



A Guide to ‘Making Church Home’ Parties:

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1. EVENT OVERVIEW

Vision:

"I see a church that is big enough to dream on a global scale, yet personal enough for every ONE to find their place. I see a church that beckons 'WELCOME HOME' to every man, woman and child that walks through the doors."

Excerpt from 'The Church I Now See' - Brian Houston

Purpose:

To assist New People in making Hillsong home via a one-one-one personal introduction into the life of Hillsong Church.

Goals:

1) To give a New Person a unique and personal experience that they will remember

2) As a church, we believe that everyone has a next step. We would love to help each New Person to take their next step in connection with God and Church.

We do this by:

- introducing them to a potential connect group leader
- introducing them to a potential team leader for an area they are interested in volunteering with
- introducing them to the Alpha course leader (especially for New Christians, but also for all New People!)
- introducing them to a Next Steps / Evening College / CityCare team member who can run them through the various courses offered
- introducing them to someone of the same culture
- signing them up for baptism if interested



2. INVITATIONS TO A ‘MAKING HILLSONG HOME’ PARTY

New People will be invited to ‘Making Hillsong Home’ through one of two ways:

1) Personal Invitation

The New Person / New Christian is met by a volunteer team member before or after a service and is invited to ‘Making Hillsong Home’ the following week. If available, a ‘Making Hillsong Home’ invitation card will be given as a reminder to the New Person.

The team member then follows up New Person during the week with a reminder about ‘Making Hillsong Home’ on the following weekend.

The New Person will arrive at church the following week and connect with the person they have previously met 30 minutes prior to the service. New Person will sit with the team member during the service and afterwards go with them to the Welcome Lounge, where ‘Making Hillsong Home’ will be held.

2) Mid-Week Follow Up Call

The New Person / New Christian will be phoned by a member of the follow up team who will invite them to sit with them during the service and come with them to Making Hillsong Home after the service.

The New Person will arrive at church and connect with the person who phoned them as part of their follow up 30 minutes prior to the service. They will sit with the team member during the service and afterwards go with them to the Welcome Lounge, where ‘Making Hillsong Home’ will be held.

Whether through a personal invitation or follow up call, the team member will RSVP the attendance through to the appropriate person in each service so that they can be catered for.



3. PREPARATIONS FOR A ‘MAKING HILLSONG HOME’ PARTY

VENUE: THE WELCOME LOUNGE

Welcome Lounge is an area purposed for connecting with New People and New Christians. It is often adjacent to the Church auditorium and foyer, and aims to create a welcoming atmosphere for someone new to Church or someone who has just made a decision to follow Jesus.

The Welcome Lounge is set up with tables, chairs, water, cups, relevant resource (‘Welcome to Church’ cards and ‘Welcome Packs’) and some decorations to create this welcoming atmosphere.

A Welcome Lounge team hosts and connects with visitors and offers and serves complimentary coffee, tea and hot chocolates, which baristas prepare within or closely adjacent to the area.

WELCOME LOUNGE PREPARATION

Complimentary tea, coffee, hot chocolate, water and snacks will be ready in the Welcome Lounge and tables reserved (in secluded area) for ‘Making Hillsong Home’. Food is presented on platters by Welcome Lounge team and placed on reserved tables in Welcome Lounge.

‘Welcome to Church’ and ‘Baptism Signup’ cards to be available, as well as CG signup sheets, and other relevant resources (Alpha, Next Steps, Citycare, Age-Groups / Cultural Communities), and plenty of pens.

‘Making Hillsong Home’ signs can also be held up by team members near the entrance to the welcome lounge, and positioned around the party area to make it clear for visitors that they are in the right place.



Snacks are purchased by the Welcome Lounge Oversight and kept in the Welcome Lounge Coffee area (biscuits) and Welcome Lounge fridge (cheeses) – these are labeled for each service. Food purchases are made using the Service Pastors’ budget. A reminder email is sent out to Service Pastors each week (from The Welcome Lounge Oversight) that ‘Making Hillsong Home’ is on and food has been purchased.

TEAM PREPARATION

It is helpful to have key people from each of the next step areas (connect groups, volunteering, Alpha, next steps/evening college/Citycare, translations/cultural communities, baptisms) present or readily available at 'Making Hillsong Home' to help the New People connect successfully into Hillsong.

Team members should personally prepare beforehand to be able to easily answer questions from New People, including topics such as:

- all weekend & Sisterhood service times
- courses offered by Next Steps / Evening College / CityCare (& dates they are running)
- which translation services are provided at each weekend service
- who are the key team from age-groups, cultural groups & next steps team
- complimentary bus services from nearby train stations/transit hubs

4. HOSTING A 'MAKING HILLSONG HOME' PARTY

1) WELCOME & CONNECTIONS

After the service the team member will take the New Person to the Welcome Lounge and sit with them in the reserved area for the 'Making Hillsong Home' afterparty. This is a great opportunity to host and connect with the New Person, helping them get to know others at the afterparty, including other team members. Make sure that the New Person is given a free tea or coffee of their choice from the Welcome Lounge baristas!

2) SERVICE PASTOR

The Service Pastor will welcome all those attending Making Hillsong Home and cover the following:

- 1) Blue Welcome Home Booklet – This covers:
 - Who the Senior Pastors are
 - Senior Pastor's vision for the church
 - A short history of Hillsong
 - What Hillsong believes
 - Finances of Hillsong
 - Salvation
 - Services Hillsong provide
 - Program Information (Kids, Age Groups, Sisterhood, Extension Services)
- 2) Key Team at Campus/Location
 - Campus Pastors
 - Location Pastors
 - Service Pastors for each weekend service held at that location

3) SERVICE PASTOR, KEY TEAM OR NEXT STEPS LEADER

The Service Pastor, Key Team or Next Steps Leader will address the following:

- 3) Next Steps – What will help the individual connect into Hillsong as their home?
 - Connect Groups
 - Volunteering
 - Alpha Course
 - Next Steps / Evening College / CityCare / Hillsong College
 - Translation Services / Cultural Communities
 - Water Baptism

New Christians may then be invited to talk with an Alpha key team member in a separate group within the Welcome Lounge/‘Making Hillsong Home’ area, to help them to transition into the Alpha course as their next step.

5. CONTINUED FOLLOW UP

TEAM MEMBER

Team member to host and connect with the New Person until they are ready to leave. If numbers have not already been exchanged, offer to personally exchange numbers with the person so that they have a personal contact point within church.

Team member to send the New Person a short message during the next week thanking them for their time, and to be ready to connect with them again the following weeks while the New Person finds their place in community at church.

DATA ENTRY & FOLLOW UP

If any ‘Welcome to Church’ and ‘Baptism Signup’ cards have been filled out, as well as if anyone has filled in CG signup sheets, these are to be handed to the data entry team to enter on the church management system.

The relevant midweek follow up team can then give the New Person a call in the next week, and help them to take the next step which they have enquired about, e.g. joining a CG, being baptised.

