

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 made his final remarks saying, "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.

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 10:00 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 as our vision: 1) to pray; 2) to build relationships with one another and 3) 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.