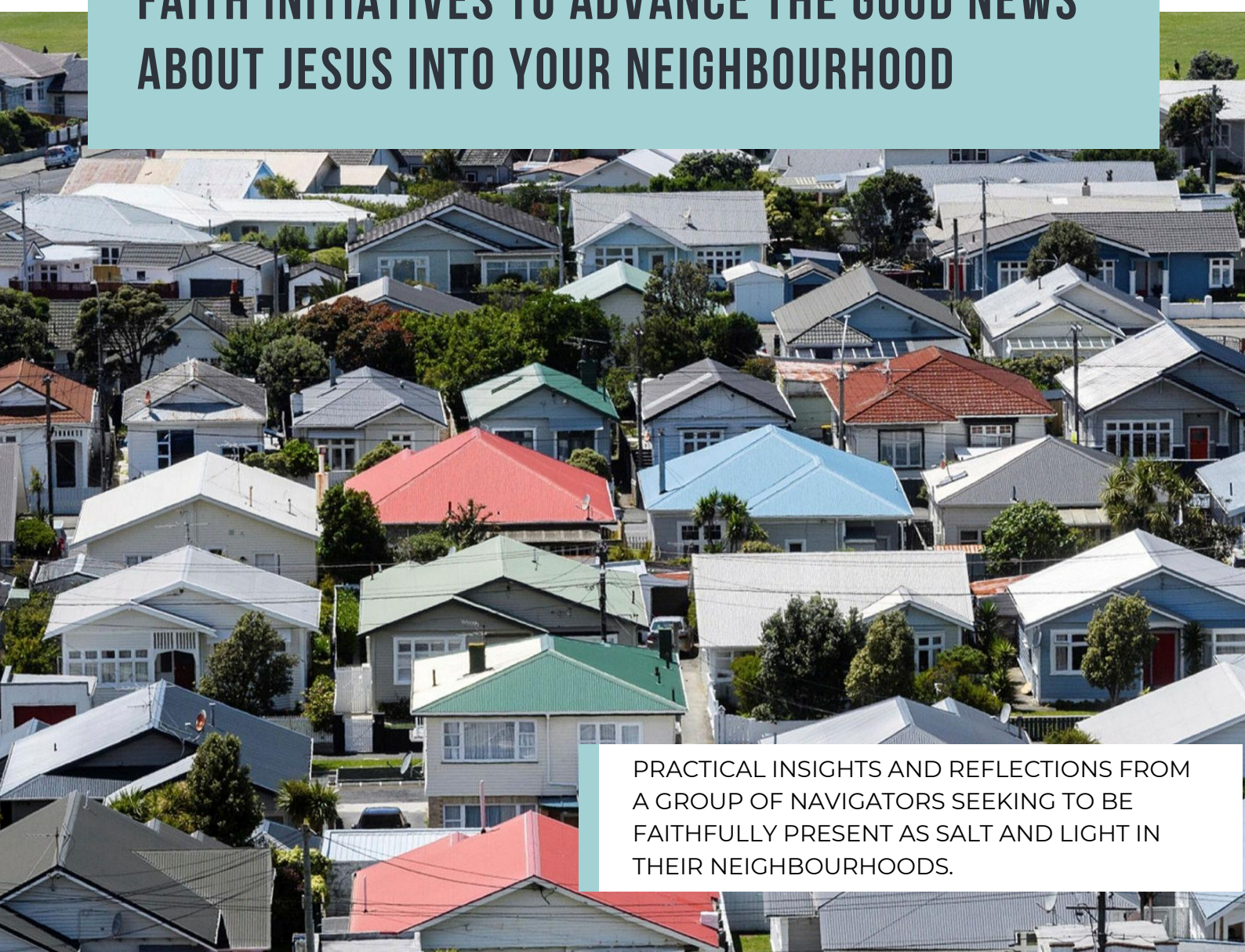


CALLED TO YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

**FAITH INITIATIVES TO ADVANCE THE GOOD NEWS
ABOUT JESUS INTO YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD**



PRACTICAL INSIGHTS AND REFLECTIONS FROM
A GROUP OF NAVIGATORS SEEKING TO BE
FAITHFULLY PRESENT AS SALT AND LIGHT IN
THEIR NEIGHBOURHOODS.

OUR CALLING:

To advance the gospel of Jesus and His Kingdom
into the nations through spiritual generations of labourers
living and discipling among the lost.

OUR VISION:

We see a vital movement of the Gospel, fueled by prevailing
prayer, flowing freely through relational networks
and out into the nations. Workers for the Kingdom are
next door to everywhere!

CALLED TO YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD: Faith initiatives to advance the good news about Jesus in your neighbourhood.

Our intention with this resource is twofold. First, we hope that people will catch a vision for responding to God's call to be part of his transforming work in the neighbourhood where they live. Building on that response, this is a simple practitioner's guide for how to get started on neighbourhood mission which summarises the key learnings of the Neighbourhood's Workgroup - a group of Navigators from different parts of the country who seeking to live out this call to intentionally live as salt and light among their neighbours and help others do the same.

Secondly, that through discussion of the content there might be a shared response that will deepen a sense of camaraderie and teaming together among us as we seek to advance the gospel of Jesus and His kingdom into the neighbourhoods in the cities of our nation.

So, grab a friend and sit down over coffee to look at these great ideas and resources together, and then begin to pray that God would use you right where you are to share the good news about Jesus Christ with your neighbours.

Before you dive into these resources, if you have not watched the short video called, "Drawing Out Together Among" by Mutua Mahiaini, International President of The Navigators, please do so here: vimeo.com/833331397 In this video Mutua admonishes us as Navigators to think of a city as, "fundamentally a group of people seeking to do life together. Jesus tells us to not put our light under a basket in a holy huddle. It is designed to shine among the lost..." Let us seek to shine together among the lost to see our neighbours and neighbourhoods transformed by the good news of Christ. Will you join us?





BRINGING CHRIST TO YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. - **Romans 10:14-17**



AN ACTION PLAN FOR FAITHFUL PRESENCE IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD*

HERE ARE 4 KEYS TO LIVING OUT THE GOOD NEWS AMONG YOUR NEIGHBOURS:

KEY #1: LOOK

- Consider your surroundings: Where do you visit frequently? Which neighbours do you already have a close relationship with? Who is in your circle of friends/activities/schools?
- Do you have any other followers of Christ in your area you could team with?
- Begin to walk and pray around your neighbourhood

KEY #2: PREPARE

- Find a mentor/supporter to pray together and ask questions/glean info
- Consider asking a few others to be intentional in their neighbourhoods (define what that means) and then encourage and hold each other accountable
- Consider if there's a “person of peace”- someone interested in talking about faith; pray for this and pursue friendship with this person
- Be prepared to share the good news of the gospel

KEY #3: DEVELOP CONSISTENT RHYTHMS

- Find a routine that works to build community; e.g., weekly run/walk; biweekly dinners; games night, block party, etc.
- Consider who might like to help host as well
- Encourage and maintain accountability with other believers committed to this vision

KEY #4: CLEAR PURPOSE

- Consider your purpose - is it for building relationships; is it gospel based?
- If gospel centered - come up with an action plan - read bible together, host meals and talk about faith questions; invite to Christian events already happening.
- If building relationships based - make time/space to ask questions and serve/love them
- Trust - it takes time. Revisit your purpose often and see if the vision aligns with outcome.
- Resources - what resources do you need? Who can help you with these?
- Above all else, speak of your faith - share your story, pray for others, and be intentional.

(*See 'Keys to Effective Neighbourhood Mission' resource on the next page for more ideas around this.)



KEYS TO EFFECTIVE NEIGHBOURHOOD MISSION

2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. 5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. – **Colossians 4:2-6**



3 KEY CATEGORIES WHEN THINKING ABOUT NEIGHBOURHOOD MISSION – E.G., MISSION AMONG LONG TERM LOCAL RESIDENTS



1. **Immediate Street Neighbours** – frequent contact, likely weekly if not daily
2. **Local Neighbours Within Walking Distance** – familiar faces, occasional contact at local shops, cafés and neighbourhood amenities.
3. **Surrounding Suburb** – people we meet through various community networks and interest groups – clubs, sports, schools, music, committees, etc.



3 KEY CONVICTIONS FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD MISSION

1. God is present and has been steadily working in our neighbours lives right up to the present moment. **John 5:17, John 16:8, 1 Peter 3:15**
2. At some point God will bring things to a head. The “Kairos” moment will come. Don’t be impatient. Something will happen - to them, or to you! **Colossians 4:5**
3. It is not just about friendly relationships. God’s message must be shared. Colossians 4:5 – Holding the Word like a waiter holds his tray, **1 Peter 3:15, Romans 10:14-17**



11 KEY INGREDIENTS & STAGES IN NEIGHBOURHOOD MISSION

There is an unfolding trajectory of mission that ideally includes several of the following ingredients, not necessarily in the order listed:

1. Believers commit to reaching their neighbours and begin to pray.
2. They find others to team with. If they have not found other believers in the immediate neighbourhood, they invite others to team in prayer from a distance.
3. Friendly introductions. Finding basic information. (Write it down)
4. Ongoing conversations. Finding common ground and ways to connect and serve or be served.
5. Basic story swapping, theirs, and yours - life's joys and struggles and fears. Reflective listening.
6. Invites and meet-ups. Extending hospitality. Arranging to meet for coffee or engage in some event or activity together.
7. Reciprocal relationships of growing openness and trust. You feel safe with one another. Sharing more deeply and vulnerably.
8. Discussions about faith and values (Testimony, World view, belief, Gospel).
9. Exploring faith in Jesus together - Bible reading, video series, invites to Christian gatherings.
10. Development of relationships with other believers
11. Commitment to a faith community or church



5 KEY PASSAGES TO KEEP IN MIND IN NEIGHBOURHOOD MISSION

Colossians 4:5 - Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.

Philippians 2:14-15 - Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving Message into the night.

Proverbs 25:17 - Don't set foot too frequently in your neighbours' house, lest he become weary of you and hate you.

Matthew 10:13 - If they welcome you, be gentle in your conversation. [14] If they don't welcome you, quietly withdraw. Don't make a scene. Shrug your shoulders and be on your way.

Matthew 10:11-14 - And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. [12] As you enter the house, greet it. [13] And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. [14] And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town.

'NEIGHBOURHOODS' PRAYER PLAN

+ Many times, the opportunities to share and invest are with those with whom we already have relationships with. Those that we live with, work with, play with, etc. Below is a helpful tool that you can use to brainstorm and map out your relationships and write down names of friends and family in your 'neighbourhoods'. Take time to write down 1-3 (or more) names that God brings to mind in each 'neighbourhood' and begin to pray for them.

You can use **Colossians 4:2-6** as a prayer focus: ²*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.* ³*And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.* ⁴*Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.* ⁵*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.* ⁶*Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

For a more detailed instruction of mapping out and praying for those in your relational network, please see the relational network map instructions in Section Three of **The Backpack**. It is located on page 83 in Sharing Faith: Our Presence. You can download The Backpack along with other resources at navigators.org.nz.



01. Where I Live

02. Who I Live With

03. Who I Work With

04. Who I Serve With

05. Who Serves Me

06. Who I Play With

07. Who I'm Related To

08. Who I Work Out With

+ By God's grace I am trusting God for the opportunity to share Jesus with ONE and to invest my life in ONE to help them grow towards maturity in their walk with Jesus Christ this year. 1. _____ + 1. _____