

ENGAGE 2026



Someone once said, **“The local church is the hope of the world. There is nothing like the local church when it’s working right. Its beauty is indescribable. Its power is breathtaking. Its potential is unlimited.”**

We believe this statement whole-heartedly! The overarching, all-consuming reason that CityHill Church exists is this: to know Christ and to make Him known. We believe that no person is meant to live out their faith in isolation.

Throughout the Bible, God uses pictures of a body, a family and a building to illustrate the Church. We believe that He did this to teach us that we were designed to be connected to each other in a local Church.

The aim of this guide is to illustrate some of the many ways that people engage with each other at CityHill, and how you can too.

And as we serve we grow in faith and spiritual strength, while an added benefit is that, by connecting with others, we grow friendships and foster a sense of family.

As you read through this guide, ask this question: **How can I engage my time, talents and treasures in a meaningful way in the local Church?**

As all of us find our unique answer to that question a wonderful thing happens – we grow in our faith and relationship with God!



YOU DON'T NEED SKILLS, JUST LOVE

On a Sunday you can often spot Brently and Carey-Leigh Impson serving together in some way or another. They are such a great example of what it means to be fully engaged.

“When our family joined CityHill Church, it was at one of the Engage series that the idea of serving spoke to our hearts. That nudging of the Holy Spirit as we looked down at a card full of spaces and places that we could step into gave us a sense of excitement about a new season of connection and experiences, and it was the complimentary tea and coffee stations where we found ourselves first...Serving is a space where true and authentic relationships are birthed, where people from so many different circles and backgrounds can come together and be united through Jesus and their love for Him.”

That is such a great way to put it. When we become Christ-followers, we become part of God's family. Being part of a family means being together and helping in whatever way we can. It is always quite exciting to see the way things come together on a Sunday as the CityHill family get together and just how many hands and willing hearts it takes to make sure that everything runs smoothly behind the scenes.

1 Peter 4:10 says, **“each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms”.**

There are so many different opportunities for us to be involved, from serving tea, to Sunday production,

to event decor - even becoming a barista. You name it, there is an opportunity for everyone, no matter who we are and how we are wired. When each of us gets stuck in and serves in some way, we all get to be part of creating an atmosphere that immediately makes people feel welcome and at home when they arrive at church on a Sunday.

Being part of a team at church is also a great way to meet people and build new friendships. We have worked really hard to set the teams up so that most volunteers don't serve more than once a month. Hopefully, this means that we can follow through on our commitment and enjoy the time we spend serving.



CITYGROUPS

LIFE IS BEST DONE TOGETHER

The journey of following Christ and growing in our Faith is best done together where we learn from each other, encourage each other and share life experiences. **"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20)**

Sunday preaching allows for us to receive God's Word. Discussing and exploring this together with others allows for the Word of God to find a deeper root in our hearts and shape our paths. LifeGroups create a great opportunity to get together with like-minded people once a week for an hour or two, exploring together in more detail the Sunday sermons and how this applies to our lives.

Supporting, encouraging, serving and praying for each other is a vital part of growing in our own Faith. Doing life together with others in this way brings intimacy, connection and a more personal experience of church which, over time, becomes incredibly rewarding as part of our spiritual growth and improves the health and effectiveness of the Body of Christ.

Gail Pereira shares:

'I have attended various churches over the last 25 plus years where I have always been part of a small

group. It has been an integral part of my walk with the Lord especially when attending a church with large numbers. For me, LifeGroup is where the sharing, the caring and the learning truly happen. I have been a part of a CityHill LifeGroup for almost three years, and I don't think I would have made it through everything I've been through without the love and support of the group. I have made some amazing friends and have learnt so much.'



CHILDREN ARE IMPORTANT TO US

The core of why CityHill Kids exists can be found in *Psalms* 78: **"We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about his power and his mighty wonders...and they in turn will teach their own children."** – *Psalms* 78:4;6



Our vision for CityHill Kids is that, from when children form their first opinions about the world, they are receiving and having their worldview shaped by truths about God – that He is real, He is powerful, that He loves us no matter what, that God is forever, He never changes, and He is always with me. Our heart is that by the time a child grows into a teen, their faith is already strong and mature, and they have a Rock to stand on for the rest of their lives!

That's why CityHill Kids exists. Every one of us is part of a spiritual generation who is declaring God's glory and power, His love and the abundant hope that is in Christ, to a new generation. Our volunteers say it best:

Stuart shares that he loves the fact that **"you actually learn more than you teach and receive more than give."**

Nikki Van der Merwe says God has grown an incredible passion within her for little people and she finds serving in this area hugely rewarding.

Mark Prescher loves it because it gives him **"the opportunity to share and teach about the Kingdom of God"**. He shared that it has taught him the true meaning of childlike faith.

For the tiny tots, we have four beautiful parent rooms where volunteers can serve as hosts to help facilitate a wonderful atmosphere and serve the parents and children using the facilities.

From the age of two to grade 6, children can be checked into CityHill Kids.

We serve and love children through dynamic worship, fun teaching, and connecting and discipling in small groups.

Children are welcomed and loved from the moment they are checked in by volunteers at the desk, from the stage by our large group and worship team, and by our small group leaders. As they grow and develop, they transition into **Shift**, the next stage of their church life for young people in grades 7 to 9.

Firehouse, our junior youth, runs on Friday nights for children in grades 5 to 7 and relies on an energetic team of volunteers who act as role models for the children in our church and surrounding community. Here, children can find a safe, fun place to hang out with other young people while discovering their identity in Christ and igniting a passion for Him.

CITYTEACH

A HUNGER TO GROW

Phil Kinder's passion for teaching and learning God's truths is likely to creep into any conversation - especially conversations about CityTeach, where Biblical truth is applied to everyday life.

"We have," he explains, "always kept to the principle of passionate teachers teaching life-giving content."

The Bible is God's living Word: food for our souls and a light to our daily walk with Jesus. Everything we need to know about living in grace and with excellence can be found in those irresistible pages! That's where CityTeach comes in - to help meet the desire for a deeper understanding of the greatest book ever.

Under the banner of CityTeach, we host regular courses throughout the year, typically from 5 weeks to a term in length. The regular courses include the Holy Spirit and Spiritual Giftings Course, The Parent Toolkit, Single and Parenting, Grief-share, Divorce Care and DC4K (Divorce Care for Kids).

For those looking to take a deeper dive into their study of theology and the Scriptures, CityTeach hosts an NCMC 2-year Diploma called E2M (Equipped to Minister). In its first year at CityTeach, 40 people started this journey towards their Diploma in Theology.



It's not just about teaching; it's about transforming lives. It's about passionate people hosting amazing content that digs deeper into so many areas of our lives. Our hope is that people will learn and grow through the courses; and will form great friendships with the people they meet along the way.

***"All scripture is God-breathed, and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."
2 Timothy 3:16***

ORDINARY GIFTS

EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT

Nation Changers is where the story of the feeding of the 5,000 comes alive today. Just as Jesus took a young boy's simple lunch and multiplied it into a miracle, He still takes what we place in His hands - our time, skills, resources, and compassion - and turns it into more than enough.

Each of us carries something valuable. Nation Changers is the space where ordinary gifts become hope for someone else.

Real change often begins with simple acts: a conversation, a shared skill, an afternoon given, a moment of presence. These small seeds are how God transforms lives and communities.

Stories of Impact

This year, those seeds grew into powerful stories:

- 23 children were able to stay in school through the generosity of this community.
- Young adults began tertiary education, stepping confidently into brighter futures.
- Entrepreneurs in our Clothing Box programme secured workspaces, found employment, and built stability for their families.
- Over 5,000 gently worn clothing items were donated by local schools and Flourish attendees.
- Two young men completed a three-month engineering learnership, opening new career pathways.
- R500,000 in food aid reached families in need.
- More than 1,850 children received Love in a Gift packs.

Behind every number is a person. And behind every story are volunteers — ordinary people showing up in classrooms, sewing rooms, literacy sessions, packing spaces, and workplaces, making God's love visible through action.

Growing the Movement

Our goal is to grow our volunteer base in key areas:

- Teaching English and adult literacy
- Sewing support and Clothing Box assistance
- Centre support through sorting and packing teams

If you have time, a skill, or simply a willing heart, there is a place for you.

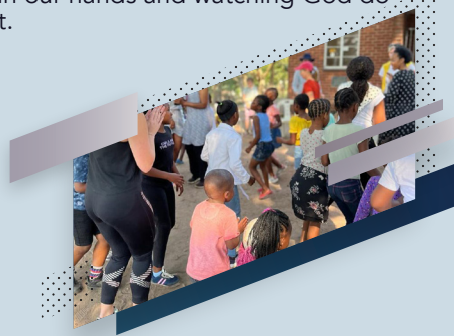
We're also expanding work-experience and learnership opportunities. We're looking for individuals and businesses who can open a door for someone else - whether that's a short work-shadowing opportunity, a structured learnership, or a once-off project that gives real workplace exposure.

Every skill is transferable. Every workplace has space for learning. Every person has something to offer.

Nation Changers isn't just a month of projects. It's an ongoing movement - made up of moments and miracles - where God's provision flows through ordinary people willing to say, "Here's what I have."

It's not an organisation. It's not a building.

Nation Changers is you and me - bringing what's in our hands and watching God do the rest.



CITYHOPE DISASTER RELIEF

RESPONDING TO CRISES

BEYOND OUR BORDERS

CityHope Disaster Relief is a ministry led by heart. More than delivering supplies, it's about showing up — with presence, with compassion, and with hope when it's needed most.

At the centre of this work is **gratitude** — for the chance to serve and to stand with those facing unimaginable loss. From fires and floods to famine and displacement, every response is rooted in the belief that every life matters.

One story brings this to life: during a fire in Durban, a smoke-inhaled infant was brought to responders. Her mother had lost everything. From a CityHope **hope kit**, a small blanket was wrapped around the child — a simple act that meant safety, care, and love.

Moments like these bring tears — for the suffering witnessed, and for the privilege of helping. They reflect Christ's call:

"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34)

CityHope began as a response to the famine in Somalia — a moment demanding action. As *Jeremiah 4:20* says, *"Disaster follows disaster; the whole land lies in ruins..."*

Today, CityHope continues to respond locally and globally — not just to save lives, but to bring

hope beyond crisis. Whether packing kits, delivering aid, or supporting from behind the scenes, every role matters. Every act of love is part of something greater.

Join the mission — and help turn crisis into care, and despair into hope.



CITYREACH

GOOD NEWS TO THE NATIONS

Get ready for the ultimate adventure!



When you sign up for CityReach, you're in for an exciting journey with a fantastic group of like-minded adventurers!

There are so many different trips and destinations to choose from, and you will find yourself part of a happy group, setting off by car for a weekend in Lesotho or maybe Swaziland or if you are really brave, somewhere even further afield.

Wherever you go, you'll find spiritually hungry (and maybe physically hungry, too) communities, and you'll have two opportunities – to “go” and to “grow!”

The first opportunity - going - is about being obedient to the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:19-20: “Then Jesus said, ‘therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you...’”

I guess you could say the second part is a by-product of the first - when we are obedient to “go,” something happens in our faith. It's almost like we are

reignited by the gospel we are taking to the nations - like our soul rediscovers the foundational truths that first brought us into relationship with God. Our faith is strengthened, and we find ourselves filled with new passion for God and a fresh love for people.

But that's just a bonus. The purpose of CityReach is in the going - it's about taking the gospel to the nations, and it needs a dedicated team made up of you and me. It's truly a blessing to be in a church reaching the nations from Hillcrest!

We are blessed to go to places like Lesotho and the Comoros islands, Swaziland, Malawi, Zambia and many more. The gospel is spreading, and we get to be part of it!

**For the 2026 mission trip itinerary
email hello@cityhill.co.za**