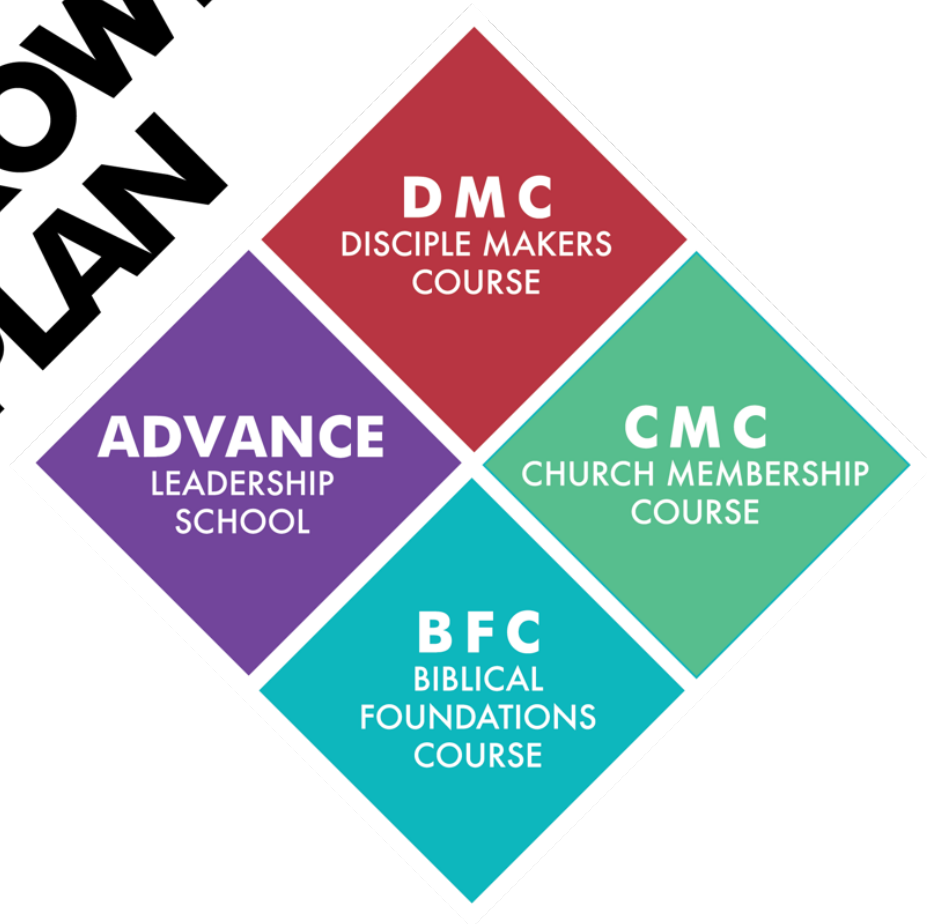


GROWTH PLAN



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SESSION 1: Welcome to our Church membership course

We are so blessed that you have decided to sign up for our CMC and join our church. This is actually a significant moment in your walk with God! From the time we give ourselves to Christ there are a couple of important and life changing steps that we need to take in order to follow Jesus. One of them is getting baptized in water and the Holy Spirit, the other is committing to a local church.

This step of joining a local church is so much more significant than joining a running club or signing up for a community project – committing to a local church is God’s plan and purpose for our lives.

In **Matthew 16:18** Jesus said: *‘I will build **my church** and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.’*

Jesus is building His church – it is His church, and it’s what He is giving all His attention and energy to all over the world. It is the focus of His **attention** and even His **affection** and if we want to follow Him then we should be doing what He is doing, building what He is building – we should in some way be part of the church He is building.

It has been said that; *“The local church is the hope of the world.”*

We agree with that statement because according to the Bible the church is the body of Christ, the physical representation of Jesus on earth – we are His hands and feet... and what this world needs is Jesus, so what the world needs is the church as Jesus intended it to be. The church is also God’s ambassadorial vessel appointed by Him to build His kingdom on earth. It is His desire to have a church in every community in every nation being salt and light to the world, showing everyone the way to salvation and bringing heaven to earth.

“Moreover, because I have set my affection on the house of my God, I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared, my own special treasure of gold and silver.” **1 Chronicles 29:3 NKJV**

In this scripture David said that because he had set his affection on the house of God he gave joyfully and extravagantly towards building it. David understood the value of God’s house in the world and so should we. The church is the body of Christ, it is the hope of the world, it is His vessel through which His kingdom comes and where His manifest presence dwells. It is a community where many receive salvation, healing, deliverance, encouragement, growth; and learn God’s wisdom and truth. It is also where we discover the good works He predestined us for... it is worthy of our affection and it is our privilege to give joyfully and extravagantly of our **time**, **treasures** and **talents** towards building it – like David did.

In this short course we are going to share with you:

Firstly;

1. Why every Christian should become part of a local church

You going to learn that by joining a church you come under God's **protection**, you step into His **provision**, you increase in **passion** and in the process discover your **purpose** in life. We call these "the 4P's".

Ray Bakke said; *"You are never more like God than when you are living in relationships with God's people and walking in partnerships for the recreation and redemption of God's world."*

And we fully agree! There are the blessings of **protection**, **provision**, **passion** and **purpose** when we join a local church.

Secondly;

2. Our vision and how you can play a part in it

As much as we enjoy our friendships in church - church is not just a Sunday social club, it is an entity with **purpose** and **vision** – in short there is a job to be done, a world to save and redeem, **disciples to be made** and we all need to know how we can play a role in the church that Jesus is building with the unique gifts and talents that He has given each of us.

What's next: The members intake evening

Once you have completed this online course; please join us for an Every Nation Durban **members intake evening**. This will be a fun filled evening where you can meet our leaders, ask questions and learn more about our different teams and ministries – it is at this event that we will make your membership official and welcome you into our spiritual family.

We believe that every person God adds to us is important so thanks again for signing up and taking this important step in your walk with God - we know you will be blessed!

We look forward to meeting you at the next **members intake evening**...

SESSION 1: Quiz

1. Multiple choice: Who builds the church?
 - a. Jesus
 - b. Pastors
 - c. Congregants
 - d. All of the above
2. Name the 4P's of why every Christian should join a church.
3. Why have you chosen Every Nation Durban as the local church you would like to belong to?
4. Church is not a building or a brand that we affiliate with, it is a community of people that follow Jesus together. Would you say you are already well-integrated into our community with friends and mentors, or do you still need to build deeper?