



"THE FOLLOW-UP PHASE"

COMMENCE 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 following questions of those who participated:

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?

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 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. After stepping up to the pulpit to make the announcements I introduced Joanne. She stepped up to the podium feeling very comfortable in front of everyone and 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.

- 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 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. Here is a sample of questions that we asked in one neighborhood in the second phase:

### Neighborhood Survey

Number \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_

Name of residents \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> This person is already plugged into a church.                                   | <input type="radio"/> I left Reseda Pride Day article          |
| <input type="radio"/> I left a brochure about the Vineyard with them.                                 | <input type="radio"/> I left Foreclosure Counseling Fair flyer |
| <input type="radio"/> I left a "community services card" with them.                                   | <input type="radio"/> I was able to invite them to church      |
| <input type="radio"/> I told them about the large item pick up that's available through the Vineyard. | <input type="radio"/> No one was home (I left flyer, etc.)     |

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Hi, I'm ( \_\_\_\_\_ ), and this is ( \_\_\_\_\_ ), and we're with the Valley Vineyard. We are part of the team that recently did some clean up work down the street. Did you hear about that? Explain if no.

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We are currently looking at other activities in this area that will also make it better. Can you think of any other activities that could also bless/enhance the area? What is needed? Show brochures of church if needs are covered by church.

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Do you have any needs that we could help you in particular with? Let me write that down, you know we have a team that will be out weekly, I'll pass this on to see if we can put this on our to do list. If we are able to do this, we would want to make sure that the time works with you, may I have your name & phone number.

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Do you know of any needs in the neighborhood that we can help with?

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Do you have any needs that we can pray for? We will definitely pray about that... Can we take just 30 seconds and pray even right now? Is that ok? Let's pray...

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You will want to adapt the questions to your own situation. In the first phase the questions are more generic, but when you ask questions in the second phase they are more tailored to the experience you have had in 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 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 in the DVD that comes with this book. 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 meeting you will once again prepare for the Orientation Dinner and the mission. See **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 carryout 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 **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 **Mission: Reseda Phase Two Resources> Preparation> Intercession, Fasting and Promotion**)

- 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 Orientation Dinner

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

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.)

To acquire all of the templates for these hand outs go to the DVD entitled **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. (See **Resources DVD– Mission: Reseda Phase Two Resources> Preparation> Orientation**)
- Potluck dinner.
- Short worship set related to the mission.
- PowerPoint presentation of the Phase Two plan. (This is available in the DVD entitled **Resources 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 is available in the Media Resource Video and the notes are available Resources 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.

- 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. Also, 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.

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.)

To acquire all of the templates for these hand outs see

**Resources 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 form in the Mission: Reseda handbook 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.)**

- 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 Resource DVD entitled **Mission: Reseda Phase Two Resources> Step-by-Step Plan.**

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.

- 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.