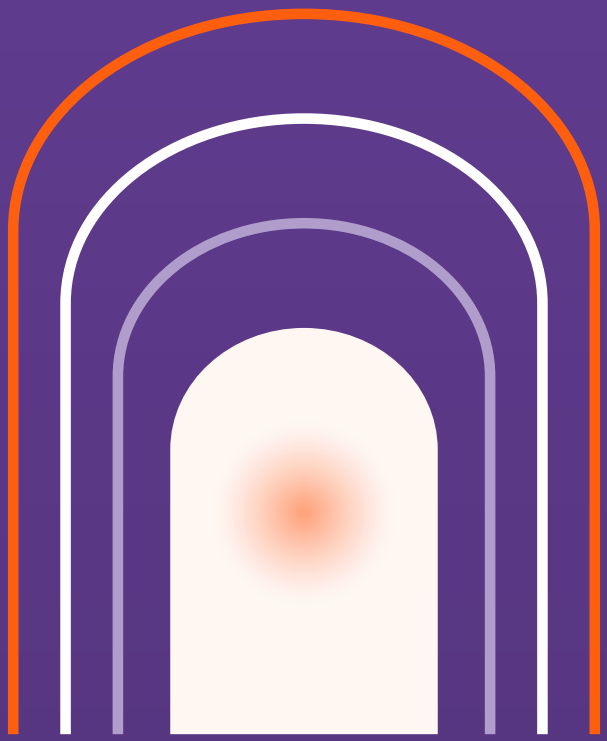
alivecommunitychurch



Room in *His* House

A simple, 90-day plan to help every new visitor at ACC feel like they've found home.

> *"Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and the maimed and the blind and the lame… that my house may be filled."*
> *(Luke 14:21, 23)*

THE FOUNDATION

The Big Idea

Anyone walking into ACC for the first time might be wondering if this was the church for them. Some might be sceptical. This is something that the ushering team or the pastors alone can't answer. It's up to all of us and we answer it with our actions to help them feel three simple things:



Someone knows my name.

Not just a "hi" in passing but an actual name, remembered. This is where belonging starts.



Someone notices when I come back.

Once someone is recognized, they stop being "new" and start becoming family.



Someone helps me find my place.

From visitor, to friend, to someone who belongs here and serves here. That journey needs a companion and guide, which is you.

> **Remember:** people might forget the sermon title, the songs, the announcements. What they don't forget is whether someone made space for them.

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20)

THE JOURNEY

The 90-Day Welcome

First 24 Hours → First Month → Day 30-60 → Day 60-90

DAY 1

1. The First 24 Hours

What we're aiming for: make sure they don't slip in and out unnoticed, and that the welcome feels real, not routine.

Go say hi first.

> *"Hi, I don't think we've met yet, I'm ____. What's your name?" Keep it easy, not an interview.*

Then throw out the lunch invite:

> *"A few of us are grabbing lunch after service, want to join?"*

Once you're at the table, sit with them, not just near them, and skip the church-y jargon.

Introduce them to 2 to 3 other people, just naturally, like you'd introduce any friend.

5 Easy Conversation Starters

01

"Hey! Is this your first time here?" / "What brought you here today?"

Simple and natural, gives them space to share as much or as little as they want.

02

"So what do you usually do during the week? Work? Study?" and "How are you finding it?"

Most people enjoy talking about this, and it's easy to relate.

03

"How did you hear about the church?" and "A friend invited you? Have you known them long?"

Keeps the conversation centred on something they already know.

04

"What do you like doing when you're not working or studying?" and "Any hobbies or sports? Any good shows or cafés you've discovered recently?"

Often uncovers common interests.

05

"Have you got any plans after church?" or "We're grabbing lunch after this if you're free."

Casual, and creates a natural invitation without pressure.

THE JOURNEY · DAY 1 CONTINUED

The First 24 Hours: Follow-up

Same day if you can, definitely within 24 hours, whoever connected with them sends a quick WhatsApp:

WHATSAPP

"Hi ____, this is ____ from ACC. It was really nice meeting you today. Glad you joined us, praying for a blessed week ahead!"

WHAT IF YOU GET NO REPLY?

Silence isn't a closed door. Here's how to follow up without ever making it feel like pressure.

1. **Give them space.** Don't text again straight away or ask why they haven't replied. We want to welcome, not pressure.

2. **Try once more.** After a few days, send a simple, friendly message:

   WHATSAPP

   "Hi ____! It was nice meeting you on Sunday. Hope you're having a good week ☺ You don't have to reply if you don't wish to - I just wanted to say hi!"

3. **Still no reply? Leave it for now.** If you see them again at church, greet them warmly as usual. There's no need to mention the unanswered message.

4. **Reconnect naturally.** Remember something they shared and ask about it the next time you meet. A simple "I remembered" can mean more than another follow-up message.

Reach Out → Give Space → Reconnect Naturally

THE JOURNEY

WEEK 1-4

2. The First Month

What we're aiming for: help them feel remembered, and turn "visitor" into "familiar face."

Some time in the first week, send one easy check-in, something light:

WHATSAPP

"Hi ____, hope your week's been good. Just wanted to encourage you: 'The Lord is near to all who call on Him.' Praying for peace and strength this week."

If they show up again any time that month, get your cell group to look out for them.

Greet them like you mean it: "Hey ____, good to see you again!"

Sit with them again, invite them to lunch again, introduce them to a few more people, and gently float the idea:

"Would you like me to connect you with a cell group?"

First 24 Hours → First Month → Day 30-60 → Day 60-90

THE JOURNEY

DAY 30-60

3. Day 30 to 60

What we're aiming for: by now they should know 3 to 5 people by name. This is where welcome starts to turn into belonging.

Invite them to a cell group, a fellowship meal, a prayer meeting, or just coffee with a few of you. Ask:

> *"How have you been finding ACC so far?" or "Would you like to meet some others in the church?"*

WHATSAPP

"Hi ____, just checking in, it's been lovely seeing you at ACC. Let me know if you'd like to visit a cell group or meet more people!"

CELL PROJECT: POWER OF 3

Assign 3 people in your cell to 1 newcomer to:

- Sit with them for service or lunch for at least a month
- Drop them a short message at least once a month to do a casual check-in

DAY 60-90

4. Day 60 to 90

What we're aiming for: help them go from just attending to actually belonging and finding their place.

Ask:

> *"Now that you've been with us a while, is there any group you'd like to get more connected to?"*

Point them toward a cell group, a discipleship class, a ministry, or a chat with a pastor or leader.

WHATSAPP

"Hi ____, we're really thankful you've been part of ACC these past few months. If there's any way we can help you grow, belong, or get involved, we'd love to walk with you."

DO & AVOID

Say This, Not That

Small words carry lots of weight. Here's how to make sure yours come across as warm, not pushy.

DO

- Learn their actual name and use it
- Sit with them, not just near them
- Ask about their week, work, or family
- Introduce them to others, naturally
- Follow up within a day, nothing fancy
- Greet them warmly when they come back
- Let belonging happen at their own pace

AVOID

- Firing off too many questions at once
- Pushing them to join a ministry straight away
- Leaving them standing alone after service
- Only talking to your usual friends
- Assuming "someone else" will say hi
- Heavy church jargon or inside jokes
- Making them feel like a project

BOTTOM LINE

We're not trying to "manage" newcomers. We're trying to love them well, the same way Christ made room for us.

"Therefore accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us, to the glory of God." (Romans 15:7)

BEYOND THE FIRST VISIT

The ACC Welcome Culture

Seven simple habits, practiced by all of us, every week - that's what makes "Room in His House" real.

1. **See Them**
2. **Greet Them**
3. **Remember Them**
4. **Include Them**
5. **Follow Up**
6. **Connect Them**
7. **Walk With Them**

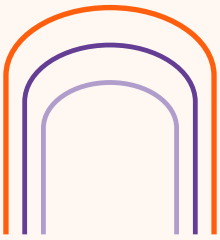
People might forget the sermon, the songs, the announcements. But they never forget:

"Someone noticed me."

"Someone remembered my name."

"Someone made space for me."

"I think I can belong here."



Thank you for offering a place to newcomers. Tell them to pull up a chair, because there's room in His house for them.

"Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and the maimed and the blind and the lame… that my house may be filled." (Luke 14:21, 23)