

As we begin our Nation Changers series, there is so much to celebrate, but we are also aware that there is so much to be challenged by in our city, our nation, and the nations of the world!

As part of our Nation Changers series, we set aside a month (from mid-July to mid-August) to be very proactively involved in our city. But the impact of that reaches much further than just 30 days.

In part one of our series, we're looking at what the Bible has to say to us and how we can get stuck in and make an impact.

*When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'* John 8:12

### 1. Jesus Christ is the Light of the World

In the verse above, we read that Jesus is the Light of the world, however in Matthew 5:14-15 *He points out that we are also a light to the world: "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.* Not only does our light shine individually, but also collectively as the Church. The local church is the hope of the world and we were We were created to change the world.

### 2. We are designed to have a far-reaching "salt & light" impact in the world.

A light bulb is nothing without electricity, it's only when it's plugged into a power source that it has any impact. Jesus Christ is the "electricity" that powers us, and we were designed to have a far-reaching impact because of our connection with the "Power Source" of the world.

The impact we can have is much like the "domino effect". Some of it we may never even know in this life! For example, Chim and Ibi Onyebilanma (part of the Eldership team at CityHill) moved to South Africa from Nigeria. Chim is part of the team that heads up CityReach. Natasja Foster went on a CityReach trip to Malawi and came back and started an organisation called Bibles Beyond Borders based on the need for Bibles she discovered on that trip. Since then, the Bibles Beyond Borders team has distributed 12,800 Bibles into Malawi, Ethiopia and Madagascar. This year there are plans to distribute more Bibles into Malawi and

Rwanda. Who knows who will be impacted by those Bibles!

### 3. There is both Responsibility & Reward

*'Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:*

*to loose the chains of injustice*

*and untie the cords of the yoke,*

*to set the oppressed free*

*and break every yoke?*

*Is it not to share your food with the hungry*

*and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter –*

*when you see the naked, to clothe them,*

*and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?*

*Then your light will break forth like the dawn,*

*and your healing will quickly appear;*

*then your righteousness will go before you,*

*and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.*

*Then you will call, and the Lord will answer;*

*you will cry for help, and he will say: here am I.*

*'If you do away with the yoke of oppression,*

*with the pointing finger and malicious talk,*

*and if you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry*

*and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,*

*then your light will rise in the darkness,*

*and your night will become like the noonday.*

*The Lord will guide you always;*

*he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land*

*and will strengthen your frame.*

*You will be like a well-watered garden,*

*like a spring whose waters never fail.*

*Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins*

*and will raise up the age-old foundations;*

*you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,*

*Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.*

Isaiah 58:6-12

If we are going to be a light in the darkness, we need to do away with the pointing finger and malicious talk (which is so easy to default to) and focus on letting our light shine.

Our upcoming Nation Changers month gives us a great opportunity to be a light to the community. We have 82 projects lined up (at a total cost of R600,000) which will need a resource of 550 volunteers. This is a great opportunity for both groups and individuals to get involved.

[Download the details of all 82 projects here.](#)

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the most extreme story of poverty that you have been involved with?
2. Please read Acts 20:35. Why do you think Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive?
3. Please read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. What do these verses teach us about generosity? What promises does God make to those who are generous (v10, 11)?
4. In verse 12-15 what does it say about the response of those that we are generous to?
5. When was someone generous to you in a meaningful way?
6. When do you find it most challenging to be generous to others?! How can you grow in the grace of giving?
7. In July and August we have got our Nation Changers month. Which project are we going to sign up for as a group? (Please [click here](#) to see the brochure from Sunday). Please mail [info@nationchangers.org.za](mailto:info@nationchangers.org.za) with your reply or for any queries.