



**GUIDELINES FOR  
BLESS A COMMUNITY**

**COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP**

# WHY IMPACT Now?

## Our Mission

As we stepped into 2020, we were challenged as a church to turn our focus outwards; to reach out and bless the nations represented here in Malaysia and beyond. With the launch of IMPACT 2020 and the tagline, 'You, Me, The Nations,' the call to GO was clear. The road maps were drawn up, opportunities lined up, travel plans underway and many geared up to go. Then, came the unexpected. The pandemic drove us to rethink how we can make an IMPACT in this new landscape.

The lockdown brought about unforeseen hardships to many individuals, families, and communities. The sense of safety from staying indoors were overshadowed by fear and uncertainty of the future, financial difficulties, mental and emotional stress, and for some, unsure about their next meal. Amidst these gloomy times, it was heartwarming to hear of many kind, selfless and courageous individuals reaching out in different ways to support those in dire need. Some delivered food packs to the needy, others bought groceries for their elderly neighbours, while many donated sacrificially to support those struggling financially; testament that everyone of us can make an impact, right where we are.

Motivated by His love for us, we want to continue to be a church who loves God and serves people in every season. We see wide fields of opportunities before us, where we, as a church can make a meaningful and lasting impact here in our beloved nation. IMPACT Now is a timely strategy to grow us as an outward-looking church who loves God, serves people, and makes disciples. The three-pronged strategy is this:

SERVE THE NEEDY | BLESS A COMMUNITY | FUND AN INITIATIVE

These projects are designed to meet the urgent needs of the communities around us in this time of difficulty. You are encouraged to take part together as a Cell Group (CG) in as few or as many projects as you like. A team of Project Leaders will be the key liaison personnel.

The Holy Spirit will empower you to be prayerful, be prophetic in your ministry and be creatively practical as you serve. Depend on Him and look out for how God will work in your own heart and those you reach out to!

The time to make an IMPACT is Now! Let us not lose sight - our mission to bless the nations remains though our methods may change. There is no pause in missions. God's work continues, and people need Jesus more than ever. We, His people are here for such a time as this. Embrace His heart for the broken, the lost and the least. Will you obey His call?

## Our Values

In all your interactions, whether virtually or in-person, let us **represent CHRIST well** and **be led by His Spirit** as we **honour one another**.

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*And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. **Colossians 3:17***

*Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground. **Psalm 143:10***

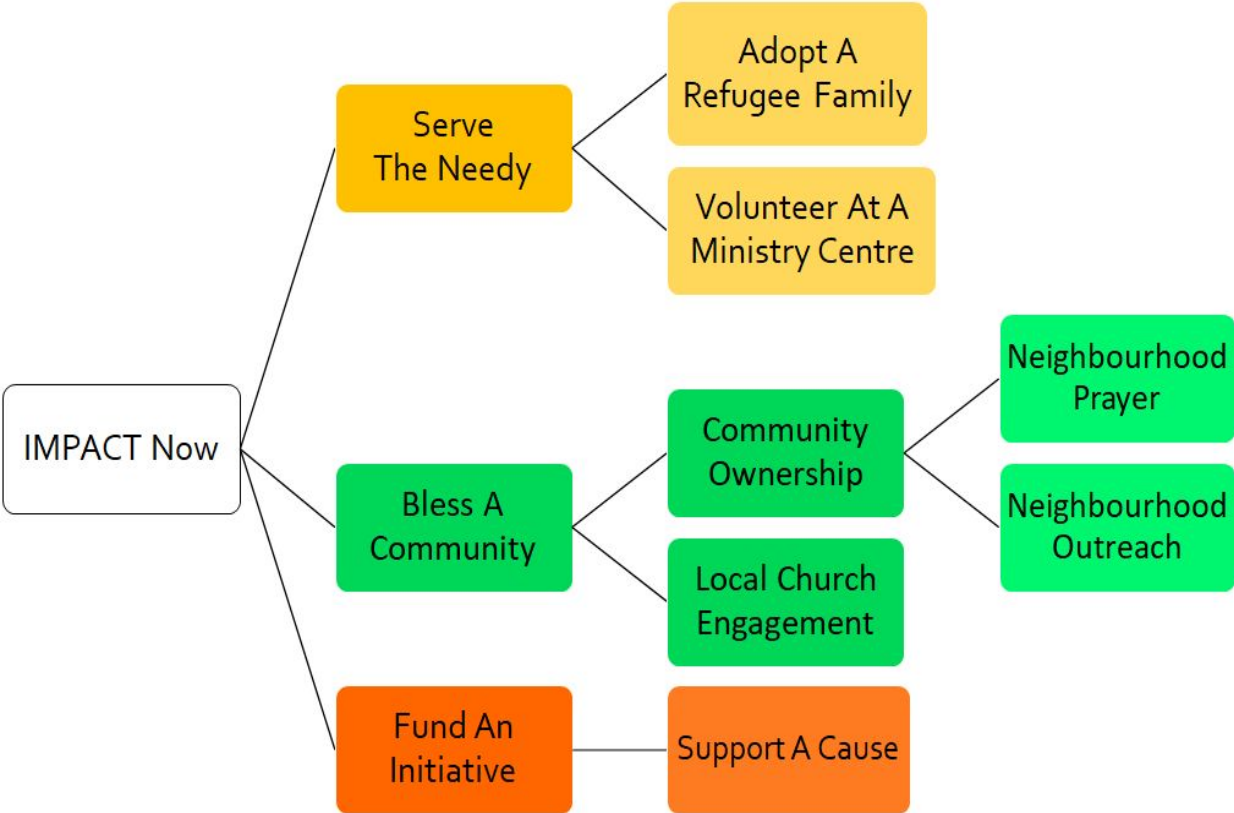
*Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. **Ephesians 4:2-3***

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Let us heed the call to go, and be salt and light where He has placed us. Be strong and courageous and may the fruit of the Spirit be seen in and through us as we step out to make an impact for His glory.

# Overview

The chart below outlines the three main strategies of IMPACT Now and the sub-categories where CGs can be involved in. The following is a general view of the stages involved in an IMPACT Now project.



## IMPACT Now PROCESS FLOW



PL: Project Lead; ZC: Zone Champions; ZL: Zone Leaders; ZP: Zone Pastor  
 \*for Serve The Needy projects

## Health & Safety

Below are the general Covid-19 guidelines<sup>1</sup> from the Ministry of Health, Malaysia. Please adhere to these preventive measures at all times and abide by current and future guidelines for the interest of public health. Remember to protect yourself and others.

Practise the **3Ws**:

- Wash** - wash your hands regularly with soap or use a hand sanitiser. Be mindful of high-touch surfaces including door knobs, stairs, lift buttons, etc.
- Wear** - wear a mask and change your mask once it is damp.
- Warn** - if you are unwell or show any symptoms of fever, cough, sneezing, sore throat, flu, or difficulty breathing, please stay at home, isolate yourself and seek your doctor's advice.

Cover your mouth and nose with tissue when you cough or sneeze, dispose tissue in a closed bin/tied up bag and wash/sanitise hands.

### Social Distancing

- Avoid crowded areas.
- Always keep a distance of at least 1 metre from each other, including meal times at restaurants.
- Greet without physical contact.
- Use contactless delivery for delivery of food or packages.
- Virtual teaching and learning is encouraged.

**IMPORTANT:** If visitations are allowed, go in pairs and remember to observe Covid-19 preventive measures and social distancing. Be alert, wise and sensible with your personal belongings. We would like to encourage you to take extra precautions if you belong to the high-risk category of individuals.

High-risk category include:

- Senior citizens (those above 65 years old)
- Pregnant mothers
- Those with pre-existing illnesses (diabetes, cancer, high blood pressure, asthma, heart condition)
- Children (below 12 years old)

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<sup>1</sup> As of 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## Do's & Don'ts

These general guidelines apply when you're interacting with vulnerable people whether a refugee, children, or when volunteering at a ministry centre.

### DO's:

- Pray before, during, and after your ministry and remember to be sensitive to His Spirit throughout.
- Take care of your health and be considerate to others around you - remember to practise good hygiene and adhere to social distancing measures.
- In the interest of safety, conduct activities during day time rather than at night, whenever possible. Keep doors open and run activities in a visible, safe area.
- Always serve *in pairs* or more and observe the "Two Adults Rule" - which is, to never be on your own when serving for the accountability and safety of everyone.
- Listen more than you speak and communicate with gentleness and respect.
- Seek to get to know and understand the culture of the people you're reaching out to.
- Always maintain a patient, humble and pleasant disposition.
- Remember that your actions, body language, expressions and tone speak louder than words.
- Ask permission before you take photos, videos or information of recipients. Remember to respect their privacy, dignity and wishes - you are the guest, they are your host.
- Exercise good judgment, wisdom and discretion when sharing about yourselves, your faith, your cell group and the church.

### DON'Ts:

- Act overly surprised or grossed out if the sights, smells and sounds including living situations, hygiene levels or when practices are not what you're used to.
- Criticise, be impatient, or show arrogance when certain situations may not meet your expectations. Pray for grace, remain calm and try to express your thoughts in a positive, helpful way.
- Speak or treat any person impolitely, even when provoked. Pray for calmness and wisdom to be a good witness. Think long-term relationships.
- Comment or criticise political, religious or socio-economic situations.
- Make promises to offer help in cash or kind before consulting, discussing, praying, and discerning requests for help with your respective CG leader. Consult and discuss this with your CG leader prior and prayerfully decide. We do advise that the value of gifts are capped at RM200 per month.

- Give out your own phone number or that of your CG member without consent.
- Share or post personal information including names, contact information, addresses and the vulnerable people's background. Observe anonymity and respect the privacy and dignity of others.
- Take, use, circulate or post on social media or on online platforms any visuals (images or videos) of the recipients without their permission. Respect their dignity, confidentiality and be mindful of their safety concerns.

**\*IMPORTANT:** Many of those in need are from vulnerable, at-risk backgrounds. Please prioritise their safety, honour and protect the identities of the vulnerable individuals as well as the organisations, staff and volunteers serving them.



**BLESS**  
**A**  
**COMMUNITY**

## BLESS A COMMUNITY: COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP

Community ownership comprises two parts: Neighbourhood Prayer, followed by Neighbourhood Outreach. Here, CGs are encouraged to first pray for their neighbourhood and then, if they are led to do so, embark on an outreach in their neighbourhood. CG leaders are required to go through the IMPACT Now Guidelines with CG members.

### A. NEIGHBOURHOOD PRAYER

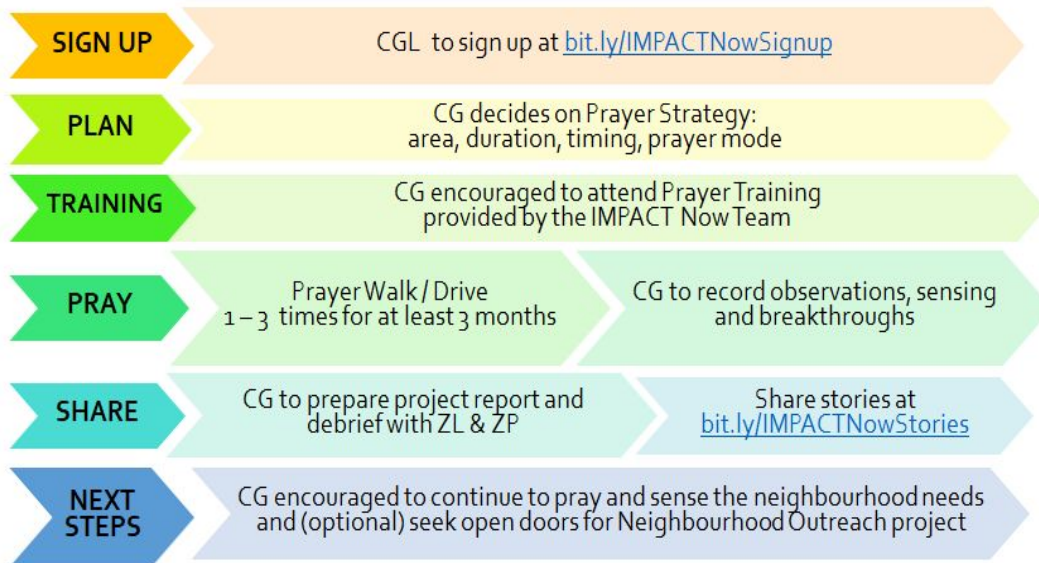
*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but **against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.** Ephesians 6:12*

*Also, **seek the peace and prosperity** of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper. **Jeremiah 29:7***

#### 1. OBJECTIVE

To initiate prayer movement and ownership amongst CGs at different neighbourhoods. The prayer will take place outside the four walls where CGs usually meet.

## COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP (PART 1): NEIGHBOURHOOD PRAYER



### Project Lead (PL):

Angeline Tan: [angeline.tan@dumc.my](mailto:angeline.tan@dumc.my)

Alicia Yap: [yap.alicia11@gmail.com](mailto:yap.alicia11@gmail.com)

## 2. UNDERSTANDING PRAYER WALKING

Prayer walking is a prayer on location activity that encourages participants to pray and intercede for the neighbourhood while walking.<sup>2</sup>

*Praying on-site with insight* – the purpose of prayer walking is to seek God's guidance, direction, and transforming power – both for the community and for ourselves as God's servants in the community we choose to own.

This activity may encourage everyone to be more aware of what you see while you walk and pray with your eyes open by connecting prayer walking with structured observation through your spiritual senses (sight and hearing) and to see what God is saying about the neighbourhood.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/prayer-walking.html>

Prayer walking can be a valuable tool for identifying needs and partners for Neighbourhood Outreach projects, becoming more familiar with the community you will be serving, and preparing CGs spiritually for the outreach.

### **3. THREE IMPORTANT PHASES IN PRAYER WALKING / DRIVING**

#### **PRE**

- Meet at an assigned time and place. Spend time to pray, read Scripture and worship.
- Plan your area or route, duration, timing and prayer mode and do a short briefing with the CG; breaking up into pairs or groups of three, if your CG is a big group.

#### **DURING**

- Walk in prayer teams of two or three while observing social distancing. Take your time to walk/drive and observe your surroundings while praying. Try not to attract any unwanted attention but be attentive to your surroundings.
- If you are asked what you are doing, be prepared to respond wisely e.g. "We're praying for God's blessing upon this neighbourhood," or "Is there any way we can pray for you?"
- Pray in conversational style with each person taking turns in a soft voice so that you may not attract unnecessary attention from passers-by. They may just assume that you are having a conversation with each other.
- Although it is not the primary purpose of prayer walking, be open to opportunities to interact with passers-by, especially when prompted by the Holy Spirit. Having said that, the focus should not be solely on talking to the passer-by.
- "Pray with Insight" – What do you hear? What do you see? What do you sense? (Refer to *Prayer Pointers on pg 12*)

#### **POST**

- Finish up by thanking God for His guidance. Pray for divine cleansing and covering against any territorial spirits.
- Do a debrief and share what you have experienced, observed and sensed during the prayer walking/driving.

- Plan to do prayer walking/driving 1 to 3 times for at least 3 months.

#### 4. DO'S AND DON'TS DURING PRAYER WALKING / DRIVING

##### DO's:

- Remember to observe the *Health & Safety* guidelines at all times, including Covid-19 preventive measures and social distancing.
- Dress modestly and wear comfortable shoes/slippers.
- Bring an umbrella or cap to protect yourself from heavy weather.
- Bring a bottle of water to avoid dehydration.
- Plan the suitable route that your prayer team is most comfortable with, and if walking is inconvenient for whatever reasons, you may do a prayer drive instead.

##### DON'Ts:

- Attract any unwanted attention by praying out loud or wailing.
- Linger too long at one particular area as that will arouse suspicion.
- Trespass any private property/compound.
- Be in a hurry. Take your time to discern what God is saying to you.

#### 5. PRAYER POINTERS

- **Pray for discernment** – Seek the gift of seeing the community through Christ's "lens" and to discern what God is already doing there; ask God to show you how you can pray with greater insight for the people, events, and places in the community.

*But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. **John 16:13***

- **Pray for blessing** – Pray over every person, home and business you encounter; for God's intervention in each life, so that each one can be fruitful in God's kingdom; for God's will to be done in this community "as it is in heaven" (Matthew. 6:10).
- **Pray with empathy** – See and feel what the local residents live with every day; offer intercession for those things that express brokenness and grieve the Holy Spirit whilst also giving thanks to God for the blessings and gifts that exist in the community.
- **Pray from Scripture** – Prayers based directly on God's Word can be especially powerful. You may refer to the Scripture from the Bible app in your smartphone or copy Bible verses in the note cards (*Do not show off your Bible*).
- **Pray in God's power** – Allow times of silence for the Holy Spirit to speak to you, or through you (Romans 8:26). Ask with confidence in the power of Jesus' name (John 14:12-14). Like the disciples sent out by Christ, we are empowered to push back the darkness (Luke 10:17-18).
- **Pray and proclaim** – Proclaim Shalom upon every place.

## 6. WHAT'S NEXT?

Even if you have been in a community for a long time, you can learn to see the familiar with new eyes. Be alert to indicators of need as well as signs of God's reign.

Walk through as much of the community as you are able; if the area is far-flung, or if the weather is bad, a prayer drive is another option.

Open your observation time by asking God to allow you to see with His eyes of love and discernment. Let the Holy Spirit lead you on what to do next. Usually, the discernment and disclosure will lead to a more focused observation, prayer and revelation. Continue to pray and sense the neighbourhood needs and ask God for His direction on how you can bless the neighbourhood together as a CG.

## 7. REGROUP & REPORT

After the prayer walking/driving, regroup and take time as a group to share what you have experienced, reflect and record your observations. Discuss the following:

- a. What positive qualities, opportunities and benefits exist in the community?

What are the signs that God is already at work in the neighbourhood? Identify potential partners (people, churches, organisations) that your CG could come alongside in serving the community. *This may help you to start praying for an open door/opportunity for the Neighbourhood Outreach Project.*

- b. What needs and concerns are evident? What do you see and sense that might contribute to such a way of living?
- c. Take note of your personal response to what you see. What kinds of "sensing" do you get from your encounters in the community? What feels familiar or strange? Safe or dangerous? Friendly or hostile? Happy or sad? Pleasant or uncomfortable? Share in a group for everyone's discernment.
- d. Do you sense any barriers to "fitting in" between yourself and the community - language, culture, class, ethnicity, age? What stereotypes about people and places might you have to address to build healthy relationships with people here?
- e. How is the Good News of salvation through Christ relevant here? What might it look like if God's kingdom were realised "on earth as it is in heaven" here in this community? Imagine how your CG, working alongside members of the community, might participate in helping the neighbourhood experience God's love?
- f. Did your prayerful observations spark any ideas for your giving to the community project or any ongoing ministry in this community? Identify how you could follow-up with organisations or individuals in the community.

## 8. SHARE YOUR STORIES

We believe the neighbourhood prayer your CG embarks on will be insightful and powerful as you see, hear and sense with His Spirit. Kindly prepare and share your:

- **Prayer Report** with your Zone Leader and Zone Pastor
- **Stories** at [bit.ly/IMPACTNowStories](https://bit.ly/IMPACTNowStories)

## B. NEIGHBOURHOOD OUTREACH

This can be a continuation from the Neighbourhood Prayer, as the Spirit leads, but not a standalone project.

### 1. OBJECTIVE

To demonstrate Christ's love, build relationships and bless the neighbourhood in practical ways, being led by His Spirit.

### COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP (PART 2): NEIGHBOURHOOD OUTREACH



#### Project Lead (PL):

Angeline Tan: [angeline.tan@dumc.my](mailto:angeline.tan@dumc.my)

Alicia Yap: [yap.alicia11@gmail.com](mailto:yap.alicia11@gmail.com)

### 2. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Refer to the *Health and Safety Guidelines* on pg. 5.



### 3. MANAGING EXPECTATIONS

- Be creative with your resources, skills and knowledge in reaching out to your neighbourhood.
- Plans and situations may change at the last minute and at times may not meet your expectations, in times like this, remember to be flexible, patient and embody humility.
- Remember that your mindset, worldview, cultural norms and practices may be very different from the people you are serving. Be sensitive in your approach.
- For any requests for help, whether in cash or kind, do not promise the person(s) anything. Consult and discuss this with your CG leader and Zone Pastor.

### 4. DEFINITION OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE

A *vulnerable person* is one who is, or who may be, unable to take care of himself/herself, or unable to protect himself/herself against significant harm or exploitation due to age, illness or a mental or physical disability. Vulnerable people include children, the elderly, the sick, the poor, the weak, those with physical or mental disabilities, refugees, who are therefore more susceptible to harm or exploitation. Refer to the Do's and Don'ts on pg 6-7 of this IMPACT Now Guidelines.

### 5. REGROUP & REPORT

Regroup and share observations, encouragements, challenges, concerns and discuss on how to improve future sessions. End in prayer.

### 6. SHARE YOUR STORIES

We believe the neighbourhood outreach your CG embarks on will be meaningful, fun and impactful. Kindly prepare and share your:

- **Project Report** with your Zone Leader and Zone Pastor.
- **Stories** at [bit.ly/IMPACTNowStories](https://bit.ly/IMPACTNowStories)