



PHASES ONE THROUGH FIVE

THE VALLEY VINEYARD CHURCH

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## MISSION: RESEDA 2009

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# DEDICATED TO JACQUELINE MATCHAM

Jacqueline Matcham graciously opened her home to all night prayer meetings and prayed passionately for both revival in the Church and awakening for those in our city. She is now with the great cloud of witnesses in the Celestial City of our Lord. May her passion spread to your city and to theirs, until the Lord returns for His Church.

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# INTRODUCTION

## NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE

Neighborhood Initiative is the body of Christ at work in the communities where God has placed us to bring about the transformation that comes through the power of His kingdom. Mission: Reseda is the strategic battle plan that our church used to initiate the great task of taking back our city through relationship with the community. We offer Mission: Reseda as a resource for you to use and shape to the unique needs of your city and neighborhoods. May God bless and direct you as you bring in His harvest.

## HOW DID THIS ALL GET STARTED? >>

For years, several pastors and leaders in the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles have prayed weekly for our city, gathering early on Thursday mornings at Lifehouse Church. We longed to see the Lord move in our Valley and to see His name lifted up in our city. To that end, we prayed together, built relationship with one another, and waited until the Lord showed us what to do next.

In that context, the Lord raised up Chaplain Ken Crawford, a 25-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department, to give us His direction. Ken Crawford is a visionary, a man who hears from God and acts. Some years back, he started the San Fernando Valley Faith Coalition and began to gather leaders from various faiths. Many were pastors from local churches here in the Valley. I am not an active leader with the Faith Coalition, but many of my pastor friends are involved with this important organization.

In 2007 Ken initiated what he called Cleanup Los Angeles. I believe the first cleanup was in September of that year. I was asked to join with people from other local churches to participate in a cleanup in the LAPD's Foothill Division, which is located in the northeastern San Fernando Valley. I must admit I was at first reluctant to participate. But, in spite of that reluctance, I joined a team of students from CSUN (California State University at Northridge) led by Kenny Farve, a CSUN Chaplain. We went to Pacoima, where Kenny asked me to lead a team going door-to-door. For someone who didn't even want to participate, I was certainly being thrown on the frontlines! Does God have a sense of humor or what? The following week Ken Crawford included me in a debriefing meeting at a local restaurant. At the meeting we evaluated the cleanup and dreamed a bit together.

About a month later, we spent a Friday evening praying over some criminal hotspots in the city of Mission Hills in preparation for our next cleanup. More churches came on board for the next cleanup and we were able to accomplish a number of projects throughout the Valley. Ken then heard from the Lord that we should start what he was calling Adopt-A-Block. Later we had a couple of meetings with some pastors whom Ken had selected to participate in a pilot program for Adopt-A-Block. Ken began to give us some direction. Prior to our second Adopt-A-Block meeting the Lord began to show me a way to launch Adopt-A-Block for our church.

During this time I was reading *The Externally Focused Church* by Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson, a book I highly recommend. These authors mentioned Tillie Burgin and her work with Mission Arlington. At the Mission Arlington website, I watched a video celebrating Tillie's 20 years of ministry and was extremely moved. I saw that Mission Arlington was engaged in a powerful work of God. Mission Arlington helped to inspire what we are now calling MISSION: RESEDA. God was showing us through them and in a number of other ways that He wanted us to be a part of a local mission in our own neighborhood. This was and is without question His doing. And it has been exciting. Our whole church is having an opportunity to participate in a mission trip together—without the need for airline tickets, passports, or luggage. All we needed to do was show up for a free dinner and an orientation meeting, then follow the Holy Spirit where He led us. The rest of the story is unpacked in this notebook.

Lynn Cory, Associate Pastor  
The Valley Vineyard

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I want to acknowledge the Lord. MISSION: RESEDA is what our Father is doing. He has responded to the prayers of the saints who have appealed to Him to send out laborers into His harvest field. The Lord has provided the most incredible workers who have joined Him in this beautiful work.

There are those special intercessors from the Valley Vineyard who have come before the Lord continually for both MISSION: RESEDA and me. Although I am deeply indebted to them, I hesitate to mention their names here, because they too, know that this is the work of the Lord and prefer to remain anonymous.

I heartily appreciate my dear friends with *In the City for Good* who have labored faithfully in prayer for our city.

I am grateful to those at the Valley Vineyard who have given themselves wholeheartedly to MISSION: RESEDA. This is especially true of Martha Bellamy, Jan Enright, Eva Case, Greg Stanley, Jim Johnson, Sharon Stone, Kenny Farve, Anthony Rodriguez, Roberto and Sharon Muñoz-Flores, Jeff Erickson, Nadine Erickson, Neftali and Deborah Santiago, Mike and Mary Day, and all of the other wonderful people who went outside of the walls of our church to love their neighbors.

I thank the Lord that He raised up Chaplain Ken Crawford for such a time as this, to be a bridge between the Church and the Los Angeles Police Department. I am profoundly indebted to Mary Trahan, Martha Bellamy, Annette Grable, and Nadine Erickson for volunteering long hours to editing MISSION: RESEDA and pouring over all the content to make sure that you, the reader, would understand every nuance of the “mission.”

It was my desire that the MISSION: RESEDA Handbook would be inviting to the reader. Melissa Bumstead, with her outstanding graphic design prowess, went way beyond my expectations. I greatly appreciate her sacrifice and tireless work on this extensive project.

I am indeed grateful to my pastor, Bill Dwyer, for believing that MISSION: RESEDA was a work of God and gave himself completely to this good work. I am blessed by Leroy Chavez, our worship pastor, for encouraging me with this project and helping me in so many ways.

I am most indebted to jo Cory, my dear wife, who has never allowed me to think more highly of myself than I should and has always been there to cheer me on.

Pastor Lynn Cory

## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

“The great advantage of MISSION: RESEDA is that it provides a simple, accessible and powerful way for every Christian to become involved in loving those around them with God-like ‘agape’ love. Deeds of love toward others nearby is exactly the “washing of feet” that Jesus exemplified and told us to do. It recognizes and overcomes the alienation and aloneness that sickens our world and extends right into the heart of our congregations and nearby communities. It puts people first for Christ’s sake, not church first. Discipleship to Christ is for the home, the streets, and the workplace. It is not a particularly religious thing, though specifically religious activities can also benefit from it as they in turn serve real life in our neighbors. MISSION: RESEDA is a primary way in which people of all kinds can “seek the kingdom of God and its kind of goodness” from where they are and as they are. They don’t have to board the plane of religion after it is in the air.”

Dallas Willard  
*USC Philosophy Professor, Author, Speaker*

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“As a pastor I was preoccupied with meeting the pressing needs and demands of my church and became insulated from people outside our congregation. Mission Winnetka motivated me to get out of my office and into the streets of our community. It was a breath of fresh air to interact with our neighbors. I got to share God’s healing love with many as we offered prayer from house to house. This seemed to be a universal result of Mission Winnetka on the members of Hope Chapel. Mission Winnetka got the church excited, because the people felt like they were making a difference. Matthew Barnett says that the secret of the Dream Center is that we get “out of our seats and into the streets.”

Jeff Fisher  
*Pastor of Hope Chapel of the Valley, Winnetka*

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“When we began to do the planning and seriously started to promote the idea it seemed as though an energy began to build. Of course that was the work of the Holy Spirit. I was a bit surprised by the life I was seeing develop. Yes, I shouldn’t have been surprised, but it was a bit amazing. It was as though people were waiting all along for this to happen. People that I never expected started to sign up and others took leadership. I suppose that any hesitation I might have had was centered on, “I can’t do all this planning and organizing.” However, the life this event had seemed to motivate people in a unusual way. There was down-right excitement. Yes, this is labor intensive, but the laborers seemed to come out of the pews in an impressive way. There was a feeling that, “Well of course we should be doing this.” I have never been so proud of our church.

Eric Thomas  
*Pastor of Christ Community Church, Winnetka*

## BEFORE YOU READ FURTHER >>

This document is a tool to help your church become externally focused.

The Lord has blessed the Valley Vineyard with this material and the opportunity to apply it in our community. Now we want to pass it on to you in the hope that the Lord will use it to extend His kingdom in your community through your church or fellowship.

Do not mistake MISSION: RESEDA for a program; it is instead one way to bring God's kingdom into a dark and hurting world. It reflects our unique experience with God in getting us out into our own community. We recommend that you think of our experience as a general guide, not as a set of directions to be followed in every detail. The Lord may lead you to adjust it to suit the place where you are serving and the workers you put at His disposal.

After all, our churches are different from one another and they are located in communities that differ in a variety of ways as well. The Valley Vineyard, for example, has many members who do not live in the area immediately surrounding the church itself. And the community around us is culturally and economically diverse. This may or may not be true of your church and community. Having said this, we also note that some pastors have said they want to work the plan we used. If that is the case for you, please feel free to do so. Our only aim is to bless you in the Body of Christ so that you might bless many others.

Think of MISSION: RESEDA also as something that is alive and growing. We have only seen the beginning of what God has in mind for the community of Reseda and other neighborhoods in our Valley. As we move ahead with this good work, we look forward to the doors the Lord will open for us. We eagerly anticipate what the Father has planned.

MISSION: RESEDA takes up that basic notion of building bridges between the church and the community around it. We are called to serve not only our own congregations or the church as a whole, but the wider community all around us. In order to give them what we have to offer—which is of incalculable worth—we need to know them and be known by them. We need to forge relationship and bonds of trust. We need to demonstrate the kind of life and love available to them in Jesus. We need to serve those in the community around us and put into their hands the tools that we use to live more fully in the Kingdom of God.

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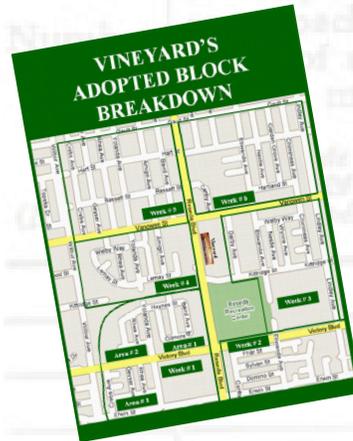
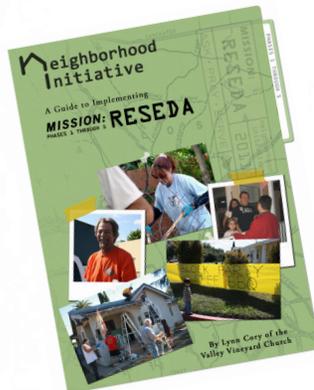


## AN OVERVIEW OF MISSION: RESEDA

### MISSION RESEDA PHASES 1 & 2-

“Adopting a Block”

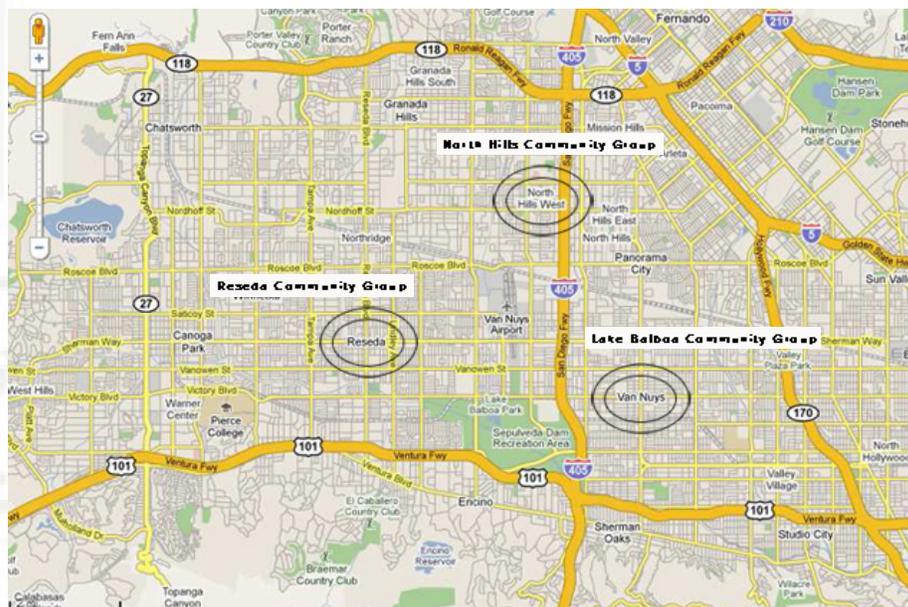
(Immersing the Church in the Community)



### MISSION RESEDA PHASE 4-

“Community Groups”

(Support Groups for Neighborhood Ministry)



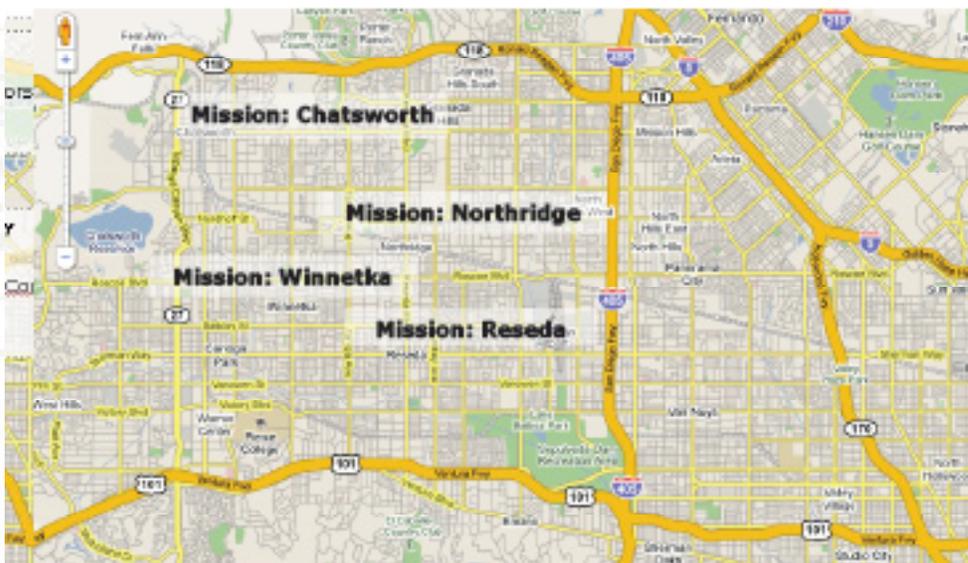
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## MISSION RESEDA PHASE 3- "The Church's New Frontier" (Developing Neighborhood Ministry)



## MISSION RESEDA PHASE 5- "Establishing Missions in Every City"



## SNAPSHOTS OF EACH PHASE >>

*Immersing your congregation in the community at large dispels the fear that many may have of relating to people in the neighborhood. Immersion builds confidence that the love of God can be brought to the person down the street in a natural and nonreligious way.*

### PHASE ONE

*“Adopting a Block - Immersing the Church in the Community”*

Phase One plays an important role not only as it affects your neighbors, but as it affects your congregation. This phase breaks down barriers in your community and alters the negative opinions that many have about the Church. When people begin to see that we can love them without a coercive spirit, they start to see us for who and what we are. They can go beyond expectations based on stereotypes or, in some cases, negative past experiences.

People respond to genuine love in a very positive way. There is a reason that Luke states in Acts 2:47 that there was a favorable response to the church on the part of the community. He writes about the church “...enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (NIV) It was a loving community of believers who positively impacted the lives of those in the city of Jerusalem.

Immersing your congregation in the community at large dispels the fear that many may have of relating to people in the neighborhood. Immersion builds confidence that the love of God can be brought to the person down the street in a natural and nonreligious way.

MISSION: RESEDA begins by adopting a block and inviting your congregation to participate in a six-week outreach in the neighborhood. There are three components to this phase: the Door-to-Door Team, the Acts of Kindness Team and the Intercessory Prayer Team. Door-to-Door Teams approach neighbors at their homes to find out how the church can help in the community. A series of questions is used to gather this information. Neighbors welcome the opportunity to give their input, as you will see in the Multimedia DVD entitled, “MISSION: RESEDA Interviews.”

At the same time, Acts of Kindness Teams are involved in cleaning alleys and other public property in the same neighborhood. The neighbors often expressed how grateful they were that we were beautifying the neighborhood. While Door-to-Door and Acts of Kindness Teams are at work, the Intercessory Prayer Team is covering our work in the field. All three teams work hand in glove to carry out the mission. *(See Phase One for the detailed plan.)*

## SNAPSHOTS OF EACH PHASE >>

### PHASE TWO

#### *“Follow-up - The Transition Phase”*

Phase Two is a transitional phase in which we followed up on those who had a favorable response to what our teams did in the community during Phase One. For example, many neighbors had expressed a desire for Door-to-Door Teams to pray for them, so we wanted to follow up to see how things were going for those who had received prayer. The Acts of Kindness Team cleaned alleys and removed excess vegetation from public property during Phase One and continued that work in Phase Two.

They trimmed trees, cleaned up, and even painted five homes with other community groups. During this time period, the Intercessory Team continued to pray for us and what we were doing in the community. *(See Phase Two for a step-by-step plan to this follow-up.)*

### PHASE THREE

#### *“Developing a Neighborhood Ministry - The New Frontier for the Church”*

Phase Three is the heart of MISSION: RESEDA. During this phase, leadership no longer comes from those outside the neighborhood reaching in, but develops locally. In other words, we move from ministry to a neighborhood to ministry within a neighborhood. People of the sponsoring church who live in the neighborhood take responsibility for organizing and fostering the growth of ministry there. We have now appointed Neighborhood Ministry Coordinators who serve where they live and are establishing what we call “Houses of Light.”

The following direction Jesus gave to His disciples has had a profound impact on how we view

ministry in our community: “Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town.” Matthew 10:11-14 (NIV)

Not only was Jesus speaking to His disciples, He also seemed to be laying out a strategy for His Church for the spread of the Gospel and His kingdom.

Our congregation meets in the San Fernando Valley, home to nearly two million people. Once I asked a class at our church, “If you were a farmer and you were given the responsibility of planting and gathering a harvest out of every area of our valley, how would you go about it?”

The answer was pretty easy. They would break the valley up into smaller sections and assign farmers to each section. Each farmer plants seeds in his field and before long a harvest can be gathered from every field in the valley. Jesus said,

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.” Matthew 9:38 (NIV).

The Lord of the harvest is asking us to work in a section in His harvest field. Picture for a moment the Midwest and its sprawling farmland. What do you find somewhere in or near each field? Don't you generally find a farmer's home so he can give attention to his field? I believe the Lord has so situated His people in homes so we can work in the field He has assigned to us. *(See Phase Three for resources to help those in your congregation establish a ministry in their neighborhoods.)*

## SNAPSHOTS OF EACH PHASE >>

### PHASE FOUR

*“Community Groups - Support Groups for Neighborhood Ministry”*

Geographically-organized community groups are crucial to the strategy behind MISSION: RESEDA. Pastors will find that the ministry begun in a neighborhood will soon stall or even die out without a community support group. These community groups are subsets of a sponsoring church’s membership who live in the area in question. They help to sustain MISSION: RESEDA after it is begun in one neighborhood and help to see it repeated in other neighborhoods in their area.

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the day approaching.” Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

It is in the context of these groups that encouragement, stimulating conversations, and ideas spur us on to love our neighbor as ourselves. We see this kind of community so clearly in the second chapter of Acts.

We are beginning to establish groups in every city in our valley. I am encouraging those in our church to participate in a group close to their home so community can be developed with one another and their neighbors in their neighborhood. *(See Phase Four for resources on establishing Community Groups.)*



## MISSION: RESEDA 2009

### SNAPSHOTS OF EACH PHASE >>

#### PHASE FIVE

*“Establishing Missions in Every City - Passing the Baton”*

Throughout the development of MISSION: RESEDA I never wanted what we started here in our community to stop. Dallas Willard said to me, “If you keep moving forward with what you are doing, then we will see revival and awakening.” On two earlier occasions he said to me very emphatically, “Don’t stop what you are doing.” I often think of these words, not as words from Dallas, but as words of encouragement from God.

In the past two years there have been occasions when I became discouraged and questioned myself and what we were doing. At these times when I wanted to stop, the Lord has been faithful to move me forward again by bringing an encouraging word through someone, or through change occurring in a neighborhood or in a neighbor’s life.

One of the differences between an organic ministry and a program is that organic things take on a life of their own whereas programs are usually dropped after awhile. I have intentionally made MISSION: RESEDA free of charge so it can be accessible to the whole Church and be moved along by the Holy Spirit.

My constant prayer is that it will take root in a city and, like the mustard seed, spread through every neighborhood.

It is my hope that the Lord will put this on the hearts of pastors and leaders to train other pastors in the first phase of MISSION: RESEDA. May God richly bless you as you move out with a mission in your city. *(See Phase Five for a simple step-by-step tool to train other pastors.)*

**CAUTION:** *Please do not attempt to enter into a mission in your city without having intercessors covering you and your church. You will be moving into enemy territory and the last thing Satan wants is for your church to launch beachheads in neighborhoods and then establish outposts. He would prefer that you go to church and keep your people contained in a building.*

## IMPLEMENTING MISSION: RESEDA >>

As mentioned on the Introduction page, “We offer Mission: Reseda as a resource for you to use and shape to the unique needs of your city and neighborhoods.” Mission: Reseda is not a one-size-fits-all approach to neighborhood ministries, but a tool to help churches move out into ministry in their community. Please take the liberty to apply this resource in a way that seems best for your community.

As I see it, there are at least four ways that Mission: Reseda may be implemented by churches (I am sure there will be hybrids). The first two may be initiated by an individual church or fellowship and the second two are for congregations that team together to bring the love of Christ to their city.

### THE SINGLE CONGREGATION APPROACHES

#### 1. THE FIVE PHASE APPROACH OF MISSION: RESEDA

*“A congregation begins by adopting a block around their facility or targeted community before asking those in their congregation to adopt their own neighborhoods.”*

The first approach is the one we followed at the Valley Vineyard and is laid out in this notebook. We started by adopting eight square blocks, which allowed our congregation the opportunity to get out in the community in mass and get our feet wet in neighborhood ministry. The upside of this approach is that it allowed our congregation to feel an esprit de corps with others in our church as we moved out into our community. Our whole church sensed that we were on a mission. Also, it allowed us to have a significant impact on the immediate community surrounding our facility. However, the downside was that many of our people did not catch the greater vision of individuals adopting their own neighborhoods. Much of this was due to not casting this vision up front and also because we are a commuter church and our people are spread over a vast area in the San Fernando Valley. Therefore, it has been a slower process moving the people in our congregation toward the heart of Mission: Reseda, which is in essence, neighborhood ministry. We have since changed the name to the Neighborhood Initiative to get this message out.

If you choose this approach, you will want to start by reading through Phase One and adapt it as it best fits your congregation.

#### 2. ADOPTING INDIVIDUAL NEIGHBORHOODS

*“Casting a vision to those in your congregation to adopt their own neighborhoods as ministry.”*

When I have presented Mission: Reseda to pastors, the following question has come up: “Why can’t we start with adopting neighborhoods (Phase Three) as opposed to adopting a block?” This is a worthy question. It certainly is an option, and I now present it as such in my trainings. However, as I said to one pastor, “The community around your facility will not be impacted if you choose to

## IMPLEMENTING MISSION: RESEDA >>

start with adopting neighborhoods outside of the immediate surroundings of your church's facility." Also, it may be harder to see momentum build as you will when you adopt a block and work together as a church. On the positive side, your people will know from the get go that individual neighborhood ministry is your objective.

In some cases, the neighborhood approach seems to be the best. I have talked with those in the house church movement who look at the *Developing a Neighborhood Ministry* material in Phase Three and find it to be most helpful in becoming more missional within the neighborhoods where they meet and live. Mission Arlington is a perfect example of this approach to neighborhood ministry. You can watch the video entitled Mission Arlington on the adjoining Multimedia DVD or on our website.

If this is your congregation's approach, you will want to start by reading Phase Three, making plans, and casting the vision to your congregation.

### THE MULTI-CHURCH APPROACHES

With pastors gathering all over the country to pray for their cities and the mutual trust and respect that is growing among city pastors, it is becoming more common for pastors to work together toward a common goal (Philippians 1:27; 2:2). It is exciting to see what the Lord is now doing through churches in different cities collectively. One such city is Denver. They are using an approach they call Building Blocks.

#### 3. BUILDING BLOCKS APPROACH

*"Multiple churches in a city cast a vision to those in their congregation to adopt their own neighborhoods and work with others from theirs and other congregations."*

I must say that I am most impressed by what the Lord is doing through the churches in the Denver area. The pastors have met regularly for prayer for their city for some time. In January 2009 a group of pastors came together to dream about what it would look like to join their congregations together and to really make a difference in their communities. The Lord led them to neighborhood ministry. You can hear about their story and so much more on their website, [www.buildingblocks.us](http://www.buildingblocks.us).

Some of the pastors called on me to present what we were doing in the San Fernando Valley with neighborhood ministry. At the time, I saw it as a perfect storm. They were already heading down the road of neighborhood ministry and in January 2011, I presented what I had learned from ministering in some of our local neighborhoods. They gleaned from me and I am still gleaned from them. As my wife said to me at the airport in Denver after our stay, "They already had the meat and you just salted it."

## IMPLEMENTING MISSION: RESEDA >>

The pastors concluded that they had been meeting together for prayer for quite some time and it was time that those from each other's congregations join together in ministry in neighborhoods. So, in the month of May 2011, 43 pastors preached on neighborhood ministry and they challenged individuals in their congregations to sign up at the Building Blocks website to adopt eight homes in their neighborhoods. Hundreds have signed up. The pastors also asked them to join with others who live near them from other congregations to reach out in love to their neighbors. They suggested that they start with a block party. The website does a wonderful job in spelling out their vision.

I look forward to seeing how they progress in this good work. It is hard to see any downsides to what they are doing and I wish the Church at large to take note of what they are doing and follow their lead.

If pastors from your city plan to carry out this approach, you might want to investigate what the pastors are doing in Denver ([www.buildingblocks.us](http://www.buildingblocks.us)) and read through the information in Phase Three and Four.

#### 4. COLLECTIVELY ADOPTING A BLOCK

*"Multiple churches adopting an area of a city as a precursor to adopting their own neighborhoods."*

I am presently making plans to present Mission: Reseda to a collection of pastors in a nearby city. The pastors have been praying together regularly for their city and they have been making plans to introduce and train their people to Adopt-A-Block in their city around what is called the Kingdom Center, a ministry to the homeless. Many congregations invested financially in this good work, but now they are looking to adopt a block around the facility and begin to do a collective work in the immediate neighborhoods surrounding the Kingdom Center facility. It was at about this time that I met the one who is spearheading this new work in the immediate neighborhoods. The two of us hit it off and have a similar vision for neighborhood ministry. We have begun to pray and plan. I am interested to see how this develops for them as a group of churches moving forward with adopting a block and working together toward this common objective. Ideally, they will move beyond the adopted block and this kind of work will spread throughout their whole city.

If pastors from your community desire to target a specific area of your community (Adopt-A-Block), then read through Phase One and glean from the Mission : Reseda plan.

Whatever your approach, it is the objective of Neighborhood Initiative to point people in churches in the direction of neighborhood ministry and to team up with those from other congregations. Through this kind of oneness a harvest can be gathered from every area of our cities. As we work together as one Church in our cities we will see the work of the harvest multiply and grow exponentially.



# PHASE ONE

*“Adopting a Block - Immersing the Church in the Community”*

Post Office of  
**UNITED STATES**  
 OF AMERICA

PLACE OF POSTING  
 (LIEU D'EXPEDITION)

NAME AND  
 ADDRESS (ADRESSE)

Number of Parcels (Nombre)	Description of outer packing, and of any special marks (Nature de l'emballage, etc., et marques spéciales)	Gross weight of each parcel (Poids brut)		CO WE G R A T E
		lb.	oz.	

I hereby declare that the above parcels  
 the parcel are  
 \* (a) exported under the attached license  
 \* (b) exported under a General License  
 \* (c) goods not prohibited to be exported

I further declare that the ultimate destination is  
 Stamp of Office of Posting (Timbre du bureau d'expédition) } NOT  
 \* To Sign  
 \* of :

Impresión digital  
 del dedo pulgar de  
 la mano derecha



Subsectorial Chubut  
 12/24/1998  
 EDIFICADO  
 12" d"

OVERVIEW >>

MISSION: RESEDA began with prayer and purpose. Essentially, the vision was to go out into our church's neighborhood for six weeks to launch Adopt-A-Block and to be a blessing to our neighbors. We wanted to show them the love of Jesus by:

1. building relationships with them, which meant caring about them and coming to know them and their needs,
2. praying with and for them,
3. meeting their needs in whatever ways we could, and
4. helping to cleanup and restore their local physical environment. We would be concerned about the pain and challenges our neighbors faced, but we always brought with us our hope in Jesus. Much of the time, we were simply having fun. We found fellowship, adventure, and joy in doing the Lord's work.

Two of the earliest concrete steps taken in the course of MISSION: RESEDA were deciding where and when it would take place. We chose a specific geographic area in which to do the outreach and set aside the time needed on our church calendar. We allotted time not only for the outreach itself, but also for a variety of steps that were necessary before the outreach could begin.



*Los Angeles Fire Department*

## OVERVIEW >>

### OVERVIEW >>

In the weeks leading up to the outreach, we did detailed planning, selected leaders to head up three different ministries that would be a part of it, held core team meetings, promoted MISSION: RESEDA within the church in a variety of ways, organized a broad base of intercession, and held an orientation dinner and meeting.

During the outreach itself, teams went out into the adopted block on six successive Wednesday evenings, focusing each week on a particular part of the adopted block. We gathered first at the church for worship and prayer. Then we broke up into three ministry groups, each of which carried out a different ministry function: Some went Door-to-Door to meet with the people, some went out to do cleanup and Acts of Kindness, and some dedicated themselves to interceding for the outreach as it was taking place.

At the end of this six-week outreach period, a block party was held to join together and celebrate with our neighbors. The party was held on a Saturday at a local park. Those invited were members of the church, neighbors from the adopted block, members of the police and fire departments, and neighbors who lived near the park. It turned out to be a tremendous success! A few days later, we concluded MISSION: RESEDA with a debriefing meeting to help us do it better next time. Now we'll go into greater detail about what we did and how we did it.

*You can find a brief step-by-step outline of MISSION: RESEDA in the Appendix of this book and also on the Resource DVD, in the folder titled **MISSION: RESEDA Resources > Preparation.***

## PREPARATION >>

### SEEKING THE LORD >>

As we sought the Lord's direction, we were strengthened and encouraged by His Word. These are some of the scriptures that led us outward:

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.” Matthew 5:13 (NIV®)

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV®)

“Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’” Matthew 9:37 & 38 (NIV®)

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19 & 20 (NIV®)

“Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you.” Matthew 10:11-13 (NIV®)

## PREPARATION >> PROMOTION

The vision that gave rise to MISSION: RESEDA came through prayer, meditating on the word, and the Lord's guidance. It clearly led us to go out to bless the people in a given area of our community, to minister the Gospel to them and to demonstrate kingdom life. Since that vision was formed in us and pursued in the community around us, we have seen wonderful things happen. And we know that all the glory belongs to God.

### PREPARATION AND PLANNING >>

Bill Dwyer, our Senior Pastor, identified our church's adopted block—actually an area of about eight square blocks. This was then divided into six neighborhoods, with one of these six being the focus of our Door-to-Door Ministry each week. Neighborhoods were subdivided into two or three areas so that we could better direct our Door-to-Door Teams to a specific set of homes.

Decisions about the territory we would enter were of course made prayerfully. A practical consideration in making some decisions was that we had to have a reasonable expectation that we could cover the area with the people and time available to us. Time was allotted on the church calendar for the six-week outreach for promotion, an orientation prior to the outreach, a block party, and a debriefing meeting after the outreach.

### PROMOTING MISSION: RESEDA >>

The next step was to start promoting MISSION: RESEDA within our church. Promotion took several forms and lasted about four weeks, culminating in an orientation dinner and meeting for people interested in taking part. Here are the steps we took:

- We put up posters around our facility inviting our people to the orientation dinner and meeting.
- An invitation to the orientation was published in the bulletin for three weeks prior to the event.
- The orientation was announced on our church's website.
- For the three Sundays prior to the orientation, a member of



*Lilian and her son James*

*"Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'" Matthew 9:37 & 38 (NIV®)*

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19 & 20 (NIV®)*

## PREPARATION >> CHURCH INVOLVEMENT

*Because the outreach to the adopted block was multi-faceted, we organized it into three components. The Door-to-Door group would go from house to house to meet, talk, and pray with our neighbors.*

*Another group would look at the public areas of the adopted block to determine where work was needed and then to do that work. The third group would focus on intercessory prayer, adding to and deepening the churchwide intercession that had started in advance of going out.*

the congregation spoke from the pulpit to encourage others to be a part of MISSION: RESEDA. In conjunction with this, we showed a DVD of people from our immediate area being interviewed at two nearby restaurants (Melody's and Starbucks).

- The pastors also preached related messages from the pulpit. Their sermon titles were “Why am I in Babylon?,” “Overcoming a Fortress Mentality,” “Why Am I In this World?,” and “The Mandate for the City Church.”

*You can find design templates for promoting MISSION: RESEDA to your church on the Resource DVD, in the folder titled **MISSION: RESEDA Resources > Preparation > Promoting.***

## CHURCHWIDE PRAYER AND FASTING >>

When our church sends out mission teams to different countries, we usually put up a sign-up sheet in the lobby to gather prayer support. Our people sign up and pray for team members before, during, and after their mission trip. Because of this crucial element, we have experienced protection and profound moves of God during the time of preparation and training, during the mission trip itself, and even after our team members return.

In this regard, we treated MISSION: RESEDA like any other mission trip. Once we had begun to promote MISSION: RESEDA to members of our congregation, we solicited churchwide prayer support for it. Our people took this invitation very seriously and were excited to pray for a mission in which everyone could be involved. Along with a sign-up sheet where people could commit to pray, we provided prayer guidelines specifying some of the things that should be prayed for during time alone with the Lord. Note that this churchwide intercession was begun before we began the outreach itself and was in addition to the intercessory ministry group that was part of the outreach.

We also called the church to fast between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Wednesday evenings while the outreach was taking place. We felt the Lord encouraged us to do so based on His example in John 4:32-36.

*You can find design templates for MISSION: RESEDA prayer and fasting on the Resource DVD, in the folder titled **Preparation > Churchwide Prayer.***

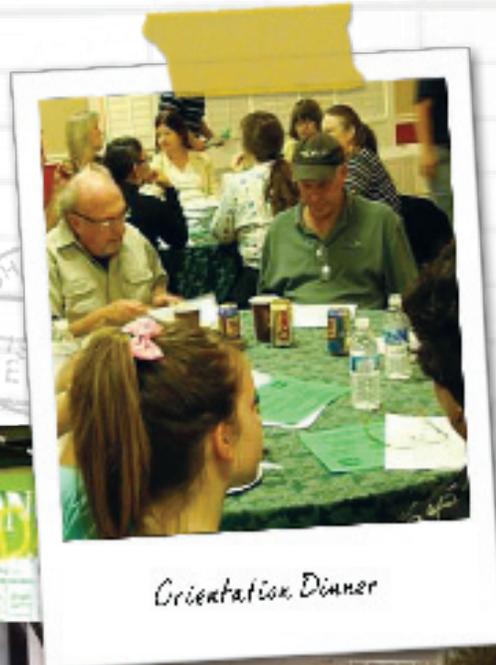
## PREPARATION >> CORE TEAM MEETINGS

### CORE TEAM SELECTION AND MEETINGS >>

Because the outreach to the adopted block was multi-faceted, we organized it into three components. The Door-to-Door group would go from house to house to meet, talk, and pray with our neighbors. Another group would look at the public areas of the adopted block to determine where work was needed and then do that work. The third group would focus on intercessory prayer, adding to and deepening the churchwide intercession that had started in advance of going out. While MISSION: RESEDA was being promoted in the church as a whole, we chose the three core team leaders who would head up these three major ministry components of the outreach.

The selection of leadership was an extremely important decision. Each leader had to have gift-

ing, heart, and passion for the type of work he or she would direct. We thought it essential that they had already demonstrated not only good character, but also an involvement in that type of ministry. With these requirements in mind, we selected Kenny Farve to oversee the Door-to-Door Ministry, Jim Johnson to lead the ministry of cleanup and Acts of Kindness, and Martha Bellamy to lead our intercessory prayer teams who would devote themselves to prayer while the other two ministry groups were on the street in the adopted block. Each of these three leaders



Orientation and information led by LAPD Chaplain Ken C



## PREPARATION >> ORIENTATION

*When a Door-to-Door Team met local residents, they introduced themselves, explained their involvement with the LAPD Adopt-A-Block program, and asked questions from a survey we had prepared.*

*For example, we asked how the Valley Vineyard could help the community and whether the neighbors at this home had any needs for which we could help with or pray for.*



*Prayer Ministry*

then selected an assistant who also had shown previous involvement in their respective types of ministry.

Two core team meetings were held prior to the orientation. The participants in these meetings included a pastor, the core team leaders, and their assistants. The meetings were based on detailed agendas which are available in the quick reference section found later in the handbook.

Core team members were also advised that once the mission was underway, we would meet weekly to talk about our experience in the adopted block, to learn from it, and to adjust our course as needed. These follow-up meetings were held on Friday evenings at 6 p.m.

*You can find more information about the MISSION: RESEDA Core Team Meetings in the Appendix of this handbook.*

### ORIENTATION DINNER & MEETING >>

Our orientation event included a dinner as well as a meeting to describe our plans and generate port. The entire event lasted from 6:30 - 8:45 p.m. The dinner, which was offered free to everyone attending, created a warm atmosphere for fellowship. Lucia Quadri, who heads our Manna food ministry, put together a team to prepare the meal and set up our fellowship hall for dining. Our attendance that evening was about 80-90. Children shared the meal and were then taken to childcare provided by the church.

After the meal, our Worship Pastor, Leroy Chavez, led us in singing worship songs related to our mission. Our Senior Pastor, Bill Dwyer, then opened the meeting with prayer and shared a few words about the importance of being empowered by the Holy Spirit as we go out into the community. Chaplain Ken Crawford of the LAPD inspired us to get outside the walls of the church and also talked about Adopt-A-Block.

Then our Associate Pastor, Lynn Cory, revealed the plan for MISSION: RESEDA using a PowerPoint presentation. The leaders of the three ministry groups (Door-to-Door, Acts of Service, and Intercession) also laid out specific plans for their respective ministries. Kenny Farve, who headed up the Door-to-Door group, had also arranged a lighthearted Door-to-Door role-play which helped to diffuse some of the fears people often have about going door to door.

## IN ACTION >> DOOR-TO-DOOR

Following the presentation, people were asked to sign-up for one of the three ministry groups. We had a sign on the wall for each type of ministry and corresponding sign-up sheets. The majority of those in attendance signed up to take part in MISSION: RESEDA. In general, there was a very positive response to the whole evening.

*You can learn more about the MISSION: RESEDA Orientation in the Appendix of this handbook and on the Resource DVD, in the folder titled MISSION: RESEDA Resources > Preparation > Orientation.*

### CARRYING OUT THE MISSION >>

The actual mission—the outreach to our adopted block—started the Wednesday following the orientation. Today, we would recommend a one evening Door-to-Door training session before sending your people out into the neigh-

borhoods. In fact, that is a change we have adopted. In order to have a three-hour window of sunlight, we selected two “rendezvous” times for the teams, one at 5 p.m. and another at 6:30 p.m. (Note that our church’s outreach in Reseda took place in the spring.) Going out on Saturday morning or afternoon would have given us plenty of daylight, but we believed more people would be at home on a weekday evening.

So what did each ministry group do? How was the outreach conducted? Let’s explore that group by group, beginning with the Door-to-Door Ministry.

### DOOR-TO-DOOR MINISTRY >>

If you’ll recall, our adopted block was divided into six neighborhoods, with each neighborhood



## IN ACTION >> DOOR-TO-DOOR

being the main focus for our Door-to-Door Ministry on one of the six outreach weeks. Our Door-to-Door group approached homes in teams of two or three people. We found that a team of one man and one woman worked best. Teams made up of two men were also workable, but teams of three men seemingly felt threatening to people in the neighborhood.

A Door-to-Door captain was assigned to each neighborhood to direct the teams as to where they should go. To make this more efficient, the captain divided the available teams into three sets. Two sets of teams were sent to two different areas within the neighborhood.

After week one, the third set of teams went back to follow up in the neighborhood covered the previous week. All three sets of teams worked in specific areas of the neighborhood.

To get a better idea of this logistical arrangement, you will want to look at the maps that show how the adopted block was broken down into neighborhoods and how neighborhoods were broken down into areas. Communication was obviously important in an outreach of this sort and we found that cell phones were quite helpful.

When a Door-to-Door Team met local residents, they introduced themselves, explained their involvement with the LAPD Adopt-A-Block program, and asked questions with a survey. The survey cards gave us space to record the responses we received. Some of our questions were:

- How could the Valley Vineyard be of help to the community?
- If you were involved in a church, what would you like the church to be like?
- Do you have any needs where we can help?
- Do you have any needs for which we can pray?
- Are you presently a part of a church? If yes, which church?

We also provided a flyer from our church explaining more about Adopt-A-Block, inviting them to the Adopt-A-Block Party, informing them of the

hours and location of our church, and identifying activities that we offer free to the community, such as our Manna food ministry, Divorce Care classes, and Vacation Bible School. We left an informative handout as well, letting our neighbors know how to contact people in city government about various needs; there was information about who to call for graffiti removal and pothole repair, how to reach their city councilman, how to reach the parks supervisor, and more.

A comment should be made here about taking notes on the survey card. The more thorough the note taking the more helpful it will be when you enter into the next phase of the mission. In the second phase you will go back to the homes of those who welcomed you at the door and responded favorably to the survey questions. Therefore, it is not only important to take good notes, but all of the survey results should be organized and filed in preparation for the next phase.

*You can learn more about the MISSION: RESEDA Door-to-Door Ministry in the Appendix of this handbook and find design templates on the Resource DVD, in the folder titled MISSION: RESEDA Resources > Outreach > Door-to-Door.*

YOUR GROUP NAME  
**AREA X**

### NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY

NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ STREET: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF RESIDENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer's name: \_\_\_\_\_

How could the Valley Vineyard be of help to the community? \_\_\_\_\_

If you were involved in a church, what would you like the church to be like? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any needs that we can help you with? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any needs that we can pray for? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you presently a part of a church? If yes, which church? \_\_\_\_\_

This person is already plugged into a church.

I invited them to the Adopt-A-Block Party.

I left a brochure about the Vineyard with them.

I left a "community services card" with them.

I was able to invite them to church.



## IN ACTION >> CLEANUP & ACTS OF KINDNESS

### CLEANUP & ACTS OF KINDNESS MINISTRY >>

Each Wednesday evening, members of the Cleanup and Acts of Kindness group went out into the same neighborhood being visited by Door-to-Door Teams that week. Their ministry was to make the place safer, cleaner, more attractive, and more positive for the people who live there. During Phase One, they concentrated on abandoned or foreclosed properties and public areas such as alleys, removing debris, and tending to overgrown areas of lawn (such as that outside the fenced areas of homes). Residents being visited by a Door-to-Door Team could potentially see the Cleanup and Acts of Kindness group at work nearby and know that it was part of the same outreach, which lent credibility to our stated purpose of being there to do good.

The group always met first at the church to pray before going out into the neighborhood, knowing that prayer was essential to their endeavor. The group then carpoled to the neighborhood with the necessary equipment.

In connection with their Community Beautification Program, L.A. Public Works provided the group with brooms, rakes, shovels, plastic bags, and other items for cleanup (a sample of Los Angeles' request form is provided for you on the DVD). They asked only that we keep track of how many bags we filled and inform them of this at the end of our six weeks.

The Cleanup and Acts of Kindness group also reported graffiti by calling 311, the Los Angeles Graffiti Hotline. Church members were also encouraged to call 311 when they spotted graffiti. You might want to try contacting the local neighborhood council for your area to see if they have any ongoing efforts in which you could join them.

Such a joint venture reinforces the partnership between the church and compatible governmental or community efforts, such as the partnership between MISSION: RESEDA and the LAPD's Adopt-A-Block.

*You can learn more about the MISSION: RESEDA Cleanup Ministry in the Appendix of this handbook and find design templates on the Resource DVD, in the folder titled **MISSION: RESEDA Resources > Outreach > Acts of Kindness.***

*The six weeks of ministry were then celebrated with a free block party at Reseda Park for our church members, neighbors from our adopted block, neighbors from the area immediately surrounding the park, and participants from the police and fire departments. The church provided a free barbecue, a drum circle, games for all ages, and free bounce houses for the children.*

## IN ACTION >> INTERCESSORY PRAYER TEAMS

### INTERCESSORY MINISTRY >>

Intercession was central to our outreach in many ways. We knew that any success we saw would rely on the Lord's empowering. And we knew that we needed His protection, strength, direction, and grace in every aspect of the outreach.

Still, supplication was not at the heart of our intercessory ministry. Praise was at the heart of it. We wanted to be led by the Holy Spirit and His earliest leading for this group was that praise was to be the foundation. So the intercessory group sang hymns and spiritual songs, spoke out words of adoration and thanksgiving, and gave voice to the many titles that belong to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, such as Father of Compassion, Author of Life, and Breath of the Almighty.

They also prayed Scripture aloud, having prepared 3 x 5 cards with Scripture written on them. And of course, the intercessors also asked

directly and confidently for the things you might imagine—and some that you might not imagine since the Holy Spirit knows what we need even when we can't imagine or understand it.

This description of how the Intercessory Group proceeded refers to the intercessors who stayed at the church to pray while the Door-to-Door and cleanup teams went out to the neighborhood. There were also some intercessors who went out in teams of two to the designated neighborhood to walk and pray there. They prayed unobtrusively, sometimes passing Door-to-Door Teams or Cleanup and Acts of Kindness Teams in the process, being a silent encouragement by their very presence as well as by their prayer covering.

*You can learn more about the MISSION: RESEDA Intercessory Prayer Ministry in Phase Two of this handbook and find design templates on the Resource DVD, in the folder titled **MISSION: RESEDA Resources > Outreach > Intercessory Prayer.***



## IN ACTION >> BLOCK PARTY



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

*Support from the local police*

## THE ADOPT-A-BLOCK PARTY >>

The six weeks of ministry were then celebrated with a free block party at Reseda Park for our church members, neighbors from our adopted block, neighbors from the area immediately surrounding the park, and participants from the police and fire departments. A group of intercessors met to pray for two hours right before the block party. Also our core team met at the park the evening before to pray. We joined hands to praise the Lord and intercede on behalf of our neighbors. The church provided a free barbecue, a drum circle and games for all ages, and free bounce houses for the children. In addition to the food and fun activities, we had two fire trucks and a squad car on hand, not to mention a police helicopter fly over! (Note that we filled out a form in advance to get a park permit.)

The Wednesday evening before the block party, we handed out flyers to all of the neighbors in our adopted block as a last minute reminder. The Saturday morning of the block party, we went out into the immediate neighborhood adjacent to Reseda Park and handed out flyers to everyone we saw on the street and invited them to the party too. We had positive expectations going in, but even we were pleasantly surprised. The party was a wonderful experience, with more than 500 people attending, including people from the Parks and Recreation Department who joined us for the BBQ. In fact, the line for the BBQ was so long we had to go back to the store to buy more hamburgers.

*You can learn more about the MISSION: RESEDA Block Party in Phase Two of this handbook and find design templates on the Resource DVD, in the folder titled **Adopt-A-Block Resources**.*

# REVIEW >> DEBRIEFING

## DEBRIEFING >>

On the Wednesday following the Adopt-A-Block Party, we held a debriefing meeting to gather feedback and suggestions from the participants of the outreach. Those who had participated in MISSION: RESEDA filled out a debriefing form which asked these four questions:

1. How has your experience with MISSION: RESEDA impacted you and future ministry in the community?
2. Overall, how do you believe the community responded to MISSION: RESEDA?
3. What could we have done better with MISSION: RESEDA?
4. What suggestions would you make for Phase Two of MISSION: RESEDA?
5. Comments from the discussion at the meeting were also recorded and organized for later reference.

You can learn more about the MISSION: RESEDA debriefing in the Appendix of this handbook and find design templates on the Resouce DVD , in the folder titled **MISSION: RESEDA Resources > Preparation.**

# QUICK GUIDE TO PHASE ONE

## 1. Overview— Seek the Lord



Six-week mission



- Three Components:
1. Door-to-Door
  2. Acts of Kindness
  3. Intercession

## 2. Preparation

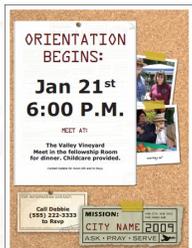


Adopt a block



Prayerfully seek leadership for each component. These people should have experience in and a passion for their area of ministry.

## 3. Promotion— Pastors Preaching Related Messages & Testimonies



Orientation Posters



Bulletin Inserts

### Mission Reseda Interviews



4 min 19 sec - 1 day ago  
 We went out into the streets to interview random people. We asked them about the city of Reseda and what the church should do. The responses were ...  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfNp-WwQzM8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfNp-WwQzM8)

## 4. Churchwide Prayer & Fasting



Churchwide Prayer Support

## 5. Core Team Meetings— Each Core Team Leader had an assistant

We held two core team meetings to prepare for the orientation meeting & the mission.

## QUICK GUIDE TO PHASE ONE

### 6. Orientation Dinner & Meeting



*No need for a passport, packing your bags or an airline ticket, just show up for a free dinner, instructions about the mission and then sign up.*

### 7. Training for the Door-to-Door Team

*(This will soon be available on Youtube and eventually at [missionreseda.com](http://missionreseda.com) as a link.)*

### 8. Carrying Out the Mission

#### Mission Reseda Here We Go



3 min 51 sec - 1 day ago

This clip was shot while each of the three teams, Intercessors, Clean-Up and Door-to-Door, did their thing...simultaneously! This was so much fun and the ...

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrybc088is4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrybc088is4)



*Asked the four questions in the video and handed out Adopt-A-Block flyers to the neighbors. We had many opportunities to pray for the needs of people..*

*We went out for six consecutive Wednesday evenings. We had two rendezvous times: 5:00 and 6:30 pm. We asked everyone to fast from 5:00 and 8:00 pm for the mission..*

### 9. The Adopt-A-Block Party



### 10. Debriefing

*We met the Wednesday evening following the Adopt-A-Block Party to gather feedback and suggestions from the participants of the mission.*





# PHASE TWO

*“Follow-Up - The Transition Phase”*

correct, and that the goods in

TOTAL VALUE

(Value total)

dated

195

dated

195

n the United Kingdom to the place to which the parcel is destined.  
of the goods is

evaluation or failure to give a full description may result in penalties and/or the  
cod and initialed if inapplicable. (closure of the parcel)

(632) W. TY4410 P.I.

## PHASE TWO >>

### WHAT NOW? > >

At the writing of Phase Two, the Lord has now revealed the overall plan for Mission: Reseda. The Lord unfolded Mission: Reseda to me one phase at a time. He kept me trusting and waiting for Him to reveal the next phase. I honestly had no idea where He was going with this when I started. When we completed the first phase I was at a loss as to where He wanted us to go next. I knew He didn't want it to stop, but I was humbled by not having any real direction to give our people. After all, I was the leader of Mission: Reseda, but I didn't know where I was going. Certainly Abraham could relate to this conundrum.

At the close of Phase One we had a debriefing meeting with many of those who participated in the first phase. There was a great deal of excitement and interest as to where we were going next. I asked the four questions stated in Phase One (see page 25) about their experience, the response of the community, what we could have done better, and what they thought we should do next.

Many gave helpful responses to the first three questions. However, their responses to the last question didn't help me know where we were going in the next phase. The answer became very obvious, however, when the Door-to-Door leader Kenny Farve addressed the group and said, "We need to go back out there and follow up with those who responded positively to us. We need to reconnect with them. We need to go back to those we prayed for and find out how they are doing. We need to go back into the neighborhoods and follow through with their requests for help around their homes." Kenny said this with great conviction and everyone was in agreement. I left the meeting humbled, but grateful to know God's plan for Phase Two. We

had our marching orders.

In Phase One we went out for six weeks to learn from those in the community and to ask for their help in adopting a block. In addition, we also cleaned up city property and prayed for the needs of those neighbors who requested prayer. Phase One ended with a block party at a local park. In Phase Two we followed up on those who received us favorably, those who requested our help around their homes & those we had prayed for. During this phase we trimmed trees, cleaned yards, filled two huge dumpsters with trash from our neighbors' homes, and joined with other community groups to landscape and paint five homes.

The painting of the five homes is an amazing story and an example of the Lord's hand in what we are doing in the community. On the very evening we started Mission: Reseda Phase One outreach, a representative from the Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services walked into our facility and asked the senior pastor and me if we would be interested in participating with others in the community to paint five homes. The timing was remarkable, but the location of the five homes was even more so. These homes were right in our adopted block. Approximately one hundred people from the Valley Vineyard participated and the Lord used that activity to open up the hearts of neighbors in our community. They responded to the Lord's love. At the close of Phase Two, an elderly woman named Joanne showed up at one of our church services and sat next to me in the front row. Joanne was one of the neighbors from our adopted block and she asked for permission to tell about her experience with Mission: Reseda.

At first I was somewhat reticent, not knowing what to expect, but I decided to go for it and after stepping up to the pulpit to make the

## PHASE TWO >>

announcements, I introduced Joanne. Though feeling very comfortable in front of everyone, her comments were very moving and humorous. The room was filled with laughter. Joanne mentioned how meaningful our visits to her home were to her. She had experienced a family tragedy the year before and had been processing the grief with a counselor. The counselor had encouraged her to go to church around the time we showed up at her door. Who would have known? Joanne concluded with these words, “What you are doing is working, don’t stop.”

### OVERVIEW >>

We began to plan for Phase Two as we did for Phase One. There are many similarities between these two phases. Because Phase One and Phase Two are so similar organizationally I will give you a summary of the overall plan for Phase Two and highlight the differences between the two. You will also find a Step-by-Step Plan for Phase

Two that you can follow, but keep in mind that the plan follows very similar steps as Phase One. Today we refer to Phase Two as the “follow-up phase.”

We waited for two months before starting Phase Two so that everyone could take a break. During this time period our leadership core stayed connected and we met weekly to evaluate and plan for the next phase. We had the same three ministry components as we did in Phase One, with a leader and an assistant over each ministry. We again promoted the mission, established a broad base of intercession and held an orientation dinner and meeting where we presented the plan for the second phase. This time we included a training session for the door-to-door people (now available on DVD). Once again, we went out into the neighborhoods for six weeks while our intercessors prayed for the mission.



## PHASE TWO >>

*In Phase Two we approached only those neighbors who welcomed us at the door in Phase One.*

*Jesus made it clear to His disciples that they were looking for a “man of peace,” someone who would welcome them and ultimately welcome the message of the Gospel.*

### ACTS OF KINDNESS TEAM

In Phase One our Acts of Kindness teams cleaned up public property or homes that were foreclosed on and were eyesores in the neighborhood. In Phase Two our teams focused on cleaning up around neighbors’ homes, trimming their trees and participated in painting homes. We moved from public property to the homes of those in the community.

During Phase One many of the neighbors requested that work be done in and around their homes. These requests were written down on the Phase One survey form by our Door-to-Door teams and given to our Acts of Kindness leader before we began Phase Two. This allowed him time to organize his part for the second phase. He attempted to work around the homes in the same neighborhoods that our Door-to-Door teams were focusing on that week.

### DOOR-TO-DOOR TEAM

In Phase One our Door-to-Door team attempted to ask the “four questions” listed in Phase One of every neighbor in our adopted block. In Phase Two our questions changed as did those whom we targeted. In Phase Two we approached only those neighbors who welcomed us at the door in Phase One. Jesus made it clear to His disciples that they were looking for a “man of peace,” someone who would welcome them and ultimately welcome the message of the Gospel. However, if a person does not welcome you “you are to wipe the dust of your feet.” During Phase Two our focus was on those who were open to the Lord’s love. The Lord demonstrated this with the Rich Young Ruler. The Scriptures say that Jesus loved him and yet when the young man chose to walk away after Jesus’ request to sell all he had and give to the poor; the Lord did not try to coerce him to follow through with His request. Jesus honored his choice. We, too, wanted to honor people’s choices and targeted those who welcomed us.

The questions in Phase Two also differed. In the first phase the questions are more generic, but when you ask questions in the second phase they are tailored to the experience you have had in the different neighborhoods. For instance, where we participated in painting five houses we included a question that made reference to the painting phrased like this: “We are part of the team

## STEP-BY-STEP PLAN FOR PHASE TWO >>

that recently painted those homes down the street. Did you hear about that? What did you think about what was done?" This question did not pertain to neighborhoods that were some distance from the homes we painted. I would recommend that you come up with a list of questions that work best for each situation.

*You will find some surveys that we used on the Resource DVD. The DVD also includes hand outs used by our Door-to-Door team.*

### STEP-BY-STEP PLAN FOR PHASE TWO PREPARATION:

#### SELECT A LEADERSHIP TEAM

If your leadership team is the same as it was in Phase One, then move forward with the same team. If not, you will need to make sure that you have all the positions filled before you start. Our Door-to-Door person in the first phase was replaced by his assistant and we added a new assistant for him. Also, our Intercessory Prayer Team leader needed to find a new assistant. An administrator was added to help me at the start of Phase Two.

#### CORE MEETINGS

Once you have established your leadership core, set dates for two core group meetings and work through the plan and responsibilities. In these meetings you will once again prepare for the Orientation Dinner and the mission.

*More information is available on the Resource DVD; Mission: Reseda Phase Two Resources > Preparation > Core Meetings.*

#### MISSION AND ORIENTATION DINNER DATES

Selecting the dates & scheduling for your second mission is extremely important for its success. Once again, make sure your church calendar is clear and there are not any significant events competing with your mission. Also, keep in mind the optimum time of the year to carry out your mission. Consider the weather conditions, holidays, graduations, community activities and any other events that will interfere with the mission. Do not delay the start of the mission to the extent that interest and momentum are impeded. Consider, also, that any commitments made by the Acts of Kindness must be honored in a timely manner.

#### INTERCESSION, FASTING, AND PROMOTION

Enlist the whole church in praying and fasting for the Mission and begin promotion. Prayer and fasting are the link to what the Father is doing and the means to draw the necessary resources for what you are about to embark on in the community. You will again want to use the Prayer Support Guideline. *(See Resource DVD; Mission: Reseda Phase Two Resources > Preparation > Intercession, Fasting and Promotion)*

Promotion for Phase Two will begin with promoting your Orientation Dinner. For Phase Two we chose to have a potluck dinner instead of having free food as we did for the first phase. Once again, a team organized the Orientation Dinner.

As you did in Phase One, utilize posters, bulletin inserts, related messages prior to and during the mission, video clips, and personal testimonies to promote your Orientation Dinner and your mission.

*See Resource DVD; Mission: Reseda Phase Two Resources > Preparation > Intercession, Fasting and Promotion.*

## STEP-BY-STEP PLAN FOR PHASE TWO >>

### ADMINISTRATION

The administrator will make certain that the hand outs are available at the Orientation Dinner and the Door-to-Door team has all the paperwork that is needed for the mission. Here are the items that will be needed for the mission:

- The Introduction Card
- The Neighborhood Survey
- The Adopt-A-Block brochure
- The general Adopt-A-Block map
- The maps for the mission on a given week
- Community Resource Card (*Template not available; see sample in Appendix*).

*All of the templates for these hand outs available on the DVD: Mission: Reseda Phase Two Resources> Outreach> Door-to-Door Ministry & Adopt-A-Block Resources> Promotion.*

After each weekly mission the administrator will record all of the neighbors' responses in a data base. Careful and thorough recording of all of the responses is critical for the third phase of the mission. In Phase Three the Neighborhood Ministry Coordinators will use this helpful information to know about their neighbors and how to effectively care for them.

### ORIENTATION

Here is a general overview of our Orientation Dinner that went from 6:30 - 8:45pm:

- Hand outs for the evening
- Potluck dinner.
- Short worship set related to the mission
- PowerPoint presentation of the Phase Two plan. (*Also available on the Resource DVD; Mission: Reseda Phase Two Resources> Preparation> Orientation.*)
- The three team leaders presented their plan (Door-To-Door, Acts of Service &

Intercessory Prayer).

- The people then signed up for the team of their choice.
- We closed with team leaders praying with those who signed up to participate with them in the mission.

### DOOR-TO-DOOR TRAINING

Door-to-Door Training is essential to appropriately connect with your neighbors. We did not have any Door-to-Door training prior to going out into the community in Phase One. However, we learned from our mistakes in the first phase and put together a training session the week following our Phase Two Orientation Dinner. (*This training and the notes are available on the Resource DVD– Reseda Phase Two Resources> Preparation> Door-to-Door Training*)

I recommend that the Door-to-Door training follow the week after your Orientation Dinner and the week before you start your mission.

*You can watch an Orientation Dinner Training on the Resource DVD; Mission: Reseda Phase Two Resources>Preparation>Door-to-Door Training.*

### ACTS OF KINDNESS & INTERCESSORY PRAYER

During the time of the Door-to-Door Training, you may choose to gather the Acts of Kindness and Intercessory Prayer team members separately to plan and pray for the first week of your mission. You may also choose to have both teams join the Door-to-Door training to learn about the training and be available to discuss what the Acts of Kindness team will be doing in the community the next week. The Intercessory Prayer team members will have a better understanding as to how to pray for both teams when they enter into the mission the following week.

## STEP-BY-STEP PLAN FOR PHASE TWO >>

### MISSION PREPARATION

As you did in Phase One, on the day of the Mission and prior to going out, take a short time to worship and pray.

### ASSIGNMENTS

Each team leader informs his/her team members of their assignment for the mission that day.

### EQUIPPING

The Door-To-Door leader provides the following items:

- The Introduction Card
- The Neighborhood Survey
- The Adopt-A-Block brochure
- The general Adopt-A-Block map
- The maps for the mission on a given week
- Community Resource Card (*Template not available, see sample in Appendix*).

*To acquire all of the templates for these hand outs see Resource DVD; Mission: Reseda Phase Two Resources> Outreach> Door-to-Door Ministry & Adopt-A-Block Resources> Mission.*

The Acts of Kindness leader provided the leaders with all of the tools necessary to carry out the cleanup and trimming. The City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works provided our team with all the tools we needed to do this. (*See items in the Appendix*).

The Intercessory Prayer leader provided the team with helpful prayer tools. (*See items in the Appendix*).

### DIRECTIONS

Once the Door-to-Door and the Acts of Kindness team members have their materials or tools that are needed, organize them into groups and send them out to carry out their part of the mission. You will want to organize it so that you are able to accomplish all that you need to in the set time allotted to work in the neighborhood that day.

### SURVEY QUESTIONS

As previously mentioned, it is important that the Door-to-Door people record the neighbor's responses thoroughly following the visit to the home. It worked the best for one team member to do the talking and for the other one to record the information after the visit. We found that some are skilled communicators while others are efficient data collectors.

*The Step-by-Step plan for Phase Two is available on the DVD Resource Disc: Mission: Reseda Phase Two Resources> Step-by-Step Plan.*

# TRANSITION FROM PHASE TWO TO THREE >>

## TRANSITION BETWEEN PHASE TWO AND THREE

### NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY COORDINATOR

The Neighborhood Ministry Coordinators are those who minister in their own neighborhoods during Phase Three. They will live in a given neighborhood in your adopted block and are usually people from your church. Neighborhood Ministry Coordinators will continue to work closely with the original leadership of your adopted block. It is important that the mission administrator pass all information on to these new coordinators such as their neighbors' responses to the survey questions and any service the Acts of Kindness teams provided for their neighbors.

This important transition between Phase Two and Phase Three is what I call "passing the baton." If you are only focused on completing Phase Two then you will miss vital things that will help in Phase Three. Had I to do this over again I would have been a big stickler on thorough recording and giving all the information to the Neighborhood Ministry Coordinator for Phase Three.

# TRANSITION FROM PHASE TWO TO THREE >>

## NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY

In Phase Three, neighborhoods are adopted within your adopted block. We found the best way to segue between Phase Two and Phase Three was to have a significant event for each adopted neighborhood. Block parties were held in the two neighborhoods we adopted. As you move toward the close of Phase Two, begin to plan for one of these events in the neighborhood(s) that you will be involved with in your adopted block. Mission activity in a neighborhood generates a lot of interest and the neighbors welcome a large gathering like a block party or a barbeque. An event provides a way for the neighbors to meet one another and to connect with the Neighborhood Ministry Coordinator.



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***Mike & Mary Day worked with their neighbors to collect over 150 bags of food for the poor during Thanksgiving.***



# PHASE THREE

*“Developing a Neighborhood Ministry-  
The New Frontier for the Church”*

## PHASE THREE >> WHAT IS NEXT?

WHAT IS NEXT? > >

### NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY IN OUR ADOPTED BLOCK

During Phase Two the Lord made it clear where we were going next. In fact, we started Phase Three while we were carrying out Phase Two. If Mission: Reseda was going to continue, it needed to be handed over to church members to carry out in their own neighborhoods. At the time we only had one couple from our church, Neftali and Deborah Santiago, living in our adopted block. If the goal of Phase Three was to adopt neighborhoods within our adopted block, then what were we to do if we only had one couple?

Well, another couple in our church, Jeff and Nadine Erickson, decided to move near our adopted block. They had been missionaries to Oaxaca and felt if they could travel all the way to southern Mexico to serve the Lord they could certainly travel a shorter distance to minister here in Reseda. Their move was strategic and has profoundly impacted people living in what we call “Neighborhood Five.”

### NEIGHBORHOOD FOUR

Neftali and Deborah began ministry in Neighborhood Four where they reside and where God has used them in incredible ways. Nef, as we call him, and Deborah first set geographic boundaries within their adopted neighborhood, targeting 50% of Neighborhood Four. They wanted to be realistic as they began to build a relationship with those in their neighborhood. Deborah regularly walked her two Rottweilers, but now with a new perspective, she began praying for each neighbor as she walked by their home and asked the Lord to open lines of communication. Deborah is a very relational person and bonds began to form as she chatted with neighbors on her walks.

Nef didn't know anyone in his neighborhood prior to this. In fact, as a man of African and Hispanic descent, he felt there might have been some prejudice. However, all of that has changed and various neighbors would now like to elect him as mayor of the neighborhood. Nef once said, “I used to go to our mail box with my shirt off, but I don't feel comfortable doing that anymore.” God not only transforms our neighbors but uses them to impact our lives

*Deborah regularly walked her two Rottweilers, but now with a new perspective, she began praying for each neighbors home and asked the Lord to open lines of communication. Deborah is a very relational person and bonds began to form as she chatted with neighbors on her walks*

## PHASE THREE >> WHAT IS NEXT?

as well. I remember one Sunday for instance, when Nef spent all afternoon and into the evening talking to and caring for his neighbors, looking for ways in which to help them.

As Nef and Deborah were reaching out to their neighbors, our Phase Two Door-to-Door teams were following up with people in Neighborhood Four. Neighbors were being informed that our Acts of Kindness teams would soon be by to assist them in their requests. The neighborhood was a sight to behold as God's kindness spread throughout.

After our Acts of Kindness team trimmed two large mulberry trees hanging over the home of a new neighbor, the man said, "They never treated me this way in Van Nuys." (Van Nuys is a nearby city.) This man went on to say that he couldn't afford to have the trees trimmed because all his savings went into buying a home in this neighborhood. He and his wife were incredibly grateful. Later, the wife told me that she'd shared the story at her job in a family-run business and everyone was surprised by this act of kindness.

Trees were trimmed throughout the neighborhood, large discarded items were hauled away, cars were washed for free, and a fence was built. Meanwhile, Nef had an idea to clean the inside of a neighbor's home while she was on vacation and we assisted him. Upon her return, the neighbor was very thankful.

At this time, there was a mother-daughter team who lived next door to each other in the neighborhood. The mother, Julia, and Deborah shared a passion for dogs and became good friends. The daughter, Carmen, was the neighbor for whom we built the fence. When Julia passed away, Deborah asked me to call Carmen who was looking for a pastor to perform the service. I met with Carmen a few days before

the service and we connected as she talked to me about her mother. The service was very moving and the chapel was packed. Deborah spoke of her friendship with Julia and Nef put together a wonderful video tribute. At the graveside, I presented a clear message of the resurrection to the many gathered who were not believers. After the service, one of the family members came up to me and said, "You have really helped us today."

God has provided many open doors as we reach out to our neighbors. For example, an Ad Hoc River Committee decided to start revitalizing the Los Angeles River, which runs through Nef and Deborah's neighborhood. The river is encased in concrete and is not aesthetically pleasing. We were asked by this committee if some of our church people could be trained to canvass the neighbors about the river revitalization project in their neighborhood. Of course we said, "Yes." This gave us another connection with the neighbors and many were interested in the whole project. The river committee had another request; they asked if they could use our facility for meetings with the neighbors. And again we said, "Yes." On two occasions we had many of our neighbors in our facility and we had the opportunity to connect with many of them.

Hopefully, the neighbors have begun to see us as neighbors and not as church people. Our building is available to serve them as well as us. We have now opened our facility for a foreclosure clinic, and our city councilman is considering it for future community gatherings.

On October 4, 2008, we "officially" started Phase Three with a block party in Nef and Deborah's neighborhood. About 60 neighbors gathered to meet one another and share a hot dog or two while the kids played ping pong. This block party was the beginning of what is now rippling through our valley.



## NEIGHBORHOOD FIVE

Jeff and Nadine Erickson, following some events during December of 2008, (see Phase Four) organized a neighborhood block party. It turned out to be a wonderful event. Our entire Mission: Reseda team met the Ericksons at the Vineyard. We gathered all the items we needed for the block party, prayed, and headed over to their neighborhood. Once we arrived, we all worked together to get everything ready. The block party was held at the home of a neighbor who did not attend the Vineyard. He opened his yard for the event and was very hospitable. Another neighbor provided a bounce house for the kids. All the food was prepared and ready to go. Nadine made her special salsa, neighbors brought other Mexican food dishes and everything was being readied for one mouth-watering south of the border barbeque. Team member Andrew made a large sign promoting the block party and stretched it out on the corner for all to see.

We had done quite a bit of promotion, but no one showed up, and we wondered if all of our work was in vain. Several of us walked through the neighborhood to personally invite people to the barbeque. To our surprise, when we returned we found a large number of neighbors at the event and others arriving. The children were in the bounce house, the adults were enjoying the flank steaks off the barbeque. One local businessman was so impressed with what we were doing that when he left our party he saw a mariachi guitar player walking up the street and he hired him to come and sing. The businessman also saw an ice cream truck and paid the driver to treat all the kids at the party. The barbeque was a great success, even if some of us had our doubts at first.

## PHASE THREE >> THE NEW FRONTIER

In the early days Nadine made a practice of praying through the neighborhood. She would take her four children on stroller rides through the streets and pray for the neighbors. From those early days of prayer, God has done some amazing things in Neighborhood Five. As I am writing this, we are planning yet another block party, but this time all of the immediate neighbors are involved in the planning. This event will be so large that we are getting a permit to block off the street. The excitement is growing with those on our team and those in the neighborhood.



*Block Party*

### NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY COORDINATORS

It was around this time that we decided to establish Neighborhood Ministry Coordinators and Houses of Light. Neighborhood Ministry Coordinators are those in our church who adopt a neighborhood, and Houses of Light represent their homes in their neighborhood. We appointed the Santiagos and the Ericksens as Neighborhood Ministry coordinators.

*You can learn more about Phase Three on the DVD Resource Disc.*

### NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY - THE NEW FRONTIER FOR THE CHURCH

At this time I also realized that adopting a neighborhood needed to be broader than just those in our adopted block. The Lord showed me that what we were doing in our adopted block was to model and inspire others in our

church to adopt their neighborhood. I became very excited about this new revelation. In fact, I began to convey to those in our church that this is where Mission: Reseda was heading. It was leading our church into neighborhood ministry, "The Church's New Frontier."

I began to hear of others in our church who were actively involved in connecting with their neighbors. One couple, Ken and Jenny Jones, walk with 40 of their neighbors on a regular basis. Many of the neighbors' children gather at the Jones' home in October for their annual pumpkin carving event. The Jones' young daughter puts together a neighborhood newspaper and interviews their neighbors. She compiles her findings and distributes her paper each week.

## PHASE THREE >> A STORY

### ONE OF MY NEIGHBORHOOD STORIES

I remember telling Jeff and Nadine Erickson that I couldn't expect them to do what I, myself, was unwilling to do. So I became a Neighborhood Ministry Coordinator in my neighborhood. I began early morning prayer walks past 34 selected homes. I reinhabited my neighborhood emotionally. Over the years my wife, Jo, and I have organized different kinds of activities for our neighbors, but this was the first time I looked at them as my flock. They don't know that they are my flock, but I now care about their well-being and pray for them by name.

Here is one example. It was July 4, 2009, and I was painting some woodwork when I heard a fire truck and ambulance go by our home. The vehicles raced into my cul-de-sac (emphasis on "my" because they are my flock, those that I pray for). I changed quickly out of my old paint clothes and ran up the street. The paramedics were carrying my neighbor, Jim (not his real name), out of the house on a stretcher. I came alongside his wife and comforted her for a moment and offered a one-sentence prayer before they left in the ambulance. In the past, I wouldn't have gotten involved, but now I deeply cared for my neighbors.

A few days later while taking my regular early morning prayer walk, I was surprised to see Jim sitting by his window. He seemed fine and we talked through the window. Jim told me that he had an aneurysm and surgery was scheduled for the following week. That was our last conversation however, because Jim passed away soon after our exchange.

I was very sad about his passing. Jim had been a devout atheist, but had been very sympathetic toward Christians because he felt we were mistreated. He had wanted to create a website called, "Atheists for God." We had many conversations together over the years. Following Jim's passing, I immediately went over to talk to his widow whom I will call Paula. I had performed Jim and Paula's wedding ceremony years ago and now she asked if I would officiate at a celebration of his life. Paula guessed that fifteen people would attend and I offered my home.

My wife handed out invitations to the neighbors a few days before the service. We were pleasantly surprised by all who attended, including family, friends and many from the neighbor-

*At this time I also realized that adopting a neighborhood needed to be broader than just those in our adopted block. The Lord showed me that what we were doing in our adopted block was to model and inspire others in our church to adopt their neighborhood. I became very excited about this new revelation.*

*In fact, I began to convey to those in our church that this is where Mission: Reseda was heading. It was leading our church into neighborhood ministry, "The Church's New Frontier."*

## PHASE THREE >> NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY >>

hood. Our living room was filled to overflowing and there was standing room only in our dining room. All shared memories about Jim and certainly there was a celebration of his life. At the close, I had an opportunity to talk about why funerals and memorial services are significant as recorded in Ecclesiastes 7, and most importantly about the resurrection. It's one thing to share these kinds of things with church people or even people you don't know, but with your neighbors? What a remarkable work of God!

Neighborhood ministry is not new to my wife and me as we have been opening our home for years. We learned a great deal from Francis and Edith Schaefer back in the 1970s. I also learned from the late Dr. Joe Aldrich, my professor and neighborhood mentor, while I was in seminary. Joe would tell wonderful stories about ministry in his Newport Beach neighborhood and his earlier years in an apartment complex while attending Dallas Seminary. In affluent and modest neighborhoods alike, Joe took every opportunity to care for his neighbors. I am grateful to this prince of a man who modeled the love of Jesus to his neighbors. I am indebted to Joe, and the legacy he left in my heart still spurs me on with Mission: Reseda. I hope we all pass on his legacy.

There are others in our church who are now in some way beginning to care for their neighbors and I want to encourage you now to have your own story. May your neighborhood be transformed by the love of Jesus working through you and may the people in your congregation become pioneers of this new work that the Holy Spirit is initiating through His people.

To introduce Phase Three to our congregation I gave a message entitled, "Developing a Neighborhood Ministry: The Church's New Frontier" and handed out a booklet explaining the over-

all plan for Neighborhood Ministry and some simple steps to get started. You will find the content of the booklet below. Interpolate for an apartment complex or another setting. I hope it is a helpful resource for you to adapt to your congregation or ministry.

### DEVELOPING A NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY *"The Church's New Frontier"*

#### INTRODUCTION

Developing a "Neighborhood Ministry" is a process. Remember, "little by little" God's kingdom grows and penetrates the world. The parables of the mustard seed and the yeast help us understand this process. "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches." He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough." Matthew 13:31-33 (NIV) In the same way, ministry in your neighborhood starts with small acts of kindness and service which grows into what God has in mind for it. Like the yeast, it only takes small expressions of love to transform a neighborhood.

### THE OVERALL PLAN FOR NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY

#### GETTING STARTED:

- **Be Intentional.**

Establishing ministry in your neighborhood is more than a good idea or something you are involved with occasionally, but a commitment to "love your neighbor as yourself." There is a marked difference between being a nice neighbor and doing things for them when you have

## PHASE THREE >> NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY

the time and having a deep concern for their welfare and acting on it. Consider how you have taken care of yourself over the years and now love your neighbor in the same manner. It will make a profound change in your neighborhood.

### • **Connect to the Local Church.**

Involvement in ministry always requires coming under authority. It is in this context that God gives favor, direction, protection and blessing to what He wants to do through you. Let your leadership know of your intention to start a ministry in your neighborhood.

### • **Establish A Core Group of Intercessors & Other Support People.**

You are embarking on frontline ministry and the enemy will use everything in his arsenal to impede kingdom movement in your neighborhood. It is essential that you have intercessors to cover and intercede for you as you move out. Don't do it alone, ask others to come alongside of you to pray and help when needed. As the Scriptures teach, "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work." (Ecc. 4:9 NIV)

### • **Establish Your Home as a "House Of Light" in Your Neighborhood.**

Commit your home to the Lord's work to be a light house in the community. You might want to ask respected leaders to pray over your home and neighborhood. Jesus seems to indicate that the home would become the center for ministry in the world. He instructed His disciples, "Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when

you leave that home or town." (Mt.10:11-14 NIV) Throughout the Gospels, the book of Acts and Early Church History we see the home as a strategic place for the spread of the gospel.

### • **Free Up Your Schedule.**

"Over the next six months, begin to free up your calendar. Make a master list of the things you do, and begin to say no to those things that splinter your life and leave you feeling hurried and stressed." These are the same things that will take you away from relationship with your neighbors.

### • **Establish Geographic Boundaries.**

Geographic boundaries can be looked at in two ways. You will want to establish your immediate neighborhood boundary; where you will concentrate your ministry. Generally, this will be in walking distance from your home. The second boundary pertains to where you shop and send your children to school (approximately a one-mile radius). Seek to do as much within this area as possible to build relationships with those in your community.

### • **Take Prayer Walks in Your Neighborhood.**

As you begin to pray, the Lord will burden your heart and speak to you about your neighbors. Meaningful ministry must be grounded in prayer. As you pray and walk, the Lord may open doors to talk with your neighbors; take advantage of these special opportunities to get to know them and build relationship.

### • **Observe What God is doing in Your Neighborhood.**

When it came to ministry Jesus said, "I only do what I see the Father doing." If you take time to observe His activities and join Him, you will find that neighborhood ministry is most exciting.

# PHASE THREE >> BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

*Make it a practice of playing or gardening in your front yard. You might even put some lawn chairs out in the front yard and relax. You will be surprised how people will warm up to you.*

## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Spent More Time in Your Front Yard. Become more visible in your neighborhood. For example, make it a practice of playing and/or gardening in your front yard. You might even put some lawn chairs out in the front yard and relax. You will be surprised how people will warm up to you. We live in a very isolated society, often neighbors do not know each other, so the more time that you spend in your front yard the more you will see them driving or walking by. Smile and wave at those who pass by, even if you don't know them. Take time to talk to walkers and begin to build relationship in natural ways. Take an interest in people and ask them questions. You will find that most people enjoy talking about themselves.

### BECOME A GOOD NEIGHBOR.

- Be friendly to your neighbors.
- Take care of your property.
- Stop by to see your neighbors spontaneously.
- If your dog barks all of the time, come up with a solution.
- Borrow stuff from your neighbor; it gives you a great excuse to see them.
- Here's a great plan, "Do to others what you would have them do to you."

### GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS.

- Identify the names of your neighbors and other important information about them (e.g. children's names, employment, birthdays, etc.).
- Volunteer for organizations like the Heart Association and go door to door asking neighbors if they would like give to this worthy cause. These organizations will provide you with the names of people on your block.
- Become aware of their needs (i.e., house, health, food, driving, etc.) for prayer purposes and to see if your team or the Acts of Kindness team can help.
- You might want to put together a map of your neighborhood with the above information on it to help you remember.

## PHASE THREE >> DEVELOPING MINISTRY

### SPEND TIME WITH A FEW NEIGHBORS.

Begin spending time together with the one to two families you have sought out within your neighborhood. (Remember the “little by little” principle.) Share dinner or dessert together where every family contributes to the meal, thereby making everyone feel a part of the experience. If one person or family supplies all the food it removes the “shared experience.” As neighbors share it spills over into other ways of sharing.

### CONNECT WITH OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS.

Attend your local Neighborhood Watch and/or Council meetings. Those who are a part of these meetings generally have a high value for the neighborhood and are good contacts for connecting you with your neighbors. They will also provide you with a better understanding of your neighborhood.

### FIND A PURPOSE TO BRING ALL THE NEIGHBORS TOGETHER.

- A block party.
- Free Car Wash
- A women’s tea
- A movie night.
- A volleyball or basketball night.
- Organize a Neighborhood Block Watch.
- The need for speed bumps or streetlights.

*See Neighborhood Ministry Resources on page 109 for many more ideas.*

### DEVELOPING MINISTRY:

#### IDENTIFY A MINISTRY CORE.

Begin to pray with your intercessors about a core group of believers for your neighborhood. Locate other believers in your neighborhood and ask if they would like to help with a neighborhood ministry.

#### AGREE ON A COMMON PURPOSE.

Bring the matter to God in prayer, and identify what the Father is doing in your neighborhood. Each neighborhood is different and the way the Lord works in one neighborhood will be much different than in another. However, you will need a “vision,” to be “intentional” and a “method” to participate in the transformation of your neighborhood.

## PHASE THREE >> NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY

### MEET THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

Often the needs of people will help reveal the Father's plan in your neighborhood. Jesus' ministry abounded with meeting the needs of people, as a word of caution, there were times when Jesus would let outstanding needs go unmet. With this in mind, make yourself available to help meet the needs of people in your neighborhood and employ others from the neighborhood. If the task is daunting, ask others from your mission team to help with the need.

### DEVELOP COMMUNITY SERVICE TEAMS.

Find other people in your neighborhood who would like to help build community through acts of service and care. Working together on community service projects deepens relationships and takes the burden off the city's workforce (e.g., working with a community organization, helping with a youth program, cleaning up or painting a local school, mentoring, filling in potholes, etc.).

### START A SMALL GROUP FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

Initially the small group could be started to accommodate a service project. You might come together for a regular potluck (or barbeque) or to cover some material like Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage. The group may segue into a Bible study. Give it time to grow into what the Lord has in mind for it.

### CONNECT WITH A COMMUNITY GROUP.

As Phase Three of Mission: Reseda grows you will transition away from a Single Community Group to multiple Community Groups. These groups will be made up of Neighborhood Ministry Leaders and other believers from the immediate community. Our desire is that these groups will consist of what we find in Acts 2:

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the



## PHASE THREE >> NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY

apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)



### MAKING DISCIPLES:

Ministry in your neighborhood is more than building friendships and doing things for others; it leads to making disciples. Jesus directed His disciples,

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

### FINDING A PERSON OF PEACE.

Making disciples starts with Jesus’ strategy in a neighborhood, finding a “person of peace.”

“When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you.”

Luke 10:5-8 (NIV)

“Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town.” Matthew 10:11-14 (NIV)

As Jesus directed, look for people in your neighborhood who “welcome you.” These are neighbors who seem to like you and there seems to be a special affinity for one another. Jesus says, “He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me.” Luke 10:16 (NIV)

If they like you and listen to you then you have found a person of peace and you are on your way to potentially making a disciple. These are the ones you are searching for in your neighborhood. The person of peace is the key to your neighborhood and the one whom God may use to unlock the ministry of discipleship in your neighborhood. As Jesus said, “Stay at that house.” Once you have found a person of peace devote time to the relationship.

## PHASE THREE >> NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY

You might be thinking, “There are more people in my neighborhood with whom to make contact.” You will have time for that, but your priority will be those who are people of peace. Remember Jesus’ encounter with the woman at the well. Jesus first took the time to make sure that she understood who He was. He patiently and graciously revealed who He was and then she went back and told everyone she knew. She eventually became the link to winning those in the city of Sychar.

I look at it like spot bowling; if you hit the right spot you hit all of the pins. In the same way, finding the right person in your neighborhood may lead to making many disciples on your block.

Making disciples of our neighbors will take place in any one of the following contexts:

### A ONE-ON-ONE RELATIONSHIP.

When the Lord opens a door for the Gospel, show your neighbor the plan of salvation laid out in the New Testament. There are a number of ways to go about this and many tools available on becoming a child of God. Most importantly, you want to be led by the Holy Spirit as He makes Jesus known through you. The advantage of leading your neighbor into a relationship with the Lord is that you have the unique opportunity of following up with someone who lives down the street from you. It would be ideal to read and discuss the book of John or Mark together and show them what it is to be a follower of Christ. There are also many helpful books and DVD resources available.

I highly recommend the ALPHA course as a very effective teaching tool for unbelievers and new believers alike.

### A SMALL GROUP.

This kind of group may start in your home or in a neighbor’s home. Some of your neighbors may express a desire to meet together to learn about the Bible, becoming a Christian, or even such subjects as marriage or parenting. (See “A One-on-One Relationship” above)

### A COMMUNITY GROUP.

This is a home group located reasonably close to your neighborhood. A community group is made up of believers and unbelievers who want to know what it is to be a follower of Jesus.

If your neighbor desires a better understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, this is an ideal group setting. When you invite your neighbor, assist in the transition as they join in being sensitive as the context could be threatening for a new person.

### A LOCAL CHURCH.

You might invite your neighbor to your church and he/she might feel very much at home with your fellowship. Local participation is good because you can help them connect with the people. However, you might find that directing them to another congregation is a better choice.

Churches and people are all very different and what your neighbor is looking for may be different than your needs. For example, you might travel some distance to church but your neighbor may want to attend a local church. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s leading.

## PHASE THREE >> NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY

### SOME SIMPLE STEPS TO START A NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY

- Seek the Lord's Direction. Is it what the Father is doing?
- If married, is your spouse whole heartedly on board with neighborhood ministry?
- If the answers to the above questions are yes, then inform the leadership of Mission: Reseda.
- Ask 2-3 intercessors to support you in prayer as you minister in your neighborhood.
- Pray that the Lord will show you what neighborhood geographic boundaries to establish.
- Get to know the names of your neighbors; addressing both adults and children by name
- Take prayer walks in your neighborhood and/or pray over a street map.
- Spend time in your front yard.
- Stop by your neighbor's home spontaneously to say "hello" or ask to borrow something.
- As the Lord leads you, focus on two or three neighbors that you would like to get to know and invite them over for dinner or dessert.
- Identify other believers in your neighborhood.
- Look for neighborhood needs and try to meet them if possible.
- Think of fun activities to do with your neighbors such as having a block party.



# PHASE FOUR

*“ Community Groups- Support Groups  
for Neighborhood Ministry ”*

## PHASE FOUR >> COMMUNITY GROUPS >>

*The neighbor was pointing out the lack of community in our city. It is our hope that we will build this kind of community one neighborhood at a time. With community, there is growing trust, and with that growing trust, there is a greater opportunity to share the love of God.*

### WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The Lord used us to launch beachheads (Neighborhood Ministries) in a couple of neighborhoods in our adopted block. It soon became apparent that we needed to provide a support group for the work. Without the support there would not be the ongoing encouragement, stimulation and prayer to sustain this fruitful work in these neighborhoods. Again, I wasn't certain where we were going or what the Lord had in mind, but I knew we needed each other and the Lord's direction. I recently said to some pastors, who are starting two other missions here in our valley, "I wish I was where you are now. It would be great to start all over and know where I was going." I guess this is the nature of birthing something new.

### RESEDA COMMUNITY GROUP

At first, we only had one group, the Reseda Community Group, made up of those dear friends who started Mission: Reseda with me. The group is now led by our Door-to-Door team leader Anthony Rodriguez from Phase two. Anthony continues to give direction to the group and ministry in our adopted block. Jim Johnson is still involved with Acts of Kindness. Martha Bellamy continues faithfully interceding for Mission: Reseda along with her dear friend Jan Enright. This group supports the work going on in two of the neighborhoods in our adopted block.

We didn't have a home to meet at in our adopted block so for a time we met at Roberto and Sharon Munoz-Flores' home. It was some distance from our adopted block. Later we decided to move back into the neighborhood and meet in our church facility. We would prefer to meet in a home, but until the Lord opens a door we are grateful that we have a place to meet nearby.

As a group we began to think and pray about what God wanted us to do in the neighborhoods. Jeff Erickson came up with an idea that everyone got excited about. It was in the fall of 2008, and Christmas was approaching. Jeff suggested that we hang Christmas lights for free in the neighborhood. Someone asked, "What if they don't have Christmas lights?" Jeff said, "We will provide them." Nadine, Jeff's wife, put together a flyer asking those in the church if they would like to help us, and another flyer letting those in the neighborhood know of our intentions to

## PHASE FOUR >> COMMUNITY GROUPS >>

hang lights. It turned out there were many in the neighborhood who wanted our services. Jeff is a real likeable guy and it was fun to watch the way he related with all of the neighbors. After we hung lights on someone's home he would say, "Come on and help us hang lights on your neighbor's home." Before long we had a group of neighbors joining us and it gave us an opportunity to connect with them. We began to see the seeds of community being planted. We have done this now for two years and trust is building with our neighbors as they are getting to know us.

Another tradition we've done for two years is Christmas caroling in the neighborhood. The first year we caroled I was thrilled when neighbors Domingo, Juan, and Juan's daughter and grandson joined the group. Our youth group showed up en masse and there was excitement in the air as our group swelled to about 100 people. Our most recent caroling involved even more neighbors than last year, the youth group, and families from church. We ended with hot beverages and cookies at Juan's home. One neighbor had moved to Reseda from another country and said, "I have never experienced anything like this in this neighborhood. Back home we would get together with our neighbors all the time, but I have never seen it here." This neighbor was pointing out the lack of community in our city. It is our hope that we will build this kind of community one neighborhood at a time. With community there is growing trust, and with that growing trust there is a greater opportunity to share the love of God.

The Ericksons told our team that they would have to move to another city in the Valley, which at the time was very disappointing for me. Jeff would say to me from time to time, "Domingo would make a good new Neighborhood Ministry Coordinator." (By this time

Domingo was attending our group meetings.) I remember thinking that Domingo was too new to the faith, but as it worked out, Jeff was right; Domingo was the perfect fit for this position. At one of our group meetings I spontaneously said, "Domingo is operating as a Neighborhood Ministry Coordinator in his neighborhood, let's lay hands on him and pray for him." Together we acknowledged what the Lord was doing in and through Domingo in his neighborhood. This was unquestionably the Lord's desire.

As Jesus said, "Find a worthy person" and we did. Domingo prays regularly through his neighborhood and he is continually connecting with his neighbors. He looks to meet their needs and takes every opportunity to share the Gospel. He has been a constant encouragement to me. We continue to carry on events in his neighborhood, like free car washes and block parties, but Domingo's personal contacts have opened doors to people wanting to know the Lord.

Domingo, Anthony and I now meet weekly at the local Starbucks with three neighbors to talk about the things of the Lord. Our times together are filled with a lot of laughter and learning. We have given them Bibles and we are slowly talking our way through the book of John. As we meet I find myself thinking, "This is as good as it gets," doing what Jesus asked us to do, making disciples, baptizing them and teaching them to obey everything Jesus commanded them to do. (As I am writing this I am looking forward to Domingo's baptism in our pool on Easter Sunday.)

### COMMUNITY GROUP CONCEPT

After a time, the Lord made it clear that we were to have community groups in different cities

## PHASE FOUR >> COMMUNITY GROUPS >>

in the San Fernando Valley. It was amazing how this came about. We have a family library at our church. Jacquelyn Mendoza, the lady who runs our library, just so happened to put a book in my mail box with a note that said, "I thought you might be interested in reading this." I have no idea why she felt that I might be interested, but it was a gift from God. The name of the book is *Making Room for Life* by Randy Frazee. As I began to read it, I found myself captivated by every thought. One thing that stood out to me "...is that we move beyond commuting to small group events in search of contrived community to living in a circle of relationships with the people nearby --- the place where community can happen."

### NORTH HILLS COMMUNITY GROUP

I knew that we needed community groups in different cities in our valley but wondered who in our church would be willing to open their home and invite people in. Initially that thought discouraged me but, while having coffee with one of our Vineyard leaders, Mike Day, the Lord nudged me to talk to Mike about a community group. He had just started a small group and welcomed the idea immediately.

God is using Mike to have a profound impact on his neighborhood. One neighbor said, "I have lived in this neighborhood for 33 years and I have met more neighbors in these last two months than I have in all the years I have lived here." Mike has initiated many things to encourage community. He has a year-round garden on the side of his driveway and believe me, you have never seen a more prolific garden. When the garden is ready for harvesting, Mike takes his ripe produce and goes up and down the street sharing with his neighbors. His garden has become the center of attention for neighbors walking by.



## PHASE FOUR >> COMMUNITY GROUPS >>

Mike's community group held a free car wash in his neighborhood. After the first car wash, the neighbor across the street asked if he could host the next one, which he did. Neighbors are now asking if they, too, can host a car wash.

The community group meets once a week and those participating live close to Mike's home. Once a quarter they have what Mike calls an "Agape," where community group members and neighbors join together for dinner. Everyone brings a dish and the food is always plentiful. Others from the neighborhood are now asking if they can host a meal as well.

### LAKE BALBOA COMMUNITY GROUP

Julie Herzog has started the third community group in the Lake Balboa area of the Valley. The group is taking time to get to know one another and is making plans to do similar ministry in the community. I look forward to what the Lord will produce under Julie's leadership.

Note: Currently I am talking with some people in our church about starting a fourth community group that will target yet another neighborhood in our valley. Like the parable of the mustard seed, the process is little by little for us.

### INTRODUCING COMMUNITY GROUPS

As I see it today, there are three different ways to introduce community groups into your church. I am sure there are more, but here are the approaches that I have seen work within congregations:

#### 1. THE COMPLETE OVERHAUL APPROACH

Randy Frazee took this approach with Pantego Bible Church in Fort Worth, Texas. His congregation, by American church standards, was quite successful, a very large congregation with an extremely successful small group ministry. While Frazee was away with his leadership on a retreat, the leaders expressed their dissatisfaction, much to his surprise, with the small group ministry. As he listened to their concerns about the small groups in their church, he began to realize that there was in fact something missing with them. There wasn't true community, but a "contrived community." Frazee scrapped the small group ministry and started all over with community-based small groups. During that time he also shut down all the weekly meetings in their building to eliminate



*Community*

## PHASE FOUR >> COMMUNITY GROUPS

competition and to give priority to the community groups. This daring decision promoted community among the people in his church and fostered relationships with those outside the church. They moved away from an inwardly focused church to an externally focused one.

The Complete Overhaul Approach is for the courageous senior pastor who is led by the Lord to move in this direction. It sounds like the congregation was ready for this, and Frazee's decision seemed in line with most of the people's wishes. I believe it would be a tragic mistake to force this on people if it were not their desire.

### 2. THE SEGUE APPROACH

This is the approach I am taking at the Valley Vineyard. As the associate pastor, I am not in the position to close down small groups and stop midweek activities in our facility. I don't think it would even be a wise move. However, because I am in charge of small groups, I have chosen to slowly introduce the community-based small groups to our church and allow the leading of the Lord to see it become a reality with our fellowship. I have already shared a bit of our story to help you understand this process.

It seems that this approach may be the most common, but it does have its setbacks. You will find that as you introduce community groups there will be other events in your church that will vie for your time and can potentially hinder the process of building community.

### 3. THE MISSIONAL HOUSE CHURCH APPROACH

In *The Externally Focused Church* by Rick Rusaw and Eric Swanson, they talk about the house-church movement Mission Arlington. "A

remarkable woman named Tillie Burgin started Mission Arlington. For several years Tillie had served as a missionary in Korea but eventually found herself in Arlington, Texas, working as a school administrator. In 1986 Tillie saw the needs around her and asked herself, "Why can't we treat Arlington as mission field?" And so she did. Her mission was simple: to take the church to the people who were not going to church, 'to hang out and hover around John 3:16.'"

Mission Arlington now has over 250 community house churches with over 4,000 members serving the community of Arlington. Rather than establish a mission in another country, Tillie chose to launch this mission in Texas under the covering of Arlington First Baptist. This work is a remarkable move of God that He is blessing and He is using to bless the community. In the Multimedia DVD, you will find an inspiring video of Mission Arlington. It celebrates Tillie's 20 years of ministry and her work in the community.

People in your church who already have a value for missions would begin to start a mission in your city. I highly recommend that you get in touch with those at Mission Arlington and research what they are doing. They welcome volunteers to join them in their work and to learn from them firsthand.

Although this approach seems like a very reasonable one, there are obstacles as well. For instance, the existence of a mission's ministry in your church is crucial. If your mission's organization leaders have the gift of administration but don't have a passion and gifting to develop a local mission in your community, this too presents an obstacle.

These three approaches are offered to help you

## PHASE FOUR >> COMMUNITY GROUPS

consider the best one for your congregation. Needless to say, anything new may be met with opposition. Remember, be wise and gentle as you begin to introduce community based ministry. Look for those who have a heart for this new ministry in the community; they will be essential as you move forward. Most importantly, intercessory prayer and fasting are extremely important, because you are now planning to establish outposts in enemy territory.

### DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SMALL GROUPS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

#### **Inward vs. Outward Focus**

Before you start community groups it is important to understand their makeup. Generally, small groups are designed with the believer in mind. Often there is a time for worship/singing, prayer, Bible study, praying for one another and possibly for social events. For the most part these groups exist to edify the believer and to worship God. Community groups, however, include what you experience in a small group, but add a very important component: bringing the kingdom of God into local neighborhoods.

#### **Geographically-Based vs. Church Groups**

Small home groups are typically comprised without regard for geographic location. With community groups there is much consideration given to geography for two reasons:

It builds more meaningful community for church members who live close to one another.

It builds community with neighbors who are not a part of our church (believers and unbelievers).

I am reminded of what the Apostle Paul said when he was in Athens: “From one man he (God) made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him” Acts 17:26-27 (NIV)

#### **Community vs. Church-Centered Ministry**

This will be a paradigm shift for most church people. We tend to see the church facility as the center for ministry. However, Jesus told His disciples to “go and make disciples” (Matthew 28:19 NIV) and while He was going through towns and villages He saw the people harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

*These three approaches are offered to help you consider the best one for your congregation. Needless to say, anything new may be met with opposition. Remember, be wise and gentle as you begin to introduce community-based ministry. Look for those who have a heart for this new ministry in the community; they will be essential as you move forward.*

*Most importantly, intercessory prayer and fasting are extremely important, because you are now planning to establish outposts in enemy territory.*

## PHASE FOUR >> COMMUNITY GROUPS

He told His disciples, “Ask the Lord of the harvest...to send out workers into His harvest field” (Matthew 9:38 NIV), to care for those in the city. Whenever we meet a Christian for the first time, our natural tendency is to ask, “Which church do you go to?” Should we not be asking, “What harvest field are you working in?” We are a part of a “movement,” the kingdom of God, which is spreading throughout the world, not a part of something that is concerned about church attendance. Community groups focus ministry in the neighborhoods where people live.

### Neighbors vs. Church Friends

When I was a new believer I attended a student orientation gathering at a Christian college where one of the students mentioned that all of his friends were Christians. I remember thinking, “I only have a few Christian friends.” Since then my circle of friends has grown to include mostly believers. However, as I have become involved in community groups my world has broadened, once again, to include those outside our church. In Matthew 11:19 (NIV) these accusations were made of Jesus: ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and “sinners.”’ I pray that I am accused of the same.

### COMMUNITY GROUP MAKEUP

These groups will vary in makeup as do small groups, but they will always include relationship building and service to those in the neighborhood. Group meetings include neighbors in a potluck, barbecue or carwash from time-to-time or on a regular basis. Some in your community group may be uncomfortable with the neighbors, but the life that they bring to the party is contagious.

### LEADERSHIP FOR COMMUNITY GROUP MINISTRY

Up until now I have received counsel from those who have shared my vision for Mission: Reseda as it was evolving, but now I am establishing a team of leaders from the community groups who will help me in multiplying groups throughout our valley. These leaders will assist me in sharing God’s vision, finding and discipling new community group leaders, developing new host homes, and encouraging new Neighborhood Ministry Coordinators.



***CAUTION: Vision and leadership alone do not move this kind of work along in the community, but only as the Holy Spirit moves it forward in His time, in His way and by His power. I remember a dream I once had when we were in Phase Three. I was riding a bike up a very steep mountain and on the back was my wife Jo and behind her was Martha Bellamy. Martha is our lead intercessor for Mission: Reseda. As I pedaled up the hill I was avoiding every crack and obstacle and when I got to the summit we began to fly down the other side. I realized that the Lord was emphasizing to me that this will all come about as we intercede to have His vision birthed in communities all over our valley.***

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# PHASE FIVE

*“ Establishing Missions in Every City- Passing the Baton ”*

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## PHASE FIVE >>

### WHERE IS ALL OF THIS GOING?

In Phase Five Mission: Reseda is passed on to other churches. “The baton is passed.” Pastors and leaders are presented the Overall Strategy for Mission: Reseda and trained so they may adopt a block and begin Phase One. I have presented the Strategy for Mission: Reseda to approximately 100 pastors. They have been enthusiastic in their response and they come from diverse church backgrounds. As I reflect, there have been Anglican, Lutheran, Congregational, Baptist, Four Square, Calvary Chapel, Hope Chapel, Presbyterian, Vineyard, Catholic, independent and more. For the most part, I have presented to large gatherings although my original intent was to train pastors and leaders on a more personal basis. I am grateful to Chaplain Ken Crawford for encouraging me to put together this training so that it is available to you. Now it is possible for me to present the Strategy for Mission: Reseda (The Five Phase Approach) in large groups and also train pastors and leaders to adopt a block and introduce their congregation to Phase One.

The Lord took this even a step further. With the presentation of the Strategy for Mission: Reseda and the training now available, it is possible for pastors and leaders to train others. I have found that God wants Mission: Reseda to grow exponentially. Like the Mustard Seed Parable, it may start small and grow slowly at first, but has the potential to move rapidly from city to city and penetrate neighborhood after neighborhood. Projecting can be very exciting, but this will all



come through the leading of the Holy Spirit and a lot of hard work on the part of the Lord's Church. I am reminded of what Paul said in 2 Timothy 2:6, “The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops.” (NIV) Yes, there is hard work involved, but to receive the reward which comes from the crops is by far one of the most amazing experiences in life.

Not only have I experienced incredible joy from those who have come to Christ, but to share in this ministry with like-hearted, fellow brothers and sisters in the Gospel is an indescribable gift. To pass this on to pastors and to hear their responses blesses me beyond words.

A few months back, Pastor Eric Thomas from a nearby church asked if I would introduce Mission: Reseda to his congregation. I presented a message entitled, “Overcoming a Fortress Mentality.” Joining me briefly at the pulpit was Domingo Cabral, who shared his moving story.

## PHASE FIVE >> PASTOR TRAINING PHASE ONE >>

I could feel the excitement in the air that morning and I sensed the Lord's blessing and favor upon these people who were about to embark on their neighborhood mission.

Before I spoke I looked around the sanctuary, glanced at the posters, saw the flyer in the bulletin and I realized that nothing said "Mission: Reseda." Everything was printed with "Mission: Winnetka" as the Lord would have it. As the baton is passed, another city is emphasized while the previous one remains a city that the Lord is working in through His Church. After all, He is "the Lord of the Harvest."

As I write this, two more local churches will have "feet on the ground," as one pastor phrased it, in less than six weeks. One of the congregations wants to adopt two blocks and the other one block. Also, leaders from four congregations are making plans to partner together and to adopt blocks in the areas where their congregations meet for worship. How rewarding to watch what the Lord is doing! I am grateful to join my Father in what He is doing and invite you to join Him, too. Please consider training other pastors and leaders once you have established a good work in your city.

***The Resource DVD contains the presentation that I used for the Overall Strategy for Mission: Reseda. See Mission: Reseda Phase Five> Presentation> Overall Strategy for Mission: Reseda.***

In the following section are the detailed instructions used for training Pastors and Leaders in Phase One.

***Phase One training also available on . See Mission: Reseda Phase Five> Mission Reseda Phase One Training>***

*How rewarding to watch what the Lord is doing! I am grateful to join my Father in what He is doing and invite you to join Him, too. Please consider training other pastors and leaders once you have established a good work in your city.*

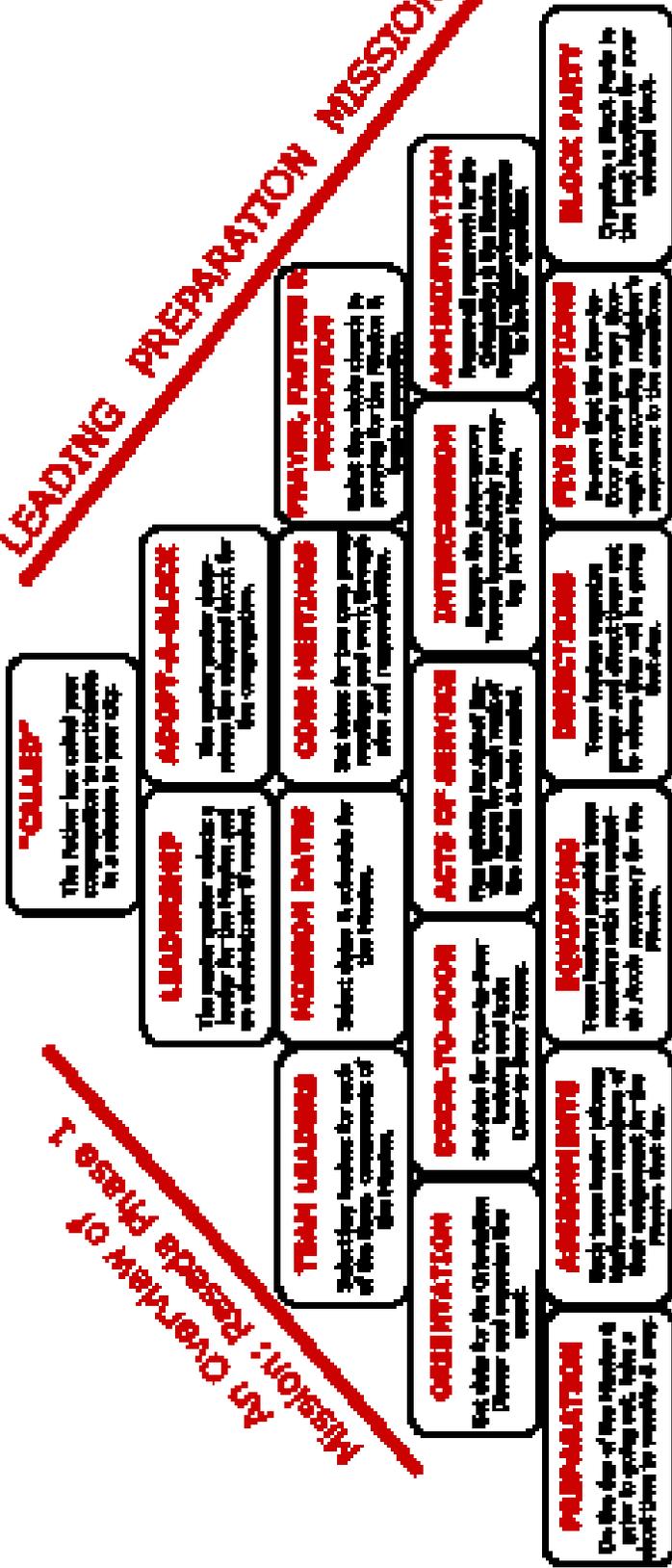
# MISSION:

(CITY NAME HERE)



## LEADING PREPARATION MISSION

## AN OVERLAY OF MISSION: RESEDA PHASE 1





# MISSION RESEDA PHASE 1 TRAINING



## **LEADING**

### **1. "CALLED"**

The Father has called your congregation to participate in a Mission in your city.



**Mission: Reseda started as a work of God and I want to encourage pastors and leaders to move forward with your mission if you have a sense that the Lord is leading your congregation to minister in your neighborhoods.**

**Jesus made the following statements about His mission:**

**Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am workin"... "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does." (John 5:17, 19 (NIV))**

**Moving out into the neighborhood is participating in an advance of God's Kingdom. You will experience spiritual warfare. It is important that you enter into this work with the Father, as Jesus did. Our team leaders especially have encountered great opposition to what we are doing in Reseda, but we have not given up because we know we are participating in what the Father is doing.**

**The Apostle Paul says in Philippians 2.13, "for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure" (NASB). Paul points out that if we are going to participate in God's good pleasure it requires His willing and enabling. His "willing" does not mean that it will be particularly easy, but it does mean that He is calling your congregation into this work and will give you the grace to follow through with the mission.**

**We have been amazed time and again at the supernatural things that have taken place during our Mission. There are many stories that continue to convince us that God is at work with what we are doing in the neighborhood.**

**You may believe that you are called to this Mission, but you may feel inadequate for one reason or another. If you have experienced the Lord's call, may the Spirit of God lead you as you minister in your city. Remember, the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the LORD Almighty." Zech. 4:6 (NIV)**



## PREPARATION

### 2. LEADERSHIP

The Senior Pastor selects a leader for the Mission and an administrator if needed.



Generally the mission will be carried out by a faithful and able staff person or church leader and not the Senior Pastor. However, there will be exceptions where a Senior Pastor, out of necessity or desire, may choose to take the lead. It is best to pray and seek the Lord's will with this choice.

If the Senior Pastor chooses to select a staff person or church leader for this position he should look for a person with the following qualifications:

- A recognized and respected leader in your church with good people skills
- One who has a passion for reaching neighborhoods and believes in the three components of Mission: Reseda  
1) Intercessory Prayer 2) Acts of Service 3) Door to Door Ministries
- A visionary who can see what is required for the mission and will stay the course and bring others along with him/her
- A leader who knows how to pick other leaders to help him/her fulfill the mission
- Good communication and gathering skills
- A good administrator or one who is able to handpick an administrator who will work with him/her throughout the mission
- One who can oversee the overall mission and direct the leaders under him/her to carry out their part of the mission
- A person who is objective, can endure hardship, and can field questions and concerns without feeling threatened

The Senior Pastor should work with the leader of the mission, but not overly manage what he/she is doing.



### 3. ADOPT-A-BLOCK

The Senior Pastor determines the adopted block for the congregation.

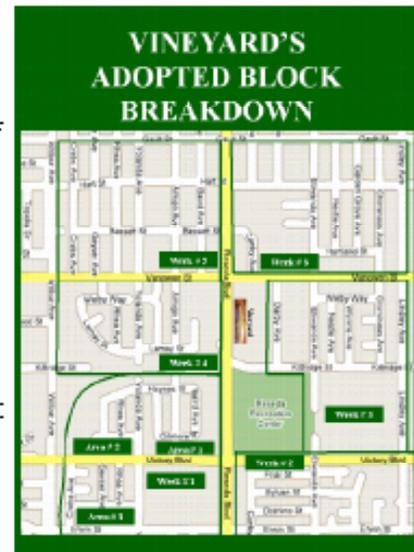
Selecting the block to be adopted should ultimately rest with the Senior Pastor. When the pastor selects the block it helps the congregation know that this is a churchwide effort. Our Senior Pastor promoted it and was very active in going door-to-door and meeting the neighbors around our facility. When I thanked him for his full participation he said to me, "It was fun and this is what Jesus would have done. I can't believe it has taken me this long to do it."

Our Senior Pastor selected six square blocks around our facility. We then broke our block down into six neighborhoods and each week of the mission we connected with one of the six neighborhoods.

Selecting a block includes different variables. Some may choose to do what we did. Adopt a block around your facility. However, your facility may be in an industrial complex and adopting a block around your facility would not be feasible. Therefore, you may select a block in close proximity to your facility.

One of the downsides of adopting a block around your facility might be that none of the people in your congregation live in your adopted block. This is important when you move into Phase 3, because you will want to establish "Neighborhood Ministry Coordinators" from your church when you move into Phase 3. We only had two families living in our adopted block. It might be good to consider this when selecting your block. The more people from your congregation in your adopted block the more people there are to carry on the work when you move away from top down leadership in a neighborhood.

It is highly recommended that you take this matter to prayer and seek the Lord's direction.





#### 4. TEAM LEADERS

Select key leaders for each of the three components of the Mission.



Mission Reseda Team

The three components of Mission: Reseda include the Door-to-Door , the Acts of Service, and the Intercessory Prayer Teams. These three components are critical to the mission and work hand in hand throughout. Selecting the right leadership for each one of these teams is extremely important. They are like captains who are in charge and work hands-on with the people who participate. The leader of the mission works with these three to carry it out. If these three leaders are strong and passionate about the mission, you will more than likely have good success.

Here are a few things to look for in selecting these three team leaders:

- They have demonstrated faithful leadership ability already. You don't want to be relying on an unknown.
- Each leader has a passion for the ministry that they will be leading and have served in a similar capacity in the past. The Door-to-Door person has good relational skills, the Acts of Service person is skilled in working with his/her hands, and the Intercessory Prayer person has demonstrated a strong conviction about the importance of prayer in the church.
- One who has good communication and gathering skills
- Submits to leadership
- Each are team players. The mission requires that each of these team leaders work together. If they aren't team players there will be a breakdown in the mission at this point.

I also asked each of our team leaders to select an assistant to work with them in their part of the mission. There are a variety of reasons for this. If the leader is unable to be there one of the days of the mission then the assistant can cover. Also, they can work in tandem during the mission. This is highly recommended.



## 5. MISSION DATES

Select dates and schedule for the Mission.

Selecting the start date for your mission is critical. As it is important to know that the Lord is leading your mission, it is also important that you don't start your mission at a time of the year when there is a great likelihood for failure.

Here is a list of some possibilities that can assure you of failure with your mission:

- The church calendar is filled with other events.
- The church is not ready to move forward with the mission for one reason or another.
- Church leadership does not back the mission or you don't have the needed workers to carry out the mission.
- The weather does not allow for it.

It is important to consider all the variables before you select a start date. Pastors have expressed to me, "We want to start Mission: Reseda, but the timing is not right at this time." I am grateful that they are concerned about scheduling their mission, because there is a greater likelihood for success.

We started our mission in April. There was a lull in church activity, the weather was nice, there was more daylight in the evening (we went out on Wednesday evenings), and it seemed like our church was ready to get outside of the four walls of our church. I have never seen our church more motivated to step out and serve like this. I must say that it was the Lord moving on our congregation.

Beside establishing a start date, you will want to select a day for your mission. As mentioned above, we selected Wednesday evenings, because there was already movement on that particular evening in our church. We sent out teams at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to accommodate their schedules and to assure that there would be enough daylight.

It is recommended that you consider prayerfully and wisely the best start date for your church and the day and time of the week on which the majority in your church can participate.



## 6. CORE MEETINGS

Set dates for two core group meetings and work through plan and responsibilities.



The core meetings include the leader of the mission (and an administrator if you choose to have one), the leaders of each component of the mission and their assistants. In these meetings we experienced a growing camaraderie and a greater commitment to the mission. We only had two core meetings. You may choose to have more than two if needed.

It's important that you set the dates for these meetings far enough in advance so that all of your planning can be accomplished before your Orientation Dinner.

You will find the agendas for our two core group meetings on pages 21 – 26 to give you some idea of what we covered in our meetings. In the meeting there was vision casting, planning, and laying out the responsibilities of each team leader.

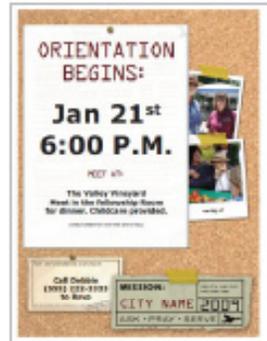
We asked each team leader to present his/her individual vision at the Orientation Dinner. This allowed each team leader to have exposure before those who would be participating in the mission and the opportunity to explain what their part of the mission would entail.

## 7. INTERCESSION, FASTING AND PROMOTION

Enlist the whole church in praying and fasting for the Mission and begin promotion.

This is a critical step in preparation for your mission. Some may want to gloss over its importance. However, intercession is our link to what the Father is doing and the means to draw the necessary resources for what we are about to embark on in the community. We relied heavily on the prayers of the saints in our church as we moved out into the community. Many could not participate for one reason or another in our weekly missions, but intercession allowed them to come on board and pray for us as we carried it out the work.





You can find these Bulletin Inserts in the MISSION: RESEDA Handbook, page 38.

When we began to promote Mission: Reseda we asked people in our congregation to sign up to pray and fast for this new work. When they signed up we gave them a Prayer Support guideline. (This guideline can be found on page 29 in your Mission: Reseda Handbook.)

Build up for Mission: Reseda started with promoting a free Orientation Dinner. Our church is no different than any other church,; we like to eat, especially if it is free.

We promoted this event with the following:

- Posters and bulletin inserts (You can see samples of these on page 30 in your Mission: Reseda Handbook.)
- Related messages from the pulpit prior to and during the mission
- Video Clips
- Personal testimonies

The interest of our people was peaked by the time the dinner came around and we had a large gathering for this event.

We continued to promote Mission: Reseda throughout the mission with testimonies from the street. On one morning a woman from the neighborhood attended our church and she asked if she could speak about her experience with Mission: Reseda. I took a risk and allowed her to share her story. It was an amazing testimony and as she finished she said, "What you are doing is working. Don't stop!" Our congregation laughed and was emotionally moved by her story and applauded her when she stepped down. Her stirring story motivated our people all the more.



## 8. ORIENTATION

Set date for the Orientation Dinner and organize the event.



The Orientation Dinner is the tipping point for the mission. This is where the people in your congregation for the first time have a clear understanding about the mission in the neighborhood and how they can participate and if they want to sign on.

Here is what was involved in our Orientation Dinner that went from 6:30 - 8:45 p.m.:

- Handouts for the evening (See **Mission: Reseda Resources > Preparation > Orientation**)
- Free dinner
- Short worship set that was related to the missions
- Our pastor encouraged the importance of the Holy Spirit and the work we were about to start.
- Chaplain Ken Crawford with the LAPD exhorted us to get outside the four walls of the church and Adopt-A-Block.
- The Mission: Reseda plan was laid out using a PowerPoint presentation. (This is available in the DVD entitled **Resources DVD- Mission: Reseda Resources > Preparation > Orientation.**)
- The three team leaders presented their plans (Door-To-Door, Acts of Service, and Intercessory Prayer).
- The people then signed up for the team in which they would like to participate.
- We closed with team leaders praying with those who signed up to participate with them in the mission.





### 9. DOOR-TO-DOOR

Set date for training of Door-to-Door Teams.



Door-to-Door Training is essential to appropriately connect with your neighbors. We did not have any Door-to-Door training prior to going out into the community in Phase 1. However, we learned from our mistakes in the first phase and put together a training session during our Orientation Dinner in the second phase. This training will soon be available on video and is presented by Anthony Rodriguez, our Door-to-Door Team leader.

We recommend that the Door to Door training follow the week after your Orientation Dinner and a week before you start your mission. If you need assistance contact Anthony Rodriguez.

### 10. ACTS OF SERVICE

Plan activities for Acts of Service Teams for each week of the Mission and tools needed.



Jim Johnson, our Acts of Service leader had facilitated a *Conspiracy of Kindness* ministry in our church and had a good sense for ministering in the community. He would take time each week and drive through neighborhood praying and looking for opportunities to serve in the community. He would notice alleys that needed cleaning, public property that looked unkempt, and homes that were in foreclosure and were eyesores, and he would turn his team loose on them. The work of his teams really got the attention of the neighbors when we went door-to-door. He also procured tools for the work and a means for debris removal.

I highly recommend that your Acts of Service leader get in touch with Jim Johnson to help him/her get started.



City property that we trimmed and cleaned up that had a huge impact on a neighborhood.

MISSION:

PP70 B



## 11. INTERCESSION

**Engage the Intercessory Teams immediately in praying for the Mission.**



Intercessory prayer is at the heart of Mission: Reseda. We have some incredible intercessors at our church who faithfully pray over almost everything that moves. I am humbled by Martha Bellamy's life of prayer. I will never do what she does in prayer. God has given to His Church those who have a heart for prayer to intercede for the saints. You may not find them going door-to-door or trimming trees, but their work in the Church is vital, especially for Mission: Reseda. They are the suppressive fire in the spiritual battle in which are about to engage. I am convinced that without their work Mission: Reseda would never have been so effective and we would not have seen the hand of God over and over again. I am indeed grateful to them and for their willingness to intercede on our behalf before our Father during the hours we were out in the community.

I highly advise that your leader for intercession engage your prayer teams as soon as possible after the Orientation Dinner. On the night/day of the Door-to-Door training you might want to gather the intercessors together to pray for your mission.

If your Intercessory Prayer leader needs help, Martha Bellamy would love to help him/her get started.





**12. ADMINISTRATION**  
 Prepare all paperwork for the Orientation and the Mission. Record neighbors' Responses to the four questions.

The responsibility of administration will either rest with the leader of the mission or an administrator that he/she appoints. This task can be particularly daunting for someone who is not gifted or has not the ability to carry out this task. It is highly recommended that if the leader is unable to follow through with this job that someone skilled be appointed and begin working on these responsibilities before the Orientation Dinner.

This person will make certain that the handouts are available at the Orientation Dinner and the Door-to-Door Team has all the paperwork that is needed for the mission. Here are the items that will be needed:

**For the Orientation Dinner**

- Handouts (See **Mission: Reseda Resources > Preparation > Orientation**)

**airconditioning**

For the Mission (See page 32 in the **Mission: Reseda Handbook**.)

- The Introduction Card
- The Neighborhood Survey
- The Adopt-A-Block brochure
- The general Adopt-A-Block map
- The maps for the mission on a given week
- Community Resource Card (Template not available, see sample.)

To acquire all of the templates for these handouts go to the DVD entitled **Mission: Reseda Resources > Outreach > Door-to-Door Ministry & Adopt-A-Block Resources > Promotion**.

After each weekly mission the administrator will record all of the responses of the neighbors to the four questions in a data base. Careful and thorough recording of all of the neighbors' responses are critical for the second phase of the mission. In Phase 2 we go back to those neighbors we had a positive response from. If a neighbor had a need that the Acts of Service Team can help with then we need to know what the need is so we can help. If someone requested prayer and we prayed for them then we need this information, so when we go back to his/her home we are able to check up on how things have gone since we prayed. Without thorough information we are at a loss on how to follow



# MISSION

## 13. PREPARATION

On the day of the Mission & prior to going out, take a short time to worship & pray.



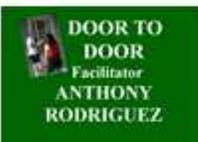
When your people gather each day to go out into the community they need to have their focus fixed on Jesus. Rushing to get out can hinder the work of God through your people. We took a short time to worship and pray. At the same time, you don't want to extend this time too long or your people will lose sight of your purpose of caring for those in your community.

## 14. ASSIGNMENTS

Each team leader informs his/her team members of their assignment for the Mission that day.



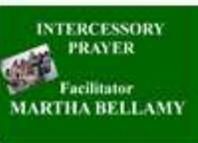
After worship and prayer, the teams met in separate rooms to receive their assignments. We had the Door-to-Door people stay in the general room and the other two teams moved to adjoining rooms. The team leaders went over the following:



The Door-To-Door leader explained the targeted neighborhood for that day and the breakdown of the neighborhoods in order to get to each home in the neighborhood.



The Acts of Service leader explained the public areas for trimming and cleanup that day.



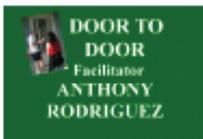
The Intercessory Prayer leader informed the team of the focus of prayer for the evening.



## 15. EQUIPPING

Team leaders provide team members with the materials /tools necessary for the Mission.

Once each team leader explained what their team would be doing they provided them with what was needed to carry out their part of the mission. Here are the items they provided for their team members:



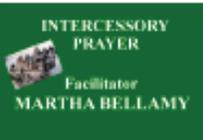
The Door-To-Door leader provides the following items (See page 32 in the Mission: Reseda Handbook):

- The Introduction Card
- The Neighborhood Survey
- The Adopt-A-Block brochure
- The general Adopt-A-Block map
- The maps for the mission on a given week
- Community Resource Card (Template not available, see sample.)

To acquire all of the templates for these handouts, go to the DVD entitled **Mission: Reseda Resources > Outreach > Door-to-Door Ministry & Adopt-A-Block Resources > Promotion.**



The Acts of Kindness leader provided the leaders with all of the tools necessary to carryout the cleanup and trimming. The City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works provided our team with all the tools we needed to do this. (See form in the Mission: Reseda handbook on page 33 that we used to acquire the tools.)



The Intercessory Prayer leader provided the team with helpful prayer tools. (See items in the Mission: Reseda handbook on page 31.)

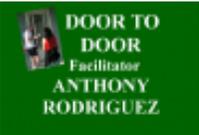


## 16. DIRECTIONS

Team leaders organize groups and direct them out to where they will be going that day.



Once the Door-To-Door and the Acts of Service Team members have their materials or tools that are needed, organize them into groups and send them out to carry out their part of the mission. You will want to organize it so that you are able to accomplish all that you need to in the set time that you will be working in the neighborhood that day.



For the Door-To-Door Team we broke the neighborhood down into three areas and assigned a separate group for each area. We broke each group into groups of twos or threes. We found the best combination was a man and a women team. If you do have a men only team, you should have only two on the team.



For the Acts of Service Team we assigned groups to different public areas in the neighborhood so that the Door-To-Door Team could tell neighbors that we were cleaning up alleys and other public areas.

It's highly recommend that you exchange cell phone numbers so that team leaders can be in touch with each other and team members can be in touch with the leaders.

## 17. FIVE QUESTIONS

Be sure that the Door-to-Door people are very thorough in recording neighbors' responses to the questions.

As has been mentioned, the Neighborhood Survey is an important tool for Phase 2 follow-up. Therefore, it is important that the Door-To-Door people record the neighbors' responses thoroughly following their visit to a home. We found it best that one person should do the talking and another person should record the information after the visit. We found that some are better at communicating and some at recording the responses.



### 18. BLOCK PARTY

Organize a Block Party in the best location for your adopted block.

**“Adopt-A-Block Party”**  
 Saturday, May 31st, 10:00am - 2:00pm  
 @ Reseda Park  
 Free to the Public

The Adopt-A-Block Party concluded our first phase of ministry in the community. We held our block party at Reseda Park following our six weeks of ministry. We invited our whole church out to help with the party. It was an incredible success. It is estimated that 500 came from the community. Los Angeles Police officers joined us with one of their squad cars for the kids to enjoy. They even had a helicopter fly over the park and circle a couple of times. They really supported our efforts. The LA Fire Department joined us as well and brought out one of their trucks. It was a memorable event for kids with all of the bounce houses, games, and free hamburgers and hot dogs.

You will find more information in your Mission: Reseda handbook on page 11 and 34 about our block party. We are also enclosing a block party planning document to help you organize your party.



Fun for the whole community with the Los Angeles Police and Fire Departments' support.

# SUMMARY >> CLOSING REFLECTIONS >>

## WHY MISSION: RESEDA?

Ultimately the goal of this training is the advancement of the Kingdom. There are other wonderful byproducts. Sometimes neighbors live side by side for many years without ever meeting or establishing relationships. Mission: Reseda has the potential to move neighbors from strangers, to acquaintances, to life long friends. In addition, neighbors learn the needs of their immediate neighbors and get the opportunity to work together toward positive change through community awareness. The benefits are countless, not the least of which is greater neighborhood safety.

This is especially wonderful if those in targeted neighborhoods or blocks include members of your own church as residents there.

Pastors are now asking members from their own congregations to team with members of other congregations to serve in their neighborhoods. The future of churches ministering together in each others' neighborhoods has endless possibilities.

Please help replicate this good work by implementing one of the four approaches stated on pages 8-10 and encouraging members of your congregation to minister and to serve alongside those from other congregations in their neighborhoods.

## CLOSING REFLECTIONS

The roots of Mission: Reseda go back to October 4, 1997, when more than a million men gathered in Washington, D.C. for Stand in the Gap. The sound of that many men singing sacred hymns of the faith is an experience I will never forget as the voices exploded throughout the Mall. Coach Bill McCartney called for A Sacred Assembly where we would humble ourselves before our Holy God. We lay prostrate before our Lord, confessing our sins and asking Him to heal our land. It was a holy day in our nation's capital. At the close of this humbling day, Coach McCartney concluded with, "Go back and win your city." I took his charge to heart.

It would not be until the year 2000 that I would receive any direction. We as a church had gone through a very trying season, but because of God's faithfulness He made His will known. A dear friend, Roberto Munoz-Flores, showed me a video series, Transformations, by George Otis, Jr. The videos showed the powerful work of God when people pray and intercede for a city. They were very compelling and gave me the direction I needed to take the next step.

## SUMMARY >> CLOSING REFLECTIONS

On Friday, May 5, 2000 intercessors from our church gathered to pray for our city. We decided to meet the first Friday of every month at 10 pm to pray through the night. We found that praying all night was a long time to pray. I remember thinking during one of our all-night prayer meetings, "Is this really accomplishing anything?" Dallas Willard told us, "Give it five years." This statement wasn't received very well, but we persisted and prayed for God to move in our city through His Church and also prayed for the pastors in our city.

In January of 2001, pastors in the Valley began to gather at noon on Thursdays, a couple of times a month, to pray for our city. Then we moved to Thursday mornings at seven to pray every week. There has been opposition from our adversary, but we have persevered to this day. We set the following as our vision:

- to pray
- to build relationships with one another
- to wait on the Lord to show us His plan for winning our city

I don't know if Mission: Reseda is what we have been waiting for, but it certainly is beginning to transform some neighborhoods in our Valley. I trust by God's grace it will impact our city and hopefully yours as well.

It is my prayer that Mission: Reseda will be a blessing to your church and, through it, that the Lord's name will become great in your city.



# APPENDIX

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- \* (c) goods not prohibited to be exported

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## RESOURCE DVD >> TABLE OF CONTENTS

### MISSION: RESEDA RESOURCES

#### BOOK

- PDF of Book
- PDF of Book Cover

#### GRAPHICS

- General Graphics:  
*Graphics available for complete customization*
- Collages
- Grunge Graphics
- “Office Supplies”
- Poloraids
- Pushpins
- MISSION: RESEDA Logo
- Previous Mission Photos:  
*Available to be used as needed*

#### MR PROMOTION

- MISSION: RESEDA Prayer support requests
- MISSION: RESEDA Posters

#### OUTREACH

- Cleanup and Acts of Kindness Ministry
- Sample of Public Warehouse Supply Request
- Door-to-Door Ministry
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- Maps
- Introduction Cards
- Intercessory Prayer Ministry
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- Churchwide Prayer
- Debriefing
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- Sample of Previous Handouts at Orientation
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### ADOPT-A-BLOCK RESOURCES

#### LOGO

- Adopt-A-Block Logo
- Adopt-A-Block Party Posters
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### MISSION: RESEDA

#### MULTIMEDIA CONTENT

- MISSION: RESEDA Interviews (Live interviews with the Neighborhood Survey.)
- “Here We Go!” (A quick look at the MISSION: RESEDA experience.)
- Mission Arlington (A ministry that helped inspire MISSION: RESEDA)

### MORE MISSION: RESEDA VIDEO RESOURCES

- Visit [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) and then search MISSION: RESEDA

## GRAPHICS AND TECHNICAL DETAILS >> PAGE 1

The MISSION: RESEDA DVD that accompanies this book has all the files your organization will need to implement the MISSION: RESEDA plan in your own neighborhood. The files have been set up so that you can customize the graphics as much or as little as you'd like.

We've set up all of our graphics to be used in a high-tech or low-tech format (where Photoshop is the low-tech version in most cases). If you can find a techy high-schooler in your organization, they may have enough skills to help you customize the low-tech MISSION: RESEDA files. For those of you with a graphic designer at hand, and who wish to use our graphics as a starting point, you'll find native Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator files have been built for your full custom-tailoring.

### SOFTWARE

At the very minimum you'll need Photoshop to work with the MISSION: RESEDA files. If you need Photoshop or other design programs consider using [www.TechSoup.org](http://www.TechSoup.org) to purchase your software. They offer substantial discounts to non-profit organizations and they are a very trustworthy organization.

### FONTS

You'll need to get a few fonts before you begin. We couldn't include them as they're copyrighted but we can tell you where to get them. If you can't find them, don't worry: you can use any similar font you can find.

- **Verdana** (used as regular text) is a common font that should already be in your computer's system. It's a common font nearly everyone has.
- **DATA CONTROL** (used in the headers) can be found by searching the website: [www.1001freefonts.com](http://www.1001freefonts.com). Download the

appropriate version of the font and install it on your computer before opening the Photoshop files.

- "Dear Joe Five Casual" Font (used in the Polaroid captions ) can be found by searching the website: [www.MyFonts.com](http://www.MyFonts.com). Download the appropriate version of the font and install it on your computer before opening the Photoshop files. Notice that this font costs \$19.

### IMAGES

We've included many images in the graphics folder for your use. If you'd like to customize the graphic files with your own images, we suggest you do one or more of the following:

- **Stock photography:** You can inexpensively purchase royalty-free stock photography from a site such as [www.istockphoto.com](http://www.istockphoto.com). The stock photography you purchase can then be used again and again for future MISSION: RESEDA projects.
- **Your own photography:** If you will be taking your own pictures to document the process (which we highly recommend) be sure you're covered. If you're taking pictures in public, such as at the community party, consider having a disclaimer on your signs letting your guests know that they may be photographed. By participating at the party they will agree to have their image reused.
- For any close-ups you might take, you would benefit by having a handful of Model Releases with you at all times. When you take someone's specific picture during the project, have them fill out a release that will allow you to reuse the image for future MISSION: RESEDA projects. We've included a sample release form in the graphics folder for you.

# GRAPHICS AND TECHNICAL DETAILS >> PAGE 2

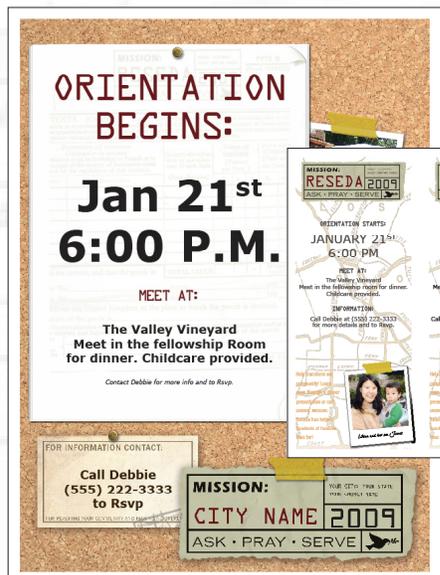
## LOGOS AND IDENTITIES

As you read through Phases 1 and 2 of the MISSION: RESEDA Handbook you will find the names “MISSION: RESEDA” and “Adopt-A-Block.” The two names speak of the same thing. The name MISSION: RESEDA looks at the mission from the church’s perspective, whereas Adopt-A-Block looks at what the church is doing in the neighborhood from the community’s viewpoint. Therefore you will see “MISSION: RESEDA” on church-related documents and “Adopt-A-Block” on documents that are used in the neighborhood.

This means that MISSION: RESEDA and Adopt-A-Block programs not only have different logos, but different identities (posters, flyers, etc.). The DVD accompanying this book has two main folders which have access to both the MISSION: RESEDA and the Adopt-A-Block graphics. All of the logos and graphics, posters, brochures, etc., are created in several formats, ready for your customization.



A sample of the Adopt-A-Block identity in context.



A sample of the MISSION: RESEDA identity in context.

## SUMMARY OF STEPS >> PAGE 1

### TIMELINE

1. **SEEKING GOD AND UNDERSTANDING HIS VISION FOR THIS ENDEAVOR**
  - Vision led us out into the neighborhood to bless our neighbors by showing them the love of Jesus in a variety of ways.
  - Scriptures that command us to go out inspired us, including Matthew 5:13–16, Matthew 9:37 and 38, Matthew 28:19 and 20, Luke 14:15-24.
2. **IDENTIFYING OUR ADOPTED BLOCK**
  - Adopted block was selected (actually, an area of about six square blocks).
  - Adopted block was divided into six neighborhoods, one for each week of the planned mission.
  - Each neighborhood was subdivided into two or three sections, one for each set of Door-to-Door Teams going out on a given week.
  - Door-to-Door captain was assigned to each neighborhood.
3. **PLACING MISSION: RESEDA ON CHURCH CALENDAR**
  - Six to seven consecutive weeks were allotted for carrying out the mission.
  - Orientation dinner and meeting were scheduled for the week just prior.
  - All MISSION: RESEDA outreaches as well as orientation event were scheduled for Wednesday evenings.
  - Promotion was scheduled to begin three to four weeks prior to orientation.
4. **PROMOTION TO INFORM THE CHURCH AND ENCOURAGE THEIR PARTICIPATION**
  - Posters inviting our people to the orientation dinner and meeting were placed around the facility.
  - Invitation to the orientation dinner and meeting was placed in Sunday bulletin for three weeks.
  - MISSION: RESEDA was promoted on church's existing website.
  - MISSION: RESEDA was promoted from pulpit each Sunday of promotion period.
  - Related messages were preached from pulpit: each Sunday of promotion period.
    - “Why am I in Babylon?”
    - “Overcoming a Fortress Mentality.”
    - “Why Am I In this World?”
    - “The Mandate for the City Church.”
5. **ORGANIZING INTERCESSORY PRAYER SUPPORT**
  - Prayer needs for MISSION: RESEDA were described in handouts.
  - Prayer sign-up sheet was placed in lobby of church.

## SUMMARY OF STEPS >> PAGE 2

### 6. SELECTING CORE TEAM LEADERS AND HOLDING INITIAL MEETINGS

- Three core team leaders were chosen, one for each type of ministry: Door-to-Door ; Cleanup and Acts of Kindness; and Intercessory Prayer.
- Suitable assistants were selected by core team leaders.
- Two core team meetings were held prior to orientation based on detailed agendas.
- Core team advised of weekly follow-up meetings to be held while MISSION: RESEDA ongoing.
- Purposes are debriefing and making any necessary adjustments.

### 7. ORIENTATION DINNER AND MEETING

- Church members prepared free dinner provided at Orientation event.
- Childcare made available for the meeting portion of event.
- Orientation meeting opened with worship time.
- Senior Pastor Bill Dwyer opened meeting.
- LAPD Chaplain Ken Crawford spoke.
- Associate Pastor Lynn Cory presented plan for MISSION: RESEDA using PowerPoint.
- Each area of ministry (Door-to-Door , Cleanup and Acts of Kindness, Intercessory Prayer) was described by respective core team leader.
- Attendees were invited to sign-up for one of the areas of ministry.

### 8. CARRYING OUT THE MISSION ITSELF

- Mission began Wednesday after orientation event. (In retrospect, we recommend doing a trial run the first Wednesday after orientation.)
- Two “rendezvous” times were selected—5 and 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. This permitted three full hours of daylight to minister, given season was Spring. Weekday evenings chosen because more were people expected to be at home.
- Church called to fast between 5 and 8 p.m. on Wednesday evenings during mission.
- Intercessor teams prayed both in our facility and in neighborhood assigned that week. Praising God was the foundation.
- Door-to-Door Teams were directed into assigned neighborhood in twos and threes. Teams introduced themselves, explained involvement with LAPD Adopt-A-Block, used surveys to collect information about the needs of the people, provided information about the church, city services, and invited them to Adopt-A-Block Party.
- Cleanup and Acts of Kindness Teams did cleanup in public areas of assigned neighborhood. L.A. Public Works provided tools and materials.
- Church members were encouraged to call 311 whenever graffiti was spotted.

## SUMMARY OF STEPS >> PAGE 3

### 9. HOLDING THE ADOPT-A-BLOCK PARTY

- A group of intercessors met to pray for two hours right before the block party. Also our core team met at the park the evening before to pray. We joined hands to praise the Lord and intercede on behalf of our neighbors.
- Phase One of MISSION: RESEDA concluded with a free Saturday block party from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Reseda Park.
- Park permit was obtained in advance through submission of appropriate form.
- Church provided free barbeque, free bounce houses for kids, drum circle, and games for all ages.
- Flyers were distributed Wednesday before party as a reminder to all neighbors in adopted block.
- In morning, prior to start of block party, flyers were also distributed to invite neighbors in the area of Reseda Park to come.
- Two fire trucks and a squad car were on hand. Helicopter flyover done.

### 10. HOLDING A DEBRIEFING MEETING

Here are the questions we asked to gather feedback about MISSION: RESEDA at the debriefing meeting:

- How has your experience with MISSION: RESEDA impacted you and future ministry in the community?
- Overall, how do you believe the community responded to MISSION: RESEDA?
- What could we have done better with MISSION: RESEDA?
- What suggestions would you make for Phase Two of MISSION: RESEDA?

*You can read more MISSION: RESEDA debriefing feedback on page 25 of this handbook or read the full comments on the Resource DVD, in the folder titled **MISSION: RESEDA Resources > Preparation > Debriefing.***

# DETAILED AGENDA FOR FIRST CORE TEAM MEETING >>

## FIRST CORE TEAM MEETING

Discuss the following Plan with the core team:  
MISSION: RESEDA

The Lord instructs us to “go out.”

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:13 – 16 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

“Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’” Matthew 9:37 and 38 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19, 20 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

“Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.’” (The Parable of the Wedding Banquet) Luke 14:15-24 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

## THE VISION:

The vision is to go out into our neighborhood (the Valley Vineyard’s) for six weeks to launch Adopt-A-Block and to be a blessing to our neighbors by showing them the love of Jesus through building relationships, caring for, learning about them and their needs (listening), prayer, meeting needs, helping cleanup the neighborhood, ministering the Gospel, hopefully establishing a small group in the neighborhood, and having a lot of fun.

## CALENDAR

- Wednesday, April 16  
6:30 p.m.  
Dinner and Orientation Meeting
- April 23 – May 28, Wednesday  
6:30 p.m.  
Go out into the neighborhood
- May 31, Saturday,  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Adopt-A-Block Party

## DETAILED SCHEDULE FOR WEDNESDAYS OUTREACH:

- 5 p.m.- First group of teams goes out after prayer.
- 6:30 p.m.- Second group of teams goes out after prayer.

## DETAILS OF ADOPT-A-BLOCK PARTY:

- BBQ
- Games for the kids, bounce house, etc.
- Volleyball
- Band (neighborhood friendly)

## FIRST CORE TEAM MEETING >> THE PLAN

### THE PLAN:

- Some will go Door-to-Door.
- Some will be involved with Cleanup and Acts of Kindness.
- Some will be involved in intercession.
- The whole church will be a part of a graffiti watch. We will spot graffiti and call 311.
- Adopt-A-Block Party will be held at Reseda Park at the close of the six weeks.

### THE STRATEGY:

- Establish intercession and fast for MISSION: RESEDA as we do for any missions trip.
- Pastor Bill needs to set MISSION: RESEDA as a Vineyard vision for the six-week period.
- Sunday teaching should be related to the vision.
- Have everyone come on board with the vision.
- All staff members have a role.
- All leaders should participate as they are able.
- Shutdown midweek activities so everyone can participate for the six-week period.
- Appoint leadership to each activity.
- Overall Facilitator-Lynn Cory
- Door-to-Door Teams-Kenny Farve
- City Cleanup and Acts of Kindness Teams-Jim Johnson
- Intercession Teams-Martha Bellamy
- Graffiti Watch and Call 311- All of us
- Adopt-A-Block Party (i.e. Volleyball, BBQ)-Kenny Farve and CSUN Team
- Worship-Leroy Chavez

- Dinner Organizer-Lucia Quadri
- Meet with the core group for planning and direction.
- Develop a survey sheet that asks a few questions for the Door-to-Door Teams.
- Each leader is responsible for his/her team, planning, and materials needed.

### ON THE NIGHT OF THE ORIENTATION:

- Each team leader will explain what his/her activity will be like.
- People will sign-up for the team that they want to be on.
- Pray together as a team for their ministry in the community.
- Each evening that we go out, we will first meet for a worship song and prayer.
- After prayer we will meet with respective ministry leaders for instruction.
- Make sure that everyone has the leaders' and other team members' cell phone numbers.
- Notify West Valley Division of our plan, the evenings we will be out, and in which neighborhoods we will be each week.
- Contact Maria Sheets of the Board of Public Works to request supplies for cleanup.

## FIRST CORE TEAM MEETING >> WHY?

### WHY WE ARE DOING THIS

- We want to connect needy families/people with Manna.
- We will be able to assess the needs of our neighbors and develop classes and programs that meet their needs.
- We will be able to pray for people's needs in our community.
- We will make connection with Reseda High School.
- Start a mentoring program with the school.
- Start an after-school program at the Vineyard for high school students.
- We can direct students into our youth group.
- Our church will become more outwardly focused.
- We will connect more with people in our community and become more relevant in our city.
- The Valley Vineyard will be looked on as a blessing to our community.
- We will begin to take ownership of our city.
- We will build relationship with the West Valley Police Department and be an encouragement to them.
- Our neighbors will become aware of the Valley Vineyard services and activities.
- We will be able serve the poor in our community beyond what Manna is presently doing.
- It will be used to launch "Adopt-A-Block" with our church.
- It will enable us to meet and invite neighbors to free marriage and parenting classes, DivorceCare, GriefShare, ALPHA, etc.
- It will allow us to find a home in which we can have a small group.
- "Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you." Matthew 10:11-13 (NIV®)
- Most importantly, we are doing this so that people will become disciples of Jesus and become a part of God's forever family.
- "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Luke 4:18-19 (NIV®)

## CONTENT FOR FIRST CORE TEAM MEETING >>

### TEAM LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

#### INTERCESSION - MARTHA BELLAMY

- Sharing your plan at the orientation meeting
- Plan for intercession
- Maps of neighborhood
- Establish intercession locations.
- Select an Assistant Leader to work with you.
- Select team leaders.
- Provide a sign-up sheet for the orientation meeting.
- Provide any materials for intercessory teams (i.e. journal).
- Organize teams.
- Lead prayer for your team(s) each Wednesday.

#### DOOR-TO-DOOR - KENNY FARVE

- Sharing your plan at the orientation meeting
- You are responsible for gathering materials for Door-to-Door
- Your Plan for Door-to-Door
- Maps of neighborhood
- Select an Assistant Leader to work with you.
- Select team leaders.
- Provide a sign-up sheet for the orientation meeting.
- Organize teams.
- Provide any materials for Door-to-Door Teams.

### ADOPT-A-BLOCK PACKETS

- Adopt-A-Block Party Flyer
- Flyer from the Vineyard
- Survey
- Letter from LAPD
- Communicate with Jim Johnson any needs that his team can meet.
- Lead prayer for your team(s) each Wednesday.

### CITY CLEANUP AND ACTS OF KINDNESS - JIM JOHNSON

- Sharing your plan at the orientation meeting
- Plan for Cleanup and Acts of Kindness
- Select an Assistant Leader to work with you.
- Establish leadership for teams.
- Provide a sign-up sheet for the orientation meeting.
- Organize teams.
- Provide equipment for cleanup, etc.
- Communicate with Kenny Farve about needs that he has gathered from going Door-to-Door.
- Lead prayer for your team(s) each Wednesday.

## AGENDA FOR SECOND CORE TEAM MEETING >>

### SECOND CORE TEAM MEETING

#### GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Maps for MISSION: RESEDA
- Orientation meeting schedule
- When should we debrief in preparation for the next week?
- Adopt-A-Block Party update (Saturday, May 31st, Reseda Park)
- Working on permit for the area on the south side of the park

#### INTERCESSORY PRAYER- MARTHA BELLAMY

- Assistant - Eva Case
- Are you planning to be here at 5 and 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday evening?
- Will you have a group praying at the Vineyard and in the neighborhood?
- Maps for those going out into the community
- How will you be directing the teams out into the community?
- Do you have any team leaders yet?
- What materials will you have for the intercessor?
- How do you plan to organize your teams?
- Do you have a sign-up sheet ready?
- Share your plan that you will share at the orientation.
- Remember that you will be in charge of prayer with your group at the orientation meeting and each Wednesday to follow.
- Do you have any questions?

#### DOOR-TO-DOOR - KENNY FARVE

- Assistant - Anthony Rodriguez
- Are you planning to be here at 5 and 6:30 each Wednesday evening?
- Have you selected any team leaders yet?
- How will you be directing the teams out into the community?
- Maps for those going out into the community.
- Do you have the following materials for the teams going out?

## AGENDA FOR SECOND CORE TEAM MEETING >>

### ADOPT-A-BLOCK MATERIALS:

- Adopt-A-Block Party Flyer
- Flyer from the Vineyard
- Maps, pens, and highlighters
- Survey
- Letter from LAPD (Ken Crawford is working this up with Bessie Wilson)
- How do you plan to organize your teams (i.e., number of team members, man and woman?)
- Do you have a sign-up sheet?
- How do you plan to communicate with Jim Johnson the needs that his team can meet?
- How do you plan to communicate prayer needs to Martha Bellamy?
- Remember that you will be in charge of prayer with your group at the orientation meeting and each Wednesday to follow.
- Do you have a couple to do the role play for Door-to-Door at the orientation meeting?  
Let's have a role play now.
- Share your plan that you will share at the orientation.
- Do you have any questions?

### CITY CLEANUP AND ACTS OF KINDNESS- JIM JOHNSON

- Assistant - Sharon Stone.
- Are you planning to be here at 5 and 6:30 each Wednesday evening?
- Maps for those going out into the community.
- Have you selected any team leaders yet?
- Do you have a plan to organize the teams?
- How will you be directing the teams out into the community?
- What tools and materials do you have and need for your teams?
- How do you plan to communicate with Kenny Farve about how to follow up with needs in the community?
- Do you have a sign-up sheet for the orientation meeting?
- Remember that you will be in charge of prayer with your group at the orientation meeting and each Wednesday to follow.
- Share your plan that you will share at the orientation.
- Do you have any questions?

*You can find the original word documents for the Core Team Meetings on the Resource DVD, in the folder titled **MISSION:***

***RESEDA Resources > Orientation > Agendas.***

# ORIENTATION HANDOUTS AND TOOLS LIST >>

## ORIENTATION TOOLS

- Maps
- PowerPoint presentation
- Sign-up sheets

## DOOR-TO-DOOR /ADOPT-A-BLOCK TOOLS

- Sample Los Angeles Graffiti Removal program handout
- City information/community service sheet
- Adopt-A-Block brochure
- Sample of survey card
- Introduction card

## CLEANUP AND ACTS OF KINDNESS MINISTRY TOOLS

- Sample of public warehouse request form

## INTERCESSORY MINISTRY

- Hymns and praise choruses
- Guidelines for intercessory prayer time
- Prayer walking guidelines
- Scriptures used during intercessory prayer
- Prayer requests
- Names, titles, and descriptions of God

## ADOPT-A-BLOCK PARTY

- Planning tools
- Schedule of events
- Posters for Adopt-A-Block

## SAMPLE OF DEBRIEFING MEETING >>

### DEBRIEFING

These are some of the responses we gathered about MISSION: RESEDA at the debriefing meeting. You can find the full responses in the Outreach folder.

#### **How has your experience with MISSION: RESEDA impacted you and future ministry in the community?**

- I am not as scared about starting conversations with strangers I meet day to day and offering them relationship and access to God in a non-religious tone.

#### **Overall, how do you believe the community responded to MISSION: RESEDA?**

- I think they were impressed by the “doing of the stuff” and the practical help we had through the LAPD.

#### **What could we have done better with MISSION: RESEDA?**

- It took a while to figure out that I needed to lighten up on the mission part and just meet the people. At first I think we scared people, but in the later weeks I personally had more success I think because I was just trying to make connection.
- Select teams and stay with them throughout the 6 weeks; promotes loyalty to team members.
- Get Youth Group involved.
- Church T-shirts for cleanup and Door-to-Door would help to identify us; people will see us week after week.
- Outreach on Saturday mornings
- I think maybe we make a bigger difference when the residents help rather than when we come in and do everything for them.
- 

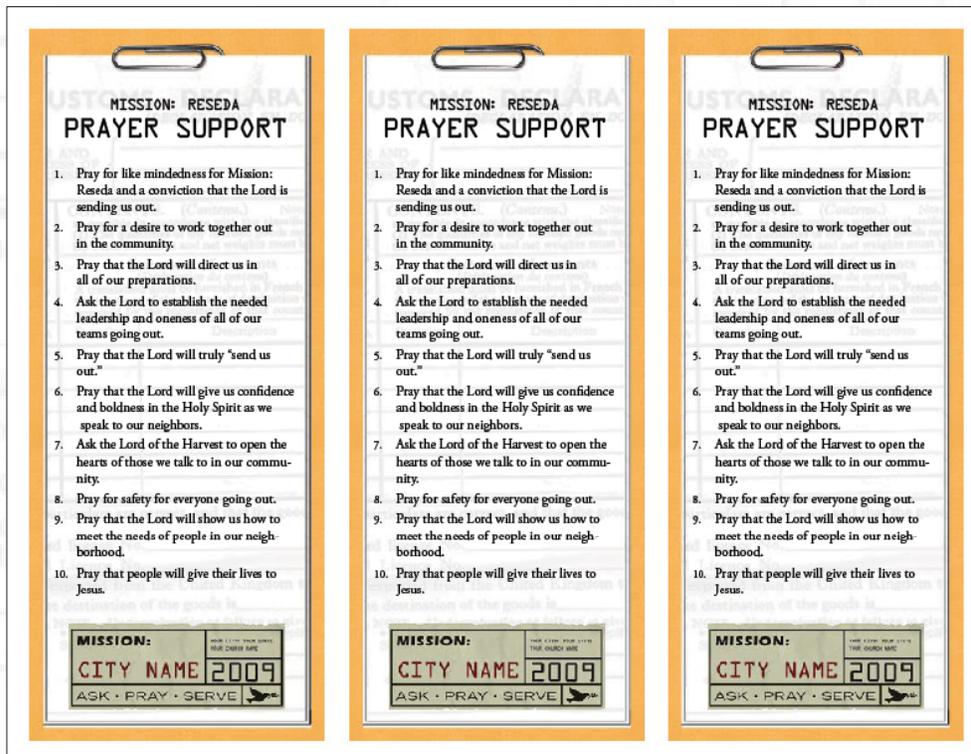
#### **What suggestions would you make for Phase Two of MISSION: RESEDA?**

- Continue to target the neighborhood.
- Invest ourselves as a church and as individuals.
- Be careful with advertising aspect so that emphasis remains on God and not the church.
- Organize Townhall meetings to understand neighborhood issues.
- We couldn't solve the peoples' problems but we could say, “I can come and pray with you and put it in God's hands.” Return the following week to see what God had done and help them fill in paperwork.
- Follow-through, follow-through, follow-through, like saying to one of the residents, “We prayed for you. How's your mom doing?”
- Intercessors will pray for those on the list who have given prayer requests to the Door-to-Door people. After praying, I write a note to the person or family indicating that we're praying for them. Roberto goes back to knock on their door to say, “How is your knee? We're praying for you.” The same can be done with Jim in follow-up.

## CHURCHWIDE PRAYER REQUESTS

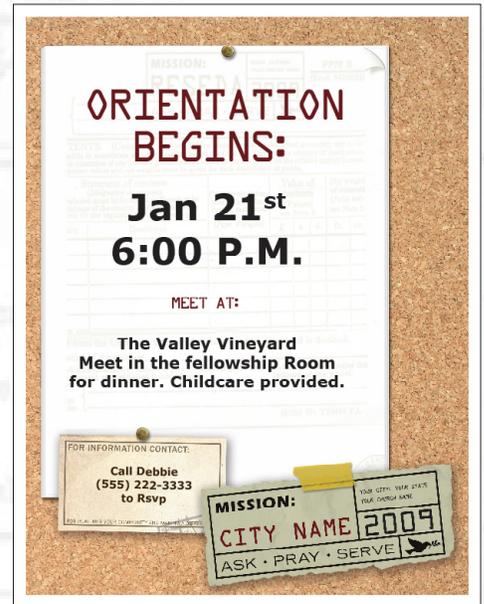
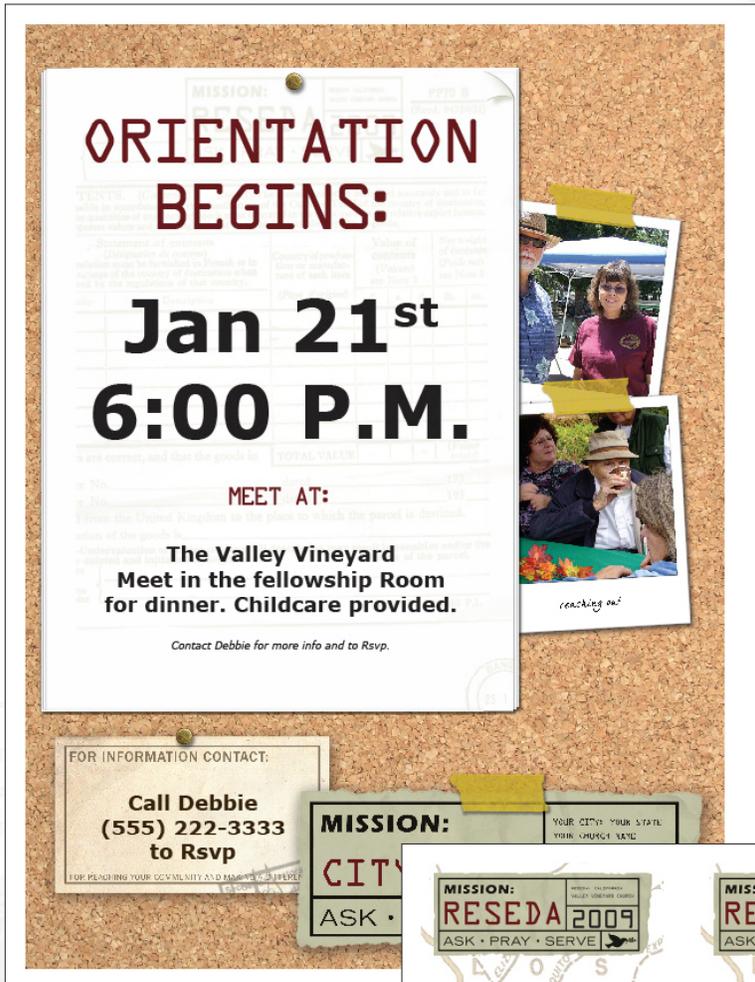
### MISSION: RESEDA PRAYER SUPPORT

- Pray for like-mindedness for MISSION: RESEDA and a conviction that the Lord is sending us out.
- Pray for a desire to work together out in the community.
- Pray that the Lord will direct us in all of our preparations.
- Ask the Lord to establish the needed leadership and oneness of all of our teams going out.
- Pray that the Lord will truly “send us out.”
- Pray that the Lord will give us confidence and boldness in the Holy Spirit as we speak to our neighbors.
- Ask the Lord of the Harvest to open the hearts of those we talk to in our community.
- Pray for safety for everyone going out.
- Pray that the Lord will show us how to meet the needs of people in our neighborhood.
- Pray that people will give their lives to Jesus.



You can find these Intercessory Prayer Guidelines as design templates on the Resource DVD, in the folder titled **MISSION: RESEDA Resources > Preparation > Churchwide Prayer**.

## ORIENTATION PROMOTION DETAILS



You can find this Poster as a design template on the Resource DVD, in the folder titled **MISSION: RESEDA Resources > MR Promotion > Posters.**

As you read through the *MISSION: RESEDA Handbook* you will find the names “MISSION: RESEDA” and “Adopt-A-Block.” The two names speak of the same thing. The name *MISSION: RESEDA* looks at the mission from the church’s perspective, whereas *Adopt-A-Block* looks at what the church is doing in the neighborhood from the community’s viewpoint. Therefore you will see “MISSION: RESEDA” on church related documents and “Adopt-A-Block” on documents that are used in the neighborhood.



You can find these Bulletin Inserts as design templates on the Resource DVD, in the folder titled **MISSION: RESEDA Resources > MR Promotion > Bulletins.**

# INTERCESSORY PRAYER DETAILS

**MISSION: RESEDA** (Rev. 9475951)

**HYMNS AND PRAISE CHORUSES FOR PRAYER**

**INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP >> PAGE 1**

**INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP >> PAGE 2**

**GATHERED PRAYER REQUEST FROM COMMUNITY**

**PRAYER WALKING GUIDELINES**

**NAMES, TITLES, DESCRIPTIONS OF GOD >> PAGE 1**

**PRAISE SCRIPTURES >> PAGE 1**

*Listed below are some of the Scriptures that were printed on 3x5 index cards for the intercessors to read aloud:*

<p><b>GENESIS 1:1</b> In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. (NASB)</p> <p><b>GENESIS 18:4</b> "Is anything too difficult for the Lord?" (NASB)</p> <p><b>EXODUS 15:6</b> Your right hand, O Lord, is majestic in power, Your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy. (NASB)</p> <p><b>EXODUS 15:11</b> Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders? (NASB)</p> <p><b>JOB 42:2</b> I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted. (NASB)</p> <p><b>PSALM 57</b> At Your holy temple I will bow in reverence for You. (NASB)</p> <p><b>PSALM 138:1-3</b> I love You, O Lord, my strength, The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; my shield and the horn of my salvation; my stronghold. (NASB)</p> <p><b>PSALM 24:8</b> Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. (NASB)</p> <p><b>PSALM 24:10</b> Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory. (NASB)</p>	<p><b>PSALM 66:1-3</b> Shout joyfully to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; make His praise glorious. Say to God, "How awesome are Your works!" (NASB)</p> <p><b>PSALM 93:1</b> The Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty; the Lord has clothed and girded Himself with strength. (NASB)</p> <p><b>PSALM 99:5</b> Exalt the Lord our God and worship at His footstool; holy is He. (NASB)</p> <p><b>PSALM 119:89-90</b> Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations; You established the earth, and it stands. (NASB)</p> <p><b>PSALM 144:1-5</b> How blessed are the people whose God is the Lord! (NASB)</p> <p><b>ISAIAH 61:10</b> I will rejoice greatly in the Lord, my soul will exult in my God; for He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness. (NASB)</p> <p><b>JEREMIAH 32:17</b> Ah Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You. (NASB)</p>
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INTERCESSORY PRAYER TOOLS

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You can find these prayer tools as separate word documents or as design templates on the Resource DVD, in the folder titled **MISSION: RESEDA Resources > Outreach > Intercessory Prayer.**



# CLEANUP AND ACTS OF KINDNESS DETAILS

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
 BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS/OFFICE OF COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION  
 WAREHOUSE SUPPLY REQUEST

**REQUESTED BY:** MARIA SHEETS

Community group / Community member / CEO: \_\_\_\_\_

Contract name and phone #/ DELIVERY Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of PICK UP: \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUEST DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNCIL DISTRICT:** \_\_\_\_\_

Cross Street: \_\_\_\_\_

DELIVERY date: \_\_\_\_\_

Pick-Up 
Delivery

**Cleanup / Landscaping Supplies**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Scoop Shovel
- \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Rakes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Plantation Hoas / Handles
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sidewalk Scraper
- \_\_\_\_\_ Leaf Rakes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Round Point Shovel
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sq. Point Shovel
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lopping Saws
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mill Brooms
- \_\_\_\_\_ Street Brooms / Handles
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dust Respirators
- \_\_\_\_\_ Light Cotton Rags
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gloves-Disposable Latex
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spray Bottles
- \_\_\_\_\_ Steel Wool
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wire Brushes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Trash Bags
- \_\_\_\_\_ Safety Vests
- \_\_\_\_\_ Miniature (Kid) Brooms
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dust Pans
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wheel Barrow (limited use)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pick Axe (limited use)

**NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Paint and Paint Supplies**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Roller Frame \_\_\_\_\_ Graffiti Gold
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rollers Covers \_\_\_\_\_ Asphalt Sealer
- \_\_\_\_\_ Paint Brush, 3"
- \_\_\_\_\_ Paint Squeegee
- \_\_\_\_\_ Paint Trays
- \_\_\_\_\_ Handles Screw Tip
- \_\_\_\_\_ Buckets, 5 gallons (empty)
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Palomino Beige* \_\_\_\_\_ *Cowhide Tan*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *White Gray* \_\_\_\_\_ *Eco White*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *White* \_\_\_\_\_ *Sea Black*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Brick Red* \_\_\_\_\_ *Light robe*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Toad Brown*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Hyperion Bridge Paint (HBT ONLY)*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Red Curb Paint (limited quantity)*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Hydrant Yellow Paint (limited quantity)*

*Mural Paints:*

\_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments / Special Instructions:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**FOR COORDINATOR USE ONLY - CLEANUP/EVENT DETAILS**

Event / On-site contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Cleanup date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cleanup time: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Turnout: \_\_\_\_\_

Event to be staffed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Board/ies for cleanup: \_\_\_\_\_

Sanitation truck(s) required: YES NO # of trucks \_\_\_\_\_

Clear & Green needed? YES NO \_\_\_\_\_

Staff to attend event (date): Mayor/Staff \_\_\_\_\_ Council/Staff \_\_\_\_\_ LA.P.D. \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Date to load trucks: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

A sample of Los Angeles' Warehouse Supply request is included on the Resource DVD in the folder titled **MISSION: RESEDA Resources > Outreach > Acts of Kindness Ministry.**

# ADOPT-A-BLOCK PROMOTION DETAILS



You can find these Adopt-A-Block posters and brochure as design templates on the Resource DVD, in the folder titled **Adopt-A-Block Resources > Posters or Brochure**.

## NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY RESOURCES BY CATEGORY

### IDEAS FOR CONNECTING & CARING FOR NEIGHBORS CATEGORIZED

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” Matthew 12:30-31

#### For and/or By Kids

- “Sunday Sundae”- Neighbors gather for sundaes on Sunday.
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade: Decorate bikes, wagons, pets for a parade.
- Art Class for Kids
- Bible Study
- Birthday party organizing
- Convert your garage into a movie theater for the neighborhood.
- Cooking Class for Kids
- Create a library of books for kids.
- Fathers’ fishing trip
- For Kids: Leave May Day Flower Baskets, ring bell, and run away.
- Halloween: Set up an outdoor picture taking event for kids in costumes. Use a digital or Polaroid camera so children have their photos right away.
- Help with a baby shower.
- Hiking
- Loan or give books to neighbors to read.
- Mentoring neighborhood youth
- Movie Night or outdoor movie night: Project a movie onto a garage or outdoor screen.
- Neighborhood Co-Op: Babysitting
- Neighborhood newspaper: Ask neighbors for submissions. (Children can get involved in this.)
- Pickup games (softball, basketball, etc.)
- Put on a neighborhood play.
- Scavenger Hunt (great fun for families)
- Start a Book Club.
- Start a library checkout.
- Story reading for children in the neighborhood
- Swim / BBQ
- Take walks or bike rides with neighbors.

#### For and/or By Women

- Bible Study
- Christmas or other holiday shopping or outing
- Crafting Class
- Tea Party

## NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY RESOURCES BY CATEGORY

### For and/or By Men

- Bible Study
- Neighborhood clean up
- Pickup games (softball, basketball, etc.)
- Sporting event

### Seasonal

- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade: Decorate bikes, wagons, pets for a parade.
- Christmas Caroling
- Christmas: Put up lights for neighbors. Include the neighbors in helping neighbors.
- Clean gutters.
- Halloween: Set up an outdoor picture taking event for kids in costumes. Use a digital camera or try a Polaroid camera so children have their photos right away.
- Leaf Raking
- Snow Removal from Driveways and Sidewalks
- Tree Trimming

### Maintenance and Repairs

- Ask your neighbors for help when needed.
- Car Wash & BBQ
- Free Car Wash in neighborhood (Free hotdogs & drinks while your neighbors wait.)
- Help with home repairs.
- Help with unkempt lawns in the neighborhood.
- Helping out an older couple: yard work, raking leaves, home repair, etc.
- House Gutter Cleaning
- Neighborhood Windshield Washing
- Outdoor Window Washing
- Return empty garbage cans from street.
- Single Moms or Auto Maintenance Challenged: Free Oil Change

### Neighborhood Opportunities for Learning Together

- Art Class for Kids
- Basic auto repair
- Bible Study
- Cooking lessons: Barbeque or Baking
- Create a library of books for kids.
- Group gardening classes – celebrate with a big salad.
- Marriage or Parenting Classes
- Neighborhood newspaper: Ask neighbors for submissions. (Children can get involved)
- Photography lesson during a neighborhood walk.
- Scrapbooking or other craft class
- Start a Book Club.
- Start a library checkout.
- Story reading for children in the neighborhood

## NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY RESOURCES BY CATEGORY

### Fun ideas neighbors can do together:

- “Sunday Sundae”- Neighbors gather for sundaes on Sunday.
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade: Decorate bikes, wagons, pets for a parade.
- Block Party
- Car Wash & BBQ
- Christmas Caroling
- Christmas: Put up lights for neighbors. Include the neighbors in helping neighbors.
- Host a Pancake Breakfast in the front yard to let neighbors see what is going on.
- Movie Night or outdoor movie night: Project a movie onto a garage or outdoor screen.
- Neighborhood Potluck
- Pickup games (softball, basketball, etc.) for youth & adults
- Picture night: bring favorite pictures; guess who this is, etc.
- Progressive dinner or dessert
- Soup & Homemade Bread Night (Ask neighbors to bring their own.)
- Scavenger Hunt (great fun for families)
- Start a Book Club.
- Start a library checkout.
- Story reading for children in the neighborhood
- Swim / BBQ
- Take walks or bike rides with neighbors.
- Watch a major sporting event together.

### Neighborhood Projects & Ministry ideas:

- “Sunday Sundae”- Neighbors gather for sundaes on Sunday.
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade: Decorate bikes, wagons, pets for a parade.
- As you take a morning walk, put newspapers on neighbors’ porches.
- Ask your neighbors for help when needed.
- Birthday party organizing
- Borrow items from your neighbors or volunteer to help them with a project.
- Canning Hunger (Door-to-door food drive - see resources)
- Car Wash & BBQ
- Christmas Caroling
- Christmas: Put up lights for neighbors. Include the neighbors in helping neighbors.
- Free Car Wash for the neighborhood (Free hotdogs & drinks while your neighbors wait.)
- Help with funeral reception.
- Meal Sign-up: Take care of a neighbor after a death or in case of a hospital stay.
- Movie Night or outdoor movie night: Project a movie onto a garage or outdoor screen.
- Neighborhood Co-Op: Coupons, Babysitting, Help with Taxes, Window Washing, Serve at their party so they can enjoy their guests.
- Neighborhood Garage Sale
- Neighborhood newspaper: Ask neighbors for submissions.

## PARTNERING WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

### PARTNERING WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Steps for building a partnership between Mission: Reseda and the Los Angeles Police Department.*

#### FROM THE CHURCH'S PERSPECTIVE:

PHASE 1 & 2 OF MISSION: RESEDA  
(ADOPT-A-BLOCK) *For the Pastor and/or Adopt-A-Block Leader:*

##### **Step 1- Connect with your L.A.P.D. Division contact person.**

Before you define your adopted block or promote the mission with your congregation, contact your L.A.P.D. Captain or Senior Lead Officer. Explain your intent to adopt a block and ask for assistance. The L.A.P.D. has a clear perspective of the neighborhood you will be adopting and can give you helpful information.

##### **Step 2- After adopting a block and setting dates, reconnect with your L.A.P.D. Division contact person.**

Once you have determined your adopted block and have established dates for your orientation meeting and Phase 1 Mission dates, reconnect with your contact person. Inform him/her of your intentions about the mission. You will want to invite L.A.P.D. Chaplain Ken Crawford and the Area Senior Lead Officer to speak at your orientation meeting.

##### **Step 3- Talk to your lead officer about the mission.**

Before you start your Mission you will want to talk with your Community Relations Sergeant and the Area Senior Lead Officer about any criminal issues affecting the block that you are adopting. Inform him/her of your congregation's plans for the adopted block and provide the dates for the Mission and your block party.

##### **Step 4- Request officer participation in your mission.**

Ask the Area Senior Lead Officer to schedule times to assist with your weekly Mission. The Senior Lead Officer's presence in the neighborhood lends credibility to the partnership between the Los Angeles Police Department and the Church Congregation going door-to-door. The Senior Lead Officer can also speak to the neighbors as the opportunity arises.

##### **Step 5- Request officer participation in your block party.**

It is critical that the L.A.P.D. participate in your block party. Neighbors see the L.A.P.D. as a part of the Adopt-A-Block program and this improves community relations with the local police. Officers can show the children their car which fosters police-community relationships. Contact your Senior Lead Officer as soon as you have a date for your block party so that officers will be available to attend the event.

## PARTNERING WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

**PHASE 3 & 4 OF MISSION: RESEDA (COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRY)** *For The Adopt-A-Block Leader & the Community Group Leader:*

### **Step 1- Contact the Senior Lead Officer(s) for your city.**

Contact your area Senior Lead Officer(s) once you have established a community group and you begin to make plans for neighborhood service projects. Inform him/her of the group's intent to begin and describe the projects.



### **Step 2- Notify your Senior Lead Officer of neighborhood events and encourage officer participation.**

Neighborhood events, activities and service projects are wonderful opportunities for the local police to connect with residents in the community. Invite officers to participate in these events, if only to stop by and talk for a short time. A police officer may be able to join in the activity and get to know those serving in the community and residents in the neighborhood.

### **Step 3- Inform the Senior Lead Officer of all the adopted neighborhoods in your area.**

Inform the Senior Lead Officer of neighborhoods that have been adopted in the community. Also, notify them that the adopted neighborhoods have a Neighborhood Ministry Coordinator (NMC), who can be contacted in time of emergency. The NMC may also be helpful in informing the Police of needs and concerns in neighborhoods.

### **FROM THE L.A.P.D. PERSPECTIVE:**

#### **Step 1- Take the initiative to get to know the pastors who plan on adopting a block and establishing community ministry.**

As pastors realize that the L.A.P.D. sees him as an important figure in transforming our city then he will begin to live up to that expectation. Connect with those pastors who plan to adopt a block and offer to help them get established in this good work. If they are committed to serve in the community in this capacity then take the time to build relationship with them. Pastors involved in the community may become a very important future resource for the L.A.P.D.

#### **Step 2- Endorse the Mission: Reseda operation.**

An endorsement by the L.A.P.D. lends credibility to the work we are doing in the neighborhoods with residents and other churches in the Valley. This endorsement will speed up the process of the Mission throughout the city.

## PARTNERING WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

### **Step 3- Promote Mission: Reseda within the Department.**

As the L.A.P.D. promotes Mission: Reseda as an official and credible work within the Department, this will help pastors and church leaders connect with their contact person (Captains or Senior Lead Officer).

### **Step 4- Allow Mission: Reseda volunteers to mention our partnership with the L.A.P.D. when we serve in the community.**

The use of the L.A.P.D. name lends credibility to our work in the community and takes away the stigma that typically goes along with door-to-door sales people.

### **Step 5- Lend creditability to Mission: Reseda events with other public officials and private citizens.**

The endorsements of the LAPD and this new effort of Adopt-A-Block/ Mission: Reseda are truly groundbreaking. Police presence and support are a public demonstration of the good work being done in the San Fernando Valley would be extremely helpful. As more public officials and private citizens become aware of the efforts of the volunteers with the Adopt-A-Block/Mission: Reseda project, word will spread about the events, activities, and service projects that can be done in other neighborhoods throughout the San Fernando Valley.

### **Step 6- Community Relations.**

The L.A.P.D. has greatly improved its standing in Los Angeles under Chief Bratton's leadership and we expect that this will continue under Chief Beck. The community's respect for police will deepen as officers become more and more involved with residents in the neighborhoods. With the local police participating in Mission: Reseda events, the old "us and them" mentality will lessen and become one of mutual respect and appreciation.

*The endorsements of the LAPD and this new effort of Adopt-A-Block/ Mission: Reseda are truly groundbreaking. Police presence and support are a public demonstration of the good work being done in the San Fernando Valley would be extremely helpful. As more public officials and private citizens become aware of the efforts of the volunteers with the Adopt-A-Block/ Mission: Reseda project, word will spread about the events, activities, and service projects that can be done in other neighborhoods throughout the San Fernando Valley.*

## PARTNERING WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

### **Step 7- Patrol neighborhoods that have been adopted by congregations and develop relationships with the residents.**

Church and local police presence within a neighborhood will give a greater sense of safety and community to the residents. When neighbors know that the local police and the church are partners they will have a deep awareness that they are cared for.

### **Step 8- Alert Adopt-a-Block pastor of community needs for possible assistance.**

From time to time a police officer may be aware of need in the community that could be met by a local church. If it is apparent that a neighbor would welcome church help, contact an Adopt-A-Block pastor. Pastors may not always be able to meet the need, but they may be able to find someone who can.

### **Step 9- Logistical Participation**

Assistance such as helping with street closures for block parties and other events is greatly appreciated. This eases the workload for those who are putting on the event.

### **Step 10- Senior Lead Officers encourage the community to get involved in Adopt-A-Block/ Mission: Reseda.**

Involvement in Adopt-A-Block/Mission: Reseda is not for “Congregants” only, but for anyone who wants to help. There are many people in the adopted blocks who participate but are not involved in a Congregation. Community is built one neighborhood at a time so encourage residents to get involved.

### **Step 11- Department Personnel can be an Example.**

I have often asked, “How can I expect others to do what I am unwilling to do in my own neighborhood.” Encourage LAPD personnel to reach out to their neighborhoods; this will enrich many other communities throughout the city and county.

### **Step 12- Inform clergy how best to support and pray for the officers who are patrolling their adopted block.**

Everyone needs prayer. As Police Officers and pastors build relationships it would help if clergy knew how to effectively pray for the officer(s) patrolling their adopted block. Pastors and church leaders would also like to know how to help and support the officer(s) as they patrol in the adopted block.

*The Steps for Building a Partnership between Mission: Reseda & the Los Angeles Police Department are available on the Resouce DVD. See DVD RESOURCES> Mission: Reseda Phase Five> Mission Reseda Phase One> Steps for Building a Partnership between Mission: Reseda & the Los Angeles Police Department*

## STAY IN TOUCH WITH MISSION: RESEDA

### STAY IN TOUCH WITH MISSION: RESEDA

Learn about new updates, share your stories, and hear what others are doing in their neighborhoods. Gather ideas from others who are ministering in their neighborhoods by visiting us online, by email, or by phone. We welcome your questions as well as testimony of your own experiences with neighborhood ministry.

Web: [www.missionreseda.com](http://www.missionreseda.com)

Email: [missionreseda@valleyvineyard.org](mailto:missionreseda@valleyvineyard.org)

Phone: Lynn Cory at (818) 776-9696

### LYNN CORY BIO

Lynn was born in Marshalltown, Iowa and moved to California in the early 50s. He grew up in Ventura, California where he lived to surf. While in Thailand in 1968 during the Viet Nam War, he had a significant encounter with Jesus Christ that radically changed the course of his life. After his tour of duty in the Air Force, he received a call to the ministry during a job interview with a director friend of his at Channel 13 in Hollywood. A few months later, he entered Bible school at BIOLA University. He graduated from both BIOLA and Talbot Theological Seminary. He served for 10 years as the college pastor at Grace Community Church with John MacArthur. Following his ministry at Grace, he was a leader in a house church movement for four years. For the last 23 years, he has served as the associate pastor of the Valley Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Reseda, California.

Lynn is presently on the Board of Israel Christian Nexus, a ministry that builds bridges between Jewish and Christian leaders. His love for Israel and the Jewish people started while in Israel in 1971. Since then, he has taken teams to Israel on three occasions to serve in a variety of contexts.

However, his greatest passion has been for pastors to work together and to see the Church move outside the walls of the building and minister in the local community in a naturally supernatural way. The Lord has now given him clarity on how to do this and he is enthusiastically spreading the word.

Lynn, and his wife jo, live in Northridge, California, and have three adult sons, two daughter-in-laws and two granddaughters.

