

HOW TO DO AN EVANGELISTIC BLOCK PARTY

Compiled by

The Evangelistic Block Party Task Force

(Made up of Acts 1:8 Partners and Block Party Practitioners)

The North American Mission Board, SBC

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FOREWORD

You have probably heard the story about the tour group that visited the cereal factory and met the Director of Research and Development for the cornflake. An educated expert in his field, the director had been in this position for over 20 years. One member of the tour group was very impressed. “Tell us some of the cutting edge things that you have been doing in the research and development of the cornflake,” he implored. The director answered, “We are doing nothing in the research and development of the cornflake; it is as crunchy, tasty, and golden brown as we can get it. So for 20 years all of our research and development has been on the packaging!”

Christians do not need to do any research and development on our “product.” For over 2,000 years the unchanging gospel of Jesus Christ has been the “power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16). But Christians and churches should constantly be doing research and development on how to “package” this gospel message to deliver it to different audiences who need Jesus. The Evangelistic Block Party is one of the most innovative and effective of these “packages.”

Block parties have been around for decades, but in the early 1990s Baptist churches in California began to use them more strategically for ministry and outreach. As they grew more popular, two Evangelistic Block Party pioneers, Bill Sims and Monty McWhorter, regional missionaries from California, both wrote manuals to help churches in their areas to use this strategy in a more organized and effective fashion. These manuals became the basis for the first national block party manual (entitled appropriately “The Evangelistic Block Party”) produced in 1993.

The results were immediate and stunning. Thousands of churches have used the Evangelistic Block Party as a tool to reach multitudes for Christ. Many churches began to lead more people to Christ in a three hour event than they ever had before.

Other manuals began to appear on Web sites and in print, each with innovative ideas for prayer, promotion, themes, and especially, evangelism. Churches from other denominations began to discover and use this clear and powerful way to share the Good News. This simple church event was becoming a movement.

Therefore, the time is certainly right for the North American Mission Board to call together the brightest and best of these emerging national leaders and writers in the Evangelistic Block Party movement to produce this new manual. It is a training and implementation tool that meets the daunting challenge of being both comprehensive

and simple, panoramic yet focused, and that serves as both a “first touch” as well as a “harvest” tool for churches.

Most Christians truly want to make an impact on their world. There is no better way than a well-planned, well-executed, and prayerfully conceived evangelistic event. It is my hope and prayer that churches all over North America will utilize this new resource to proclaim the gospel, evangelize the unreached, and build an atmosphere of excitement and expectancy. Evangelistic Block Parties work. Plan one and help to change your world for Jesus Christ!

Dr. Toby Frost

Author of “The Evangelistic Block Party” (1993)

Introduction

*The Lord has done this and it is marvelous in our eyes
(Psalm 118:23, NIV).*

The word “block party” has taken on all kinds of meaning in North American culture. If you look at Wikipedia, it will be explained as “a large public party in which many members of a single neighborhood congregate, either to observe an event of some importance or simply for mutual enjoyment.” The name comes from the form of the party, which often involves closing an entire city block to vehicle traffic. Many times, there will be a celebration in the form of playing music, as well as activities like pony rides, inflatable slides, popcorn machines, and barbecues. Block parties are reported as a World War I innovation originating from the East Side of New York City, where an entire block was roped off and patriotic songs sung and a parade held to honor the members of that block who had gone off to war (www.wikipedia.org/wiki/block_party).

Did you know that you could take all of the above and make it into an opportunity to share the love of Christ? It is called an “Evangelistic Block Party.” This manual will give you a full definition of an Evangelistic Block Party. It will also present a defense for having an evangelistic event that may well transform your community. You will discover, no matter if your church is large or small, or whether your church has a big budget or collects a small offering each week, that you can, with the Lord’s help, have a successful evangelistic event that will impact your community for Christ. It’s called an Evangelistic Block Party.

We believe that everything should be done decently and in order. Therefore, we have outlined this manual by giving you more of a strategic process than an activity. It contains five units, plus an appendix section.

1. AWARENESS ... Beginning with a Vision
2. ENLISTMENT ... Raising up a Team
3. EQUIPPING ... Making Sure You’re Ready
4. IMPLEMENTATION ... Getting It Done
5. MULTIPLICATION ... Doing It Again

We have introduced each chapter with a fiction story that runs throughout the manual to help you visualize what this process might look like when used by a church. You will also find sprinkled throughout the book what we call “God stories”—real life stories of God’s involvement in Evangelistic Block Parties in various settings. We hope these stories will provide encouragement and insight for you as your eyes are opened to the movement of God through these events.

I want to thank the following for participating in the writing of this manual. Their collective passion, knowledge, and wisdom have made what you have before you an “evangelistic gem” for Southern Baptists: David Wheeler, professor of evangelism and church planting at Liberty University; Tim Knopps, founder of the Timothy Institute; Toby Frost, executive pastor of West Monroe First Baptist Church, Louisiana; Dick Thomassian, president of Training In Mission Evangelism Ministries; Christi Whitney, drama coordinator for First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Georgia; Kim Edwards, church planting and family life director of Church of the Hills, Northfield, Ohio; Steve Nerger, state director of missions for the Baptist Convention of New England; Ross Bauscher, state director of evangelism for the Kentucky Baptist Convention; Marty Dupree, team leader of evangelism and church growth for the North Carolina Baptist Convention; Harry Watson, associational director of missions for the Southern Nevada Baptist Association; Bob Sena, coordinator, on the church planting resource development and delivery team of the North American Mission Board; and our writer/compiler, Sherri Jachelski, who has experience in doing Evangelistic Block Parties in high-end communities.

As always, we at the North American Mission Board are here to serve you. Let us know how your Acts 1:8 partner or we can help in carrying out the task of the Great Commission in your own backyard.

Neal Hughes
Coordinator, Mass Evangelism
The North American Mission Board

UNIT ONE

Awareness

Beginning with a Vision

“Did you hear that our church is hosting a block party? What have we come to?” the woman exclaimed.

Her friend responded, “Apparently, we want to be just like the world—loud music and parties. I just don’t understand it, and I want nothing to do with it!”

Chapter One

Defining an Evangelistic Block Party

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Matthew 9:10-13, NIV).

Before we get into the "nuts and bolts" of an Evangelistic Block Party, it is important that you understand what we are referring to when we say "Evangelistic Block Party." You may be wondering:

What is the difference between a church event and an Evangelistic Block Party?

Does a block party have to be outdoors?

Does the type of gospel presentation define an Evangelistic Block Party?

The difference between a church event and an Evangelistic Block Party is that *the intent to share the gospel must be present in an Evangelistic Block Party*. An Evangelistic Block Party should also be part of a church's larger evangelism strategy. The block party should be one component of many. Part of the plan should be that the block party will be followed up with further ministry evangelism events.

Block parties can take many shapes and sizes. No two should look exactly alike. That said, here is how we have defined an Evangelistic Block Party:

*An Evangelistic Block Party is a community celebration in a **neutral environment** designed to establish relationships that **intentionally connect people to Jesus by sharing the gospel (proactively)**, and to provide follow-up while linking the attendees to a local congregation.*

Following are some additional characteristics of an Evangelistic Block Party.

An Evangelistic Block Party is **intimate**. Even though it is a mass evangelism event, its intimacy is enhanced by using personal evangelism. While the gospel will be presented in various ways, one common denominator in all Evangelistic Block Parties is the "mingle factor." Church members should be mingling with guests, looking for open doors to share the gospel through personal conversations. Evangelistic Block Parties provide a non-threatening, intimate forum that enhances the sharing of the gospel.

An Evangelistic Block Party is **intentionally evangelistic**. Communicating the good news of Christ is the goal of every Evangelistic Block Party. People who attend your

block party will be at different stages in their spiritual understanding. Some will have little to no knowledge of God. Others will have a hazy awareness of a “Supreme Being.” Others will be interested in hearing about Christ. Some will even be ready to receive Him. Evangelistic Block Parties provide a way to share Christ with those who are ready and to cultivate those who are farther away from Christ.

An Evangelistic Block Party is **informal**. Food, fun activities, and light-hearted entertainment all create a warm, relaxing, and inviting environment that even those furthest from Christ should feel drawn to. Keep it informal!

An Evangelistic Block Party is **interesting**. It is important that the event be organized in such a way that it is interesting and relevant. Make sure you have enough activities to keep the event moving. Lively, culturally relevant music should be played the entire time. Make sure entertainment is done in a professional manner. Narratives, whether in testimony, story, or message form, should be kept brief and be presented with enthusiasm.

An Evangelistic Block Party is **imaginative**. Use your creativity to format your party in a way that is unique to the place, people, and time you are doing it. You may want to do your Evangelistic Block Party around a holiday. You may want to create a carnival atmosphere, or perhaps a sports theme. You could have the block party as a kick-off to week of Vacation Bible School. One of the most popular Evangelistic Block Parties is also known as a “fall festival” on or around Halloween. You may be able to connect your block party with a local event, such as a fair or sporting event. (If you do this, just be careful that you are not competing with vendors or violating any regulations.) As you read through this manual, you will find a variety of examples of different types of block parties. Don’t be afraid to copy an idea you find here, as long as you contextualize it for your community.

The definition of an Evangelistic Block Party:

An Evangelistic Block Party is a community celebration in a neutral environment designed to establish relationships that intentionally connect people to Jesus by sharing the gospel (proactively), and to provide follow-up while linking the attendees to a local congregation.

The characteristics of an Evangelistic Block Party:

- Intimate
- Intentionally evangelistic
- Informal
- Interesting
- Imaginative

“Why would a church want to do a block party?”
asked the woman.

“All people do these days is party.”

“With all due respect, ma’am,” the pastor responded,
“this will be an Evangelistic Block Party. It is a
chance for us to share the gospel with people who
might not be ready to step foot inside our church.
It is a party though. And you’re right, people like to
party. And we want to draw a lot of people.”

The woman paused for a moment before
responding, “So you’re saying, we would host a party
to tell people about Jesus?”

“Exactly!” the pastor responded.

Chapter Two

Reasons to Have an Evangelistic Block Party

*“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It’s no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled on by men. “You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven”
(Matthew 5:13-16, HCSB).*

It is important for a church to have a clear understanding of why they do the things they do. An Evangelistic Block Party needs to be part of a church’s larger evangelism strategy. While it should be just one component of that strategy, it is a valuable one. Here are some of the reasons for doing an Evangelistic Block Party.

It **puts the church where the lost are**. An Evangelistic Block Party gets the church outside of the four walls and into the community. This opens up doors for the church to then demonstrate the love of Christ with the community in practical ways. Here the church can “be the church.”

It provides a setting where you can **share the gospel in a less threatening environment**. At an Evangelistic Block Party you will encounter people who would never have considered stepping foot inside of your church. They would, however, not hesitate to walk across the street to see what the party is all about.

When an Evangelistic Block Party takes place, the **community is sowed down with the gospel**. New seeds are planted. The gospel is shared and people are given the opportunity to respond

People experience the love of Christ in a practical way. For those in your community who may not have any Christians in their circle of influence, it will be a unique and tangible opportunity for them to experience the love of Christ.

An Evangelistic Block Party **gives lost people the opportunity to invite lost people to hear the gospel**. As word gets out about the block party, neighbors will invite neighbors and the lost will invite the lost.

Church members are given the opportunity to **use their gifts for the kingdom**. You may be surprised as you discover the gifts that come forth from your congregation as they are given the opportunity to use them in this unique setting. It is fulfilling for them, and it may also encourage them to use their gifts in other areas of the church.

An Evangelistic Block Party provides a great opportunity to **train church members how to share the gospel**. Church members can be trained on the various ways of sharing the gospel. If the training is done well, not only will the church members be prepared to share the gospel at the block party, but they will also be ready to share the gospel in their workplaces and communities in the days to come.

The pastor of a church in the Cleveland, Ohio area was admittedly skeptical about the value of a block party. However, a mission team was coming to assist with some projects, and he agreed that at the end of a week-long sports camp, the church could host a celebration, a block party. His original plan was to be on a family vacation that day, but he felt like he shouldn't go. He knew he needed to be there for this event. The church, which averaged around 80 on a Sunday morning, was overwhelmed when 400 people showed up for their block party.

The pastor looked out over the crowd and wept as his eyes were opened to the opportunities their church had been missing. He described it as "our church's finest hour." The church has kept up with the families who attended and are now seeing the fruit as people who were saved at that block party have since been baptized and are now fully engaged in the church.

An Evangelistic Block Party provides a unique opportunity for the **church to partner with the world**. Some of the best relationships are formed when you are working alongside someone. This can occur as individuals volunteer to assist the church, as well as businesses.

An Evangelistic Block Party is a great way to **connect with the local business community and other like-minded community organizations**. As you gather sponsors and ask for businesses to assist with promoting the event, you are raising awareness of your church and the body of Christ within that business community.

Evangelistic Block Parties **provide you with valuable information about your community**. You know those demographic studies? When you have your block party, you'll find out just how accurate those statistics really are. This will help as you consider other ways you can

minister to the community. You may discover a major need in the community that you never would have known was there had it not been for the block party.

An Evangelistic Block Party can lead to **opportunities for planting churches**. As a result of the block party, you may discover a people group in your community that does not have a church that is reaching out and connecting with them in their heart language.

An Evangelistic Block Party **moves your church from being attractional to missional**. Instead of having the mentality that says "everyone should come to us," the block party takes the church out into the community. Here the church isn't saying "come join us." At a block party, the church says, "how can we serve you?"

An Evangelistic Block Party **reveals authentic Christianity that people can see.** Because the church is so often contained within its “bubble,” many unbelievers have false perceptions about what Christians are really like. The block party gives them the chance to see us for who we are. The lost world needs to see us having fun.

The Evangelistic Block Party **connects people in the community with people in the body of Christ.** Your church members will no longer be able to claim that they don’t know anyone who isn’t a Christian.

An Evangelistic Block Party may be just **what your church needs to be reinvigorated.** Often when churches begin declining, it happens because the focus turns inward. As the church begins to focus on the people and the needs of the community, a shift takes place and an excitement is stirred.

It is **family-oriented and provides activities for children.** When you draw children, you draw parents. Parents love safe, fun, and free activities for their kids.

People like parties. Invite your neighbor to church and you may be rejected, but invite them to a party and you have just significantly increased your likelihood of a positive response.

It is a free event. You have just eliminated another excuse for someone to turn you away. They can’t tell you “it cost too much.”

An Evangelistic Block Party **can be done anytime of the year.** A block party does not necessarily have to be held outdoors. Anytime of the year is a good time for a party!

Any church can do it. No matter how many you have in Sunday worship or what your budget is, any church can do an Evangelistic Block Party.

20 Reasons for Having an Evangelistic Block Party

- Puts the church where the lost are.
- Provides a setting where you can share the gospel in a less threatening environment.
- Community is sowed down with the gospel.
- People experience the love of Christ in a practical way.
- Gives lost people the opportunity to invite lost people to hear the gospel.
- Church members are given the opportunity to use their gifts for the kingdom.
- Church members are trained how to share the gospel.
- An opportunity for the church to partner with the world.
- Connects the church with the local business community and other like-minded community organizations.
- Provides you with valuable information about your community.
- Can lead to opportunities for planting churches.
- Moves your church from being attractional to missional.
- Reveals authentic Christianity that people can see.
- Connects people in the community with people in the body of Christ.
- Reinvigorates the church.
- Family-oriented and provides activities for children.
- People like parties.
- Is a free event.
- Can be done anytime of the year.
- Any church can do it.

The congregation was soon buzzing with excitement about the block party. They were making their plans for the end of August and were talking about a traditional American hot dogs and hamburgers barbecue.

Toward the end of the first meeting, a young man slipped up his hand. "I've been sitting here thinking how great it would be to invite my neighbor Aalim, but this block party will be happening during Ramadan, when he will be fasting from sun-up to sun-down. Also, he doesn't eat pork." Another young lady responded, "You know, he has a point. Over half of my neighbors are Muslim."

The team quickly realized that if they wanted to do a block party for their community, they needed to make some adjustments.

Chapter Three

Missions 101: Understanding Your Mission Field

For although I am free from all people, I have made myself a slave to all, in order to win more people. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win Jews; to those under the law, like one under the law—though I myself am not under the law—to win those under the law. To those who are outside the law, like one outside the law—not being outside God's law, but under the law of Christ—to win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, in order to win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I may by all means save some. Now I do all this because of the gospel, that I may become a partner in its benefits
(1 Corinthians 9:19-23, HCSB)

Before you begin making plans for your Evangelistic Block Party, it is imperative that you understand your mission field. Even if you will be doing it in area you think you are well acquainted with, it is still important you take some steps to make sure you have a grasp on who you want to reach. Block parties reveal the personality of the community. It may not be what you think!

Here are some ways to gain a better understanding of your mission field.

Prayerwalk your community. Pray that God would open your eyes to the needs of the community. Pray for a person of peace, someone who will be your bridge to the community. Conduct a “Jericho Prayer Walk” for seven weeks (see chapter nine). By the third week, you should not be surprised if a person of peace is discovered. The Jericho Prayer Walk acclimates people to the community and over time, hearts become

As one church began studying their community, they discovered that directly across the street from the church was a large trailer park. Because it was not very visible from the road, the pastor had never noticed it!

By studying the community, this church discovered a whole group of people literally across the street, who needed to be reached with the gospel.

concerned for the people in the community and needs become apparent. Areas where spiritual warfare is present are also discovered. As you prayerwalk, consider: What did I smell? See? Hear? Feel? What are the implications?

Research your community. Demographic reports can be obtained from www.namb.net/demographics. Mapping Center (www.mappingcenter.org) will give you the names of everyone on your street. (This can also serve as a prayer guide.) Conduct a community assessment. Not only will a community assessment show you things you do not know about your community, but it will open doors to relationships in new and

exciting ways. While gathering information is important, it is not the most important thing you will be doing through a community assessment. The most important thing you

will accomplish is the building of relationships. You will come in contact with community leaders that you might not otherwise have opportunity to meet. You will gain access to information and resources you need, but didn't even know existed. Above all, a community assessment may be God's way of giving you the opportunity to share the gospel with community leaders or to encourage a brother or sister in Christ. (See Appendix B for information on obtaining a *Community Assessment Manual*.)

Determine who the major local employers are and the employees' work schedules. This will help you determine the best time for the event. Take weather into consideration. Local and religious holidays are also important to know. What are the big events for your community? You may be able to tie into one of these events. What languages are spoken in your community? You will want to make sure you have material available for every language that might be represented. What are the different ethnic groups? What food restrictions might they have?

Get to know your neighbors. Demographic reports are helpful, but are limited and sometimes can be outdated. Communities are constantly changing. Spend time at the local coffee shop, soccer field, football game, and park. What are people in the community talking about? Talk to your mail delivery person. They are often well aware of community trends. Follow the local news.

Be "soul conscious." Teach your people not to see others as scenery (what they look like) or machinery (what they can do). Teach people to see each person in that community as a soul with an eternal destiny. Pray for lost people.

Understanding Your Mission Field

- Prayerwalk your community. Pray for a person of peace.
- Research you community. Use demographic reports, Mapping Center, and a community assessment.
- Get to know your neighbors. Get out in the community.
- Be "soul conscious." Pray for lost people.

As the Program Leader looked over his list of responsibilities, he started making some phone calls about the moonwalk they were planning on renting for the block party. He discovered that the moonwalk would have to be inspected by the Department of Agriculture and they would have to purchase additional insurance. Budget adjustments would have to be made, but it could be done.

The day of the inspection came and as the inspector was signing off, he looked the man in the eyes and he said, "I'm so glad you did your homework and had this taken care of. Six months ago, I had to come out to a block party just like the one you're having, sponsored by a church, and shut down their moonwalk because they hadn't taken care of this. It broke my heart," he said. "It made the church look bad and seemed to take the life out of their party."

Chapter Four

Working Wisely: Following the Law

“Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s” (Matthew 22:21, NIV).

Before you get too far in your plans for your block party, it is imperative that you are prepared to take care of every formality as it pertains to laws and regulations. While having an off-site block party will create some extra steps that need to be taken, the payoff is worth the extra work. The lives you will be able to touch by doing the event in a neutral environment are worth far more than the few extra hours you and your team

may need to spend to make sure you are within the law.

In Greensboro, North Carolina, there was a particular block party being hosted at one of the local shopping centers. Many churches from surrounding cities were participating. One of the churches, well versed in doing block parties, brought with them a lot of equipment, including three moonwalks. Innocently, they had them inflated in no time, with children coming from everywhere to participate in this great festival.

While the block party was going on, a man who happened to be a city inspector came to do his Saturday morning grocery shopping. Entering the shopping center and seeing the moonwalks, he did his duty as a city official, looking to see if they had the city’s authorization of safety on each moonwalk. No one present was aware of such a requirement. Painfully, it was this inspector’s responsibility to shut the moonwalks down and fine the church who had responsibility of oversight. Fortunately, the city forgave the fine, but there were many days of anxiety for this church family, and it also put a “damper” on the day’s festivities.

Follow all state, city, and local laws.

Every area is different, so you will need to do some research to determine what forms need to be completed and any other legalities you need to be aware of to stay within compliance of the law. Check with the fire marshal for any codes that you may be unaware of. You may need to secure permits and pay fees for the facilities, depending on your location. You may also need to secure a permit to cook food. *Some of the processes may take months to complete, so make sure you start your research as soon as you begin making plans.*

Notify the local police department. In small communities, they may even be able to provide additional security at no cost to you. In any community, the police department will appreciate receiving notice of your event.

Check your insurance policy. Make sure you have what is needed for insurance purposes, including a rider. Depending on how many people will be in attendance and what type of activities you will be having, you may be required to purchase additional insurance.

Beware of Moonwalks! Moonwalks (also known as “bouncy houses”) are great attractions, but depending on your state and local laws, they can also become major issues. Find out who needs to inspect them, and make whatever adjustments are needed to your insurance policy as it relates to using moonwalks.

**Legal and Insurance Issues
Checklist**

- ☐ Research state laws
- ☐ Research city and community laws
- ☐ Contact insurance company
- ☐ Contact police department
- ☐ Contact fire marshal
- ☐ Complete all necessary paperwork

UNIT TWO

Enlistment

Raising up a Team

Nancy was the one who first had the vision for the block party. She was a stay-at-home mom who knew a lot of parents in the community and had a passion to see them come to know Christ. When visiting family in another state, Nancy experienced a church's Evangelistic Block Party for the first time and immediately knew it was something her church should be doing.

Since Nancy had the vision, passion, and right gift sets, the pastor asked her to take on the role of being the Block Party Coordinator.

Nancy was excited, but knew she would need lots of help.

One of the most critical roles to fill would be the Evangelism Leader. The church already had a strong evangelism team in place, so Nancy approached, David, the leader of that team and asked him to pray about taking on the Evangelism Leader role for the block party. David responded with enthusiasm as he had been praying for more opportunities to share Christ with the community. The church also had a strong team of prayer warriors in place, so Nancy approached April, who was an active prayer warrior for the church. There were still some holes, but Nancy began praying that God would raise up the other leaders.

Nancy soon realized that the church was full of people gifted in all different areas. By the end of the first informational meeting, she had a Promotions Leader, Program Leader, Logistics Leader, and Hospitality Leader.

Chapter Five

Organizing a “Dream Team”

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field (Luke 10:1-2, NIV).

Appoint for yourselves wise, understanding, and respected men from each of your tribes, and I will make them your leaders (Deuteronomy 1:13, HCSB).

Preparation is a key factor in the success of every Evangelistic Block Party. When the team is prepared, everyone knows what to expect, what their responsibilities are, and most important, the gospel is shared.

You will want to make sure that you have someone to fill each of the following roles:

- Block Party Coordinator
- Prayer Leader
- Program Leader
- Evangelism Leader
- Promotion Leader
- Hospitality (food, registration)
- Logistics (set-up and tear-down)

Job descriptions for the above positions are listed in Appendix A.

You may be thinking that it will be difficult for you to identify leaders for each of the

In a high-end live/work/play community, one apartment partnered with a church by allowing them to hold the block party on the apartment property, helping to promote the event, and even donated a free month's rent as a door prize.

positions listed above. Depending on the size of your congregation, you may be able to have a person for each role or you may need to put some individuals in charge of more than one area.

Block parties come in all shapes and sizes.

Think of it like a birthday party. Some birthday parties are small and simple. Invitations are handed out. A cake and punch are served. One or two games are planned. Others are more elaborate.

Invitations are sent through regular mail and e-mail. A full meal is served. Entertainers are brought in. Large games are planned. The size of your block party should depend on the size of your typical Sunday congregation. A good rule of thumb is to *plan for 1.5*

times your Sunday attendance. In other words, if you average 100 on Sunday mornings, you should plan for 150.

Assign jobs based on skills and personalities if possible. When you do the mock party, you may discover that you should change some job assignments. Make sure your greeters are friendly and outgoing, but also genuine. Make sure your “minglers” understand that they need to give people space and let them have a good time. There is a fine line between being friendly and being overbearing. If you have a team member who is overly aggressive, you may need to assign them to a position behind a table.

As you make plans for the block party, always keep in mind that **your primary objective is to communicate the gospel.** Every leader should keep in his or her mind: How can the area I am giving leadership to contribute to the communication of the gospel? In the midst of all of the other details, don’t lose sight of the primary purpose.

Leadership Positions

- ☐ Block Party Coordinator
- ☐ Prayer Leader
- ☐ Program Leader
- ☐ Evangelism Leader
- ☐ Promotion Leader
- ☐ Hospitality Leader
- ☐ Logistics Leader

Reminders

- Block parties come in all shapes and sizes. Plan for 1.5 times your Sunday attendance.
- Assign jobs based on skills and personalities.
- Your primary objective is to communicate the gospel.

Since this would be the church's first block party, Nancy quickly came up with a list of churches she thought might be able to offer some assistance and started contacting them. One church offered to send a team of face painters and another church said they would like to help with some prayerwalks.

Nancy and the Promotions Leader then started contacting local businesses to see if they would be interested in sponsoring the event. As they spoke with the manager of a local party supply store, they sensed he was having a difficult day, so they changed their plan. Instead of going into all the details of the block party, they gave him a quick overview and told him to be thinking about ways his store might want to be involved and that they would follow-up with him at another time. Then they asked him if there was anything they could pray for him about. He shared that he had been asked to meet with his boss later that day and he was concerned he might be getting laid off.

A week later, when the Promotions Leader followed up with the store manager, the manager immediately thanked him for their prayers and started asking questions about their church and about God. In the end, the store donated balloons, small toys that could be used for prizes, and paper products. Most important though, the store manager prayed to receive Christ at the block party!

Chapter Six

Seeking Outside Help

*When Moses' hands grew heavy, they took a stone and put [it] under him, and he sat down on it. Then Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other so that his hands remained steady until the sun went down
(Exodus 17:12, HCSB).*

When you reach beyond the walls of your church for help, you will multiply the impact you can have. You will be blessed by the assistance you receive from partners and they will be blessed by the opportunity to partner with you for this important event. In this chapter, we will look at the different types of partners you will need.

Other churches can be a tremendous asset, particularly, if this is your first Evangelistic Block Party or if you have a small congregation. Other churches may be able to provide specialty teams in the areas of face painting, drama, music, and so forth.

A local businessman attended one church's block party and was very impressed with the event. After the block party, he went to the pastor and invited the church to do a block party every Tuesday night that summer on the property of his restaurant. He put up the money to pay for all the rental equipment. The block parties brought him business and provided a place and a means for the church to continue sharing the gospel in the community.

They may also be able to assist as “minglers” who are interacting with people and looking for opportunities to share the gospel. You can also use a team from another church to assist with cooking and serving the food so that more of your team is freed up to serve as minglers. *At least 10 percent of your volunteers need to be solely dedicated to interacting with guests for the purpose of sharing the gospel*, so if you need the help of another church, get it! Don't overlook this most important area.

Your **state convention** and **local association** will be able to assist you with witnessing materials, and perhaps other block party resources. Many even have equipment, such as block party trailers, popcorn machines, and snow cone machines, which can be borrowed for this event.

The **North American Mission Board** has a wealth of evangelism material which can be ordered through their catalog Web site: www.namb.net/catalog.

Look for **corporate sponsors**. *Chick-fil-A* loves to be involved with these types of activities. Often, they will send out some live “cows” with coupons and sometimes even food. *McDonalds* will often provide drinks and cups. *Outback Steakhouse* has even been known to provide condiments for these types of events. *Lowes* or *Home Depot* may be

willing to come out, set up a table with supplies for the children to make crafts, such as birdhouses.

When contacting businesses to sponsor your event, be sure to present it as a “community event sponsored by the church.” Help them to see how it will benefit them. This type of a partnership is a win-win, so approach it that way, with confidence. Often, your partners will end up giving you more than you ask for. Give them the opportunity to suggest how they will partner with you. Be sure to let them know it is a family-friendly event with a lot of activities for children.

The person responsible for contacting businesses should be a lay person who is a business person themselves, perhaps a real estate agent. You want it to be someone who is good with people and confident enough to represent your church in a professional manner. This responsibility should be given to the Block Party Coordinator and/or the Promotions Leader.

Schools can also be great partners. Sometimes they will allow you to hold the event on their property. This can be particularly effective if you have your block party toward the end of the summer, but not too close to the school year. You can do a backpack giveaway and contact an office supply store, such as *Staples*, to donate supplies. Schools may even be able to supply you with names of low-income families with school-age children. Backpacks could be specially prepared for these children.

Local event specialists may be willing to give you a discount or donate games. In North Carolina, *Lamm Events* (www.lammevents.com) has been known to donate blow-ups and may be willing to do the same for churches in nearby states.

Locally-owned shops are often great partners, providing coupons, prizes, and advertising. Check with your local florist and pizza parlor.

County health departments will often come out to your event and provide health screenings. (Word of caution: You will need to discuss the materials and hand-outs that will be provided to make sure that they do not contradict your church’s values.)

Campers on Mission are also often available to hold health clinics. Check with your state convention to make arrangements for a Campers on Mission team.

The **American Red Cross** may partner with you in holding a blood drive at your event.

The **fire and police departments** may be willing to come out and be a part of this type of community event.

Evangelistic Block Parties provide a great opportunity for you to partner with your local community. By building positive relationships in your community through this type of

event, more doors will be open to you in the future as you look to do other events in the community. You might even be able to share the gospel as you build relationships with local businesspeople.

Partner Checklist

- ☐ Other churches
- ☐ Local association
- ☐ State convention
- ☐ North American Mission Board
- ☐ Corporate sponsors
- ☐ Local businesses
- ☐ Schools
- ☐ Police and fire departments
- ☐ County health department
- ☐ Campers on Mission
- ☐ American Red Cross

Reminder: At least 10% of your volunteers need to be solely dedicated to interacting with guests for the purpose of sharing the gospel.

UNIT THREE

Equipping

Making Sure You're Ready

The Evangelism Leader, David, was excited about using this opportunity to train the entire church in evangelism. Nancy was very supportive and insisted that everyone who would be participating in the block party attend the training event. David and Nancy both knew there were a few team members who weren't real excited about the training, but agreed to be there anyway.

At the end of the training, one young man approached David and said, "Thank you for insisting I come. I didn't think I needed to be trained, but now I see that the reason I haven't been sharing my faith is because I didn't know how. This training gave me a new perspective on witnessing. I'm excited about the opportunities God is going to give me to share the gospel."

Chapter Seven

Training Opportunities

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have (1 Peter 3:15, NIV).

There are two areas of training that will need to take place to prepare for the block party. One could be considered the logistical side of the block party. The other is the evangelism side.

LOGISTICAL TRAINING

Prepare your team members for worst case scenarios. Let them know that they should expect to be hot, tired, and frustrated at times. They need to be prepared to deal

One young lady was attending seminary and one of her professors gave her the choice between writing a 20-page paper or writing a 5-page paper after attending training and participating in an Evangelistic Block Party. Even though she didn't like the idea, she attended the training and helped with the block party.

She was asked to help with the games, and as she did she found herself talking with the parents and the kids and sharing the gospel. As someone who was very into theology, after the block party, she made this statement: "I discovered this astonishing truth. A theology without evangelism is no theology at all."

with difficult people in a loving way. Remind them to keep things in perspective. Every person they encounter is a soul with an eternal destiny. Remember, at the end of the day, what really matters is that the gospel is clearly communicated in *everything* that takes place. The love of Christ must be evident through it all. The atmosphere is created not so much by the fun music and activities as it is by every move your team members make. Every second you have with your guests has to be a memorable, caring moment.

Mock Block Party. If this is your church's first Evangelistic Block Party, we recommend that you have a mock block party for training purposes. This could be done a week or two before the event. The mock block party could be held after a Sunday evening service so that you can practice on congregation members. You will want to have it in a location where you can have all of the equipment set up so that everyone can be trained on the equipment. Every 10 minutes, blow a whistle or

make an announcement for team members to rotate so that everyone will have the opportunity to learn the different equipment. This mock party will build excitement in the days leading up to the event.

Once your team leaders have experience with a block party, you need to empower them to train their people. At that point, the team leaders can handle cross-training within their teams.

EVANGELISM TRAINING

While you should have a dedicated evangelism team, **it is essential that every volunteer is trained in how to share the gospel.** Offer at least two opportunities for your volunteers to attend a training session so that everyone is able to attend. These should be held about one month prior to the block party. See Appendix B for a list of evangelism training resources.

Make sure you do training the “day of.” Even though you will have had training events during the weeks leading up to the Evangelistic Block Party, it is important that you have training the day of the party as well. This training should be done on-site. Inevitably, you will have someone show up on the day of that has not made previous training events, so this will need to cover both logistical and evangelism training. It is also important on the day of the event to reinforce the main training points, particularly in the area of sharing the gospel.

Training Checklist

- ☐ Prepare your team members for worst case scenarios.
- ☐ Hold a mock block party.
- ☐ It is essential that *every* volunteer is trained in how to share the gospel.
- ☐ Make sure you do training the “day of” the block party.

As David began making further plans for the sharing of the gospel at the block party, he knew they were going to need a lot of materials to give out. He called his local association, state convention, and the North American Mission Board, and within days he had all of the resources he needed.

They even had resources in Spanish, which they would definitely be using as they were planning on having a Spanish presenter for one portion of the block party.

Chapter Eight

Evangelistic Block Party Tool Chest

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19, HCSB).

There is a wealth of evangelism resources available to you. If your block party is tied to a sporting event or holiday event, you should be able to find corresponding evangelism resources. You will want to make sure the resources you select are contextualized for your community. Make sure that you have resources for the appropriate ethnic groups that may be represented. (Additional resources which can be used in preparation for the event are located in Appendix B.)

Below is a list of evangelism resources which are recommended for distribution at block parties:

Resources for Witnessing

Evangelism Tracts that can be purchased at www.nambstore.com:
(Note: Most of these resources are available in multiple languages.)

Eternal Life

What Is The Most Important Thing?

Your Story ... How Will It Turn Out?

Here's Hope

Your Life: A New Beginning

A number of additional evangelism tracts and resources are available at www.billygraham.org and www.lifeway.com.

RELAY is a six-week relational evangelism experience designed to help you better share the gospel you already know. It is a perfect training tool for Sunday School classes and small groups prior to an Evangelistic Block Party. For more information, visit www.ShareAsYouGo.com. RELAY can be purchased at www.nambstore.com.

Evangecube's are another excellent witnessing tool and can also be ordered at www.lifeway.com.

Tracts and Resources for Children can be purchased from Child Evangelism Fellowship at www.cefpres.com as well as from the North American Mission Board at www.nambstore.com. The North American Mission Board has two tracts geared toward

children that may be especially helpful. They are *Sharing God's Special Plan* and *An Important Question for an Important Person* (this one is also available in Spanish).

Resources for New Believers

Here's Hope Bibles are useful for new believers and can be ordered at www.lifeway.com.

The Personal Commitment Guide is a powerful help in counseling people who are interested in making a decision to accept Jesus as their Savior or who are unsure about aspects of their Christian walk. The fold-out pamphlet covers the areas of salvation, baptism, church membership, assurance of salvation, rededication and Christian vocations. Questions are answered with Scripture references and focus on God's purpose, our needs, God's provision, our response, and ultimately, our commitment to Christ. This guide can be ordered online at www.nambstore.com. This guide is also available for youth and children.

Beginning Steps is a great personal study guide for new Christians after they make their profession of faith. The study workbook provides answers to common questions, helps new Christians establish a daily Bible study plan, and encourages new Christians with the Word of God. This booklet is available at www.nambstore.com.

Survival Kit for New Christians helps new Christians understand and win over problems in their lives. Also helps them learn to have quiet time, prayer, Bible study, and to do Bible memory. *Survival Kits* can be ordered at www.lifeway.com.

Tool Chest Highlights

- If your block party is tied to a sporting or holiday event, find corresponding resources.
- Make sure your resources are contextualized.
- Make sure you have appropriate resources for all ethnic groups that may be represented at your block party.

The Sunday after the first informational meeting, the pastor got up in front of the congregation and asked them to join him in a time of prayer for the block party.

That Sunday was just the beginning. Every Sunday leading up to the block party, the pastor led the congregation in a time of dedicated prayer for the block party. Even those who would not be able to be on-site for the block party felt a part of it as they spent weeks in prayer leading up to the event.

Chapter Nine

Pray, People Pray

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land (2 Chronicles 7:14, NIV).

Prayer is the most important thing you will do in preparation for an Evangelistic Block Party. You are entering enemy territory when you seek the lost. Satan will try to discourage and disrupt everything you do. When you set out to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, Satan will try to block you and oppose you from every corner. Prayer is necessary to pull down the strongholds of the Evil One. Through prayer, the Holy Spirit is given control of our every effort. Prayer will give those witnessing at the

Lucy was well-known in the community. She was known for her involvement in a lot of things, but it was also well-known about Lucy that she was an alcoholic. Being active in the community though, Lucy was glad to help prepare food at the church's block party. By the end of the block party, Lucy prayed to receive Christ.

Shortly after Lucy's conversion, she led six neighborhood boys who were involved in gangs to Christ and they were all baptized along with Lucy. Lucy ended up gaining influence in the community and became instrumental in opening doors for the church to make an impact on the community. Shortly after the block party, one of the young men who prayed to receive Christ was killed in a drive-by shooting. At his funeral, Lucy shared her testimony.

God is continuing to use Lucy's testimony in that community, and it all started at a block party.

Evangelistic Block Party strength and confidence. Prayer is also a recognition of our dependence on God, who alone is able to bring the lost to salvation.

The pastor should present plans for the Evangelistic Block Party in a prayer meeting with the entire congregation. The church should agree to reach out in this way. An Evangelistic Block Party is not a special group activity; it should be a total church activity. Involve every member in this work. Pray also at this meeting that the right people will be chosen for the leadership of the Evangelistic Block Party.

Prayer for the Evangelistic Block Party should be a priority at every church meeting. Each block party planning session should also include a special prayer time. Conduct a special prayer meeting the night before the block party. This should involve the entire church.

While it is good to pray for nice weather and that the equipment will function properly, **it**

is most important to pray for the lost. Everything can go off without a hitch, but if lives are not ultimately changed for eternity, the work is in vain. You may wish to take

the area phone directory and split it up among team members and congregation members and make sure each name is prayed for.

Here are some things to think about in light of God's Word as you pray for the lost:

We must pray for the lost because:

- It's God's heart (1 Timothy 2:1-4; Matthew 6:10; Romans 10:1)
- Of their condition—they're blind (2 Corinthians 4:3-4)
- They're bound (2 Timothy 2:25-26; Ephesians 2:2; Colossians 1:18)
- They're condemned (John 3:18); they're under God's wrath (John 3:36; Ephesians 2:1-3)
- They're helpless (John 6:44, 65; Colossians 2:13)
- They're hopeless (Ephesians 2:12)

We should pray for the lost:

- With praise and thanksgiving (Psalm 100:4; 1 Timothy 2:4)
- According to the promises of His Word (2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 5:14; Mark 10:27)

We should pray for laborers (Luke 10:2). And we should pray remembering where we once were (Ephesians 2:4-8).

We should pray strategically for the lost:

- For receptive hearts (Luke 8:5, 12)
- That their eyes will be opened (Matthew 13:15)
- For their attitude to be adjusted (John 16:8)
- For them to be released to believe (2 Timothy 2:25-26)
- For their transformation (Romans 12:1-2)

To assist you with in your prayer strategy, located in Appendix B are two prayer resources. The first is a 30-Day Prayer Guide for Unreached People. The second is a description of a Jericho Prayer Walk, which takes place over seven weeks.

Prayer Reminders

- Prayer is the most important thing you will do in preparation.
- Prayer for the block party should be a priority at every church meeting.
- It is most important to pray for the lost.

UNIT FOUR

Implementation

Getting It Done

The big day came quickly. A lot of set-up had already taken place, and the set-up crew arrived at the site at dawn to finish setting up the equipment that couldn't be set up the previous day. Not long after, the rest of the volunteers started arriving. There was a sense of excitement and anticipation in the air. The first thing they did that day was to gather together and pray. Prayer was followed by a training refresher. After the training, the volunteers dispersed to their areas of responsibility.

Everyone knew right where to go and what to do. Soon the aroma of the grill and the smell of popcorn were in the air. Clowns were walking through the surrounding streets inviting everyone they saw. And the people started coming. Music and laughter created an exciting atmosphere. The band on the stage was attracting a crowd and soon the drama team would take the stage.

Chapter Ten

“EV Day”: The Day of the Block Party

Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men, knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord—you serve the Lord Christ (Ephesians 3:23-24, HCSB).

The day of the block party will be filled with excitement and activities. Here are some important guidelines for that day.

Prayer. This should be obvious, but with so many details to be handled, sometimes prayer can be overlooked if it is not done first. Make sure your team gathers for prayer as soon as all of the volunteers have arrived.

Set-up. Ideally, the majority of the set-up is actually done the day before the event; however, there will be some equipment that will have to be set-up the day of. Make sure you have people assigned to set-up who do not have other things they may need to be preparing for as well. For example, your entertainers (drama, music, etc.) probably should not be your set-up crew.

The way you set-up your activities will have a direct effect on who participates. For example, if you set up all of the carnival games (bean bag toss, baseball throw, etc.) next to the moonwalk and face painting, then they all become children’s games. If you put those same games by the food or registration, you will find that the adults will play those games as well.

Maximize evangelism. The idea is to keep people there as long as possible. Have limited and clear entry and exit points. That said, you don’t want it to look like people are trapped. You define the size of the block party by where you set up your major attractions. You will need *to allow approximately eight to 10 feet per person*. If the space is too big, it will make your event look small. Make sure plan accordingly. Base your number on how many people you expect to be there at any given time. (You will find a Suggested Set-Up Diagram in Appendix C.)

Keep in mind that the party really extends to beyond the actual parameter of the event. Often, there will be people hanging around outside, curious enough to linger, but not wanting to venture in. Have volunteers assigned to watch for people on the outside and to go out to them, even taking food to them.

When it comes to set-up, keep this in mind: *Get them there, keep them there, and share Jesus.*

Arrival. Your volunteers need to arrive in plenty of time for both set-up and training. It is probably best not to let them know in advance that training will be part of this time. They just need to know when they are expected to be there.

Promotion. *Ninety percent of your promotion should be done the day of the event.* You should have a team of “sweepers” out in the surrounding neighborhood in the hours prior to the event and during the event. The sweepers should be prepared to do all of the following:

- Inform people about the block party. Tell them where it’s taking place, what the times are, and that there is free food. That should be enough to get them there! They should also have postcards or flyers that they can hand out.
- Share Christ. As the sweepers encounter people in the neighborhood, they should be prepared to share the gospel if they have the opportunity.
- Prayerwalk. As the sweepers are walking through the neighborhood and inviting people, they should be praying for those they encounter and for the block party.

Volunteer Communication. Make sure everyone knows what they are responsible for before they get there. When they arrive, hand them a schedule that covers the time from the moment they arrive, to the moment they leave. The schedule should include time for set-up, training, prayerwalking, and tear-down.

Schedule. Make sure the schedule allows time for everything you want to include so that nothing ends up being eliminated. Your schedule should be such that every element is intentional and important. Make sure the schedule keeps the event moving. All of your team members, especially leaders (including the pastor!) must be aware of the schedule and understand the importance of keeping to the schedule as much as possible.

One church’s block party featured the “Good News Express.” In order to go on the main ride, the kids were required to listen to a presentation of the gospel. As a result, within five hours, 131 people prayed to receive Christ.

Drawing them in. The smell of food is one of the best ways to capture people’s attention. Set up your charcoal grill close to the entry point. Using wet hickory wood, cook sliced onions and bacon and you will create an enticing aroma that will draw people.

Mingle. Make sure your volunteers are interacting with the guests. One way to do this is by taking pictures of guests. Be sure to *have them sign a release form first* so that you can post the photos on your Web site. Before you leave them, hand them a card with the church’s Web site address on it and let them know that within a couple of days the pictures will be posted there. You may also want to take this opportunity to offer free family photos. You could either do so with a Polaroid

camera, which would allow you to give the family the photo before they leave the party, or if taken with a digital camera, you could give them a card with instructions for accessing the photo on a Web site. Be creative. Use the photo shoots as an opportunity to share Christ and gain more data information.

Remind volunteers to treat everyone with dignity and to always be looking for opportunities to share the gospel as they interact with guests.

Food. Choose food that is contextually appropriate. There are some areas where barbecue is a hit and others where it's not a very big deal. Serve the best food that you can afford. Do the best you can with what you have. Surprise people with the quality of the food. Make sure you plan to have extra food so that you will have enough to send home with people.

Central Command Center. You should have a central command center tent that is staffed at all times. In the event that something goes wrong, it should be taken to the central command center to be handled. The central command center should also be staffed with a nurse and first aid kit.

Volunteer Identification. Volunteer identification can be handled a variety of ways. One way is to provide all volunteers with bright colored, matching shirts. Other churches have found name tags to be a more subtle approach, creating an environment that communicates "we're all in this together." If this approach is used, volunteer team members would have one type of name tag, visiting church members would have another, and community guests would have another. This allows volunteers to easily identify guests without guests feeling like they noticeably stick out.

Program. Your program needs to have a professional, smooth flow to it that keeps people's attention. You want to give people reasons to stay through the serious dramas and invitation. You may want to start off with some fun stuff (puppets, upbeat music, funny skits) to draw people in, and then go into some of the more serious dramas leading to an invitation. The meal could follow the invitation, with more fun stuff happening while people are eating. As people are finishing eating, you can go back into some of the serious dramas leading to a second invitation. After that second invitation, then you might want to do a drawing for valuable prizes.

Celebrate. Immediately following the block party, gather team members for a short victory prayer meeting and testimony time. Include prayers of thanksgiving for what the Lord did. Let some of the witnesses and team members share blessings that God gave during the day. These testimonies should be short and positive. This is not the time for critiquing.

“EV” Day Checklist

- ☐ Make sure your team gathers for prayer before the event
- ☐ Make sure you have people assigned to set-up who do not have other things they may need to be preparing for as well.
- ☐ Maximize evangelism.
- ☐ Volunteers need to arrive in plenty of time for both set-up and training.
- ☐ 90% of your promotion should be done the day of the event.
- ☐ Make sure everyone knows what they are responsible for before they get there.
- ☐ Make sure the schedule allows time for everything and is communicated to the leaders.
- ☐ The smell of food is one of the best ways to capture people’s attention.
- ☐ Serve the best food that you can afford.
- ☐ Set up a Central Command Center.
- ☐ Determine how volunteers will be identified (shirts, name tags, etc.)
- ☐ Your program should have a professional, smooth flow.
- ☐ Immediately following the block party, gather team members for a short victory prayer meeting and testimony time.

The drama was a powerful presentation of the gospel and it was clear the crowd was touched. A young man took center stage and briefly shared how God changed his life and asked the crowd to bow their heads.

At the end of the prayer, 12 hands slipped up to acknowledge they had prayed to receive Christ.

Chapter Eleven

Drawing the Net

*“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men”
(Matthew 4:19, HCSB).*

Drawing the net should be a part of your entire day. The net can be drawn any number of ways.

Some will be **one-on-one relational** evangelism. Your “minglers” should be looking for those God has called on that day. When parents are standing around waiting on their children for various activities, the parents are a captive audience. Your face painters

One block party presenter shares that prior to the block party, the pastor begged him not to give an invitation, saying that it would not work and no one would respond. The presenter felt strongly that God wanted him to give an invitation, so he did. Eighty-five decisions were made that day.

Afterwards, one young lady who prayed to receive Christ approached the presenter and said: “I would have done this three years ago, if someone would have just asked me.”

should be equipped to share the gospel as they are painting. (Child Evangelism Fellowship has resources that can help you in this area. Their Web site is www.cefpress.com. The North American Mission Board also has tracts to use with children available at www.nambstore.com.)

You may use **drama or pantomime**. This is a powerful method of communicating the gospel in our visually-oriented society. After a very powerful drama is one of the best times to draw the net.

You don’t have to have major resources or talent in order to pull off a powerful drama. There are many drama resources available to you. Contact your local association or state convention for drama resources. You may also do an Internet search for “Christian drama videos.” Some churches have

drama teams that may be a resource for you as well.

Use children. People love seeing kids on stage, especially theirs! Teach kids simple skits and songs that clearly convey the gospel.

Depending on the length of your block party, it may be a good idea to have the **mass gospel presentation done twice**. You need to remember that people will be coming and going, and most people won’t be there for the entire event, so you want to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to experience the gospel presentation. Don’t wait until the end to do your only presentation. One of the best times to do the gospel presentation is immediately following lunch.

There are several different **ways of doing an invitation**. You may choose to have people come forward and stand at the front of the stage. You may ask those who have made a decision to indicate so by raising their hand. Another method is to hand out cards to everyone with a place for each person to indicate where they are in their relationship with God. Do what is most effective for your culture. Whatever method you choose, make sure it is well done and short. For an Evangelistic Block Party you don't want a long, drawn out invitation.

Also, depending on the type of party you have and your culture, you may wish to shut everything else down while the gospel presentation is being given. Others may wish to keep everything moving the entire time, and the stage is just one portion of the entire event.

Make sure that you have a way of following up with those who have made decisions. *All* of your volunteers need to know what to do when someone prays to receive Christ. They need to be prepared to gather that person's information so that appropriate follow-up can be done. (Follow-up resources are listed in chapter eight, and a Sample Commitment Card can be found in Appendix C.)

Direct people to a prayer tent where they can go to ask questions about the gospel presentation they heard and where they can have someone pray with them.

Drawing the Net Reminders

- There are many different ways of presenting the gospel: one-on-one relational, mass message, drama, children
- Present the gospel more than once.
- There are different ways of doing an invitation.
- Make sure you have a way of following-up on decisions.

Within minutes, the Prayer Tent was full of new believers being prayed with and discipled. Every new believer left the tent with a bag of resources including a Bible and a new believer Bible study book.

The day after the block party, the Evangelism Team took to the streets, knocking on doors of the new believers and other prospects. It quickly became evident that God had moved on hearts during the block party, even some who had not initially responded. The follow-up that occurred in the days following the block party resulted in an addition of two new believers.

Chapter Twelve

Operation Follow-Up: Preserving the Fruit

But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil (Hebrews 5:14, NIV).

The process of follow-up should be in place before your event ever takes place. Your follow-up team should be the very first one that is recruited, so that the congregation understands the importance of this team. The real discipleship takes place in the follow-up.

Have letters pre-written and ready to be personalized and mailed. The day after the event, all cards should be processed and prioritized. The letter should include contact information for people to submit prayer requests and questions. Since the block party should be part of your overall strategy, your follow-up letter should include information about the next event. (A sample follow-up letter can be found in Appendix C.)

New believers should be given top follow-up priority. **Within 48 hours** of the block party, **every person who prayed to receive Christ should receive a personal**

visit, preferably from the person who prayed with them. That person should make sure they understand their decision and have a Bible and new believer guide. (They should have received these at the block party, but in case they didn't, the follow-up person should be prepared to provide those resources.)

The pastor of one small African-American church had been working hard to rebuild the church. He was hesitant, but eventually decided to try an Evangelistic Block Party.

As a result, at least eight people were saved at that block party. The pastor reflected, "All it took was about ten dollars worth of hot dogs to see people saved."

Other contacts should be followed up with personal visits within one to two weeks after the event. The person doing the follow-up may wish to take some small gift (bag of popcorn, cookies, etc.) for the family. This visit may also provide another

opportunity to share the gospel.

You will need to **provide training for your follow-up team/decision counselors**. If your church already has a FAITH Team or Sunday morning counselors in place, they would be the perfect fit for this responsibility.

Recognize and **show your appreciation to sponsors**. Send them a small gift as a token of your appreciation.

A simple, yet detailed follow-up plan to include as part of your overall evangelism/discipleship strategy can be found in Appendix C.

Follow-up Checklist

- ☐ Begin preparing for follow-up before the event ever takes place.
- ☐ Within 48 hours, every person who prayed to receive Christ should receive a personal visit.
- ☐ Provide training for your follow-up team/decision counselors.
- ☐ Do a follow-up act of appreciation for your sponsors.

UNIT FIVE

Multiplication

Doing It Again

As the evaluation process unfolded, it became clear to the entire leadership team that there was a tremendous need for a Hispanic church in that area.

The Evangelism Leader, who was born in Ecuador, shared that he felt called to the ministry years ago, and now he felt called to be the church planter for the Hispanic church.

Chapter Thirteen

Starting Churches from an Evangelistic Block Party

After they had evangelized that town and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, to Iconium, and to Antioch, strengthening the hearts of the disciples by encouraging them to continue in the faith, and by telling them, “It is necessary to pass through many troubles on our way into the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:21-22, HCSB).

There are countless churches that have been started in North America. Many will have in their historical beginnings an Evangelistic Block Party. What better way to build relationships than utilizing a community celebration, such as a block party. It makes perfect sense to use this as a strategy in beginning a church out of the evangelistic dividends from the community event.

Evangelistic Block Parties can be an effective way of “softening” the community and building relationships where a new church plant is preparing to launch. It is important to keep in mind that **the block party should be just one component of the overall church planting strategy**. The block party is an opportunity for you to invite the community not just to your launch service, but also to other community ministry events you will be having prior to and after the launch.

No matter when you are planning to launch, you can always do a block party. Block parties are often great summer events, so you could do one the summer

One church plant was going to be having their first service the Sunday following the block party. They chose a location for the block party that was within eyesight of the location where the church would be having their services. They set up what they called a “Hope Boat” – a large tub to be used for baptisms. The day of the block party, they were able to point out the “Hope Boat” and let people know that would be the spot where baptisms would be taking place the following Sunday. This created a visual picture and reminder for the block party guests.

prior to your launch. You can also hold block parties during winter months in a local school gymnasium or similar indoor facility. This can be particularly effective if you are planning to launch on Easter, as it provides you with an opportunity to invite people not only to the Easter service, but also to other activities you will be having leading up to the launch.

These events can be held as far out as three years or as close as three days to the launch. If you are going to begin doing Evangelistic Block Parties a ways out from your launch, it may benefit you in identifying a person of peace in your community. You can also use the block party to invite children to a Backyard Bible Club that could be held during the summers leading up to the launch.

Just prior to launching, one month or one week,

you can hold multiple block parties in the various communities you will be reaching. If possible, hold one block party in the parking lot of your future meeting place. A block party held the day before the church launch can be a great way to let people know about the first service. If you have people saved at the block party, you may even be able to have baptisms during your launch service!

Follow-up is crucial! In order to do follow-up, you have to have names. Make sure that you have a way of recording names and information. A registration table with valuable door prizes should be located right at the entrance to the party so that you can capture that information. You should follow-up with all names within one week of the event. In a new church that is just starting, this may seem impossible, but with the help of another church, you can do it. Your partnering church can handle written correspondence and some phone calls. Ask the partnering church to help you identify which prospects should receive personal visits. Then, the pastor and leaders can focus on making personal visits to those prospects. For more information on follow-up, see chapter 12 and Appendix C.

Don't stop after the launch. After you launch, continue holding block parties, at least one per year, preferably in the same location as the previous events. This lets the community know that you really are there to serve them and to show them the love of Christ. Your consistency will pay off. Remember, once you've done the first block party, the rest are much easier.

As previously mentioned, it is important that the Evangelistic Block Party is just one component of your overall church planting strategy. Here is a simple launch strategy for a community that has no gospel witness.

- a) Prayerwalk the community. This step must not be left out.
- b) After prayerwalking, develop a relationship with those God has revealed to you as being persons of peace.
- c) Begin one or more Bible studies in the community.
- d) Hold summer block party to gain names of families and children.
- e) Lead them from the block party to an ongoing children's outreach that meets one day after school or on Saturdays.
- f) Depending on when your launch is, hold various other block parties to break down other barriers in the community. For example, you may wish to have a block party on Halloween.
- g) Move into your launch strategy.
- h) If you are more than a year out, be sure to duplicate successful events the following year to bring continuity.

Following is a more detailed strategy from an indigenous model of church planting.

1. **Explore the opportunity.** Begin by exploring where the Lord wants to begin a new work. Is it a multihousing community, a particular neighborhood, a place where many people are clustered? Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your steps and lead you to the place on the map where He wants you to begin. Once identified, practice Numbers 13:17-20 (*“Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees on it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land.”*) (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.).
2. **Engage the culture.** Conduct a “Jericho Prayer Walk.” (As outlined in Appendix B.) After the community gets to know you, they become your friends. Some may want to help you. Most will be happy for a continued presence of God’s people. The time in the community enables you to have a keen understanding of the culture and their need. Future leaders may be discovered from these seven weeks of walking and ministering to others in prayer.
3. **Evangelize the community.** As a general rule, have an Evangelistic Block Party on the eighth week. It is a way of transitioning into being the church on site. Often the indigenous leaders you meet during the prayer walks can be recruited to participate in some way (they make great cooks!). Do it with them, not for them. Be partners in the gospel, with the shared task to evangelize the lost. Many times from these parties and prayer walks, you will have a number of people saved. Sometimes the day of, or the next week, you can baptize on site those who gave their heart to Jesus Christ during this great celebration.
4. **Equip the believers.** The weeks after the block party should be spent attempting to raise up and feed baby Christians. Use materials from NAMB to help explain their decision to follow Christ. Take your time and choreograph your units into small groups—men, women, and children groups. Work to see that the local leaders make decisions such as where to meet, who will bring refreshments, etc. Once again, “do it with them, not for them.” All of the ingredients of the body of Christ will begin to manifest with these new believers. It won’t be long before the people of that community become family—a church family.
5. **Empower the leaders.** You will have new believers who grow into strong Christians. Constantly partner with the people from the community (where you began the work through the prayer walk and Evangelistic Block Party). You may feel like you’re going five steps forward and three steps backward, but keep loving them in Jesus’ name, and attempt to show them biblically what God expects of a

holy life. Some may take strong leadership roles, enabling you to decrease while the indigenous leader increases. It is rewarding to see how that person who is baptized from the Evangelistic Block party grows to be a mature believer in Jesus Christ.

6. **Exit the area.** The goal for this indigenous model is to eventually depart from the area, leaving behind a New Testament presence. Acts 14:21-23 (NIV) says, *“They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. ‘We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,’ they said. Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.”* Whether it is left to an indigenous leader or to the next tier of lay people from other churches to continue the church, the initial crop of leaders from outside attempts to eventually move on to the next place of ministry in the city, committing the work done previously to the Lord Jesus.

Block Parties and Church Planting Reminders

- The block party should be just one component of the overall church planting strategy.
- No matter when you are planning to launch, you can always do a block party.
- Follow-up is crucial.
- Don’t stop after the launch.

As the leadership team wrapped up the evaluation process, they knew this would not be the last block party. The team began to do some long-term planning and dreaming. After some prayer, careful analysis and calculations, they determined it would be a worthwhile investment for them to purchase a block party trailer. The Hispanic church plant that would be birthed out of their church would be able to use it as well.

Chapter 14

Organizing with Multiplication in Mind

So we must not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up (Galatians 6:9, HCSB).

As a result of the block party, you should see **internal multiplication**. For example, for the block party you may have had a group of people get together to form a drama team. After having had the opportunity to share the gospel through drama during the block party, that team may decide they want to continue looking for opportunities to use drama to share the gospel. Thus, the church now has a drama ministry. Permanent ministries will sprout out of ministries that were formed as a function of the block party, thus resulting in a multiplication of the harvest.

Once you've done one Evangelistic Block Party, you'll find that the next will be easier. Evaluate what activities and resources you can use again. Begin praying about where and when you should have your next block party. It may be that you just need to move it one or two blocks over. Find out if there are people who would be interested in serving at another block party. The best time to begin planning the next one is right after your first one while the excitement and ideas are still fresh.

Use the results of your evaluation to determine what you can do to improve. Team leaders can get together with their team to create a report and evaluation from their perspective. Then team leaders can all gather together to discuss what their teams discovered.

As you begin making plans for future block parties, here are some specific equipment considerations to keep in mind:

- If you think you will be doing several more block parties, you should **consider whether it would be cost effective for you to purchase a block party**

A church plant in Wisconsin held a block party prior to their launch. Within a month after the launch, three families joined the church as a result of the block party. Their first contact with the church was at that block party.

trailer. The average cost of renting equipment for a basic block party is \$1,000 for the "big stuff." (If your block party is a small, neighborhood party, you would not need to rent that much equipment.) If you were to buy the equivalent equipment it would cost you about \$15,000 (\$18,000 if you include a trailer to be fully stocked). If you are planning on doing 20 block parties or more, it would be prudent to purchase a block party trailer. For additional information about

Evangelistic Block Party Trailers, visit www.timothyinstitute.org or e-mail blockpartytrailer@timothyinstitute.org.

- **If you purchase a trailer, you will need a standard pick-up** (not a front-wheel drive vehicle) to tow the trailer. The vehicle should be single axle and able to pull 2,990 pounds.
- **Moonwalks do wear out.** If you are able to put them on grassy areas they will last longer. It is estimated that a moonwalk should last about two years. It costs \$300 to rent a moonwalk. It may be best to rent moonwalks and tents since they do need to be replaced over time.
- When considering the purchase of bigger items, **make sure you don't go beyond the point of diminishing return.** If it's not something that is going to bring more people in or keep them there longer, it probably is not worth the money to purchase.
- Before purchasing any equipment, **check with your local association** because they may already have the equipment you can just borrow. Some associations even have block party trailers.

Multiplication Considerations

- As a result of the block party, you should see internal multiplication.
- Pray about where and when you should have your next block party.
- Use the results of your evaluation to determine what you can do to improve.
- Consider whether you should purchase a block party trailer or certain pieces of equipment.
- Check with your local association to see what equipment they have available that you may be able to use.

APPENDIX

Appendix A: Dream Team Job Descriptions

Appendix B: Resources

Appendix C: Sample Forms

Appendix A – Job Descriptions

Overview

Pastor

Block Party Coordinator

Prayer Leader

Program Leader

Evangelism Leader

Promotion Leader

Hospitality Leader

Logistics Leader

Appendix A

“Dream Team” Job Descriptions

As referenced in chapter five, there are several roles that you will need to fill to ensure that appropriate preparation and implementation of the Evangelistic Block Party takes place. These leaders will play a critical role in the success of the block party, so it is important that responsible and spiritually mature individuals are the ones to fill these roles.

- Block Party Coordinator
- Prayer Leader
- Program Leader
- Evangelism Leader
- Promotion Leader
- Hospitality (food, registration)
- Logistics (set-up and tear-down)

In this appendix, we will provide a job description for each of the above leaders, as well as a job description for the pastor. It is important that these leaders are empowered to lead their areas, while also working together as a team of leaders to see that everything that takes place points people to Christ.

Pastor

The pastor may fill the role of Block Party Coordinator; however, ideally that position will fall to someone else. The pastor's primary responsibilities are:

- ✓ Casting the vision for the Evangelistic Block Party to the congregation. It is essential that the congregation understand that the ultimate purpose of the block party is to share the gospel, and that this event provides a unique opportunity to connect with the community and to reach people who are far from Christ.
- ✓ Leading the congregation in prayer for the block party or make sure the Prayer Leader is given the appropriate opportunities to do so.
- ✓ Championing the recruitment of the follow-up team at the very beginning of the planning process (as mentioned in chapter twelve).
- ✓ Sharing the gospel. The day of the block party, the pastor should not be bogged down with responsibilities. He should be freed up to mingle with the crowd, meet people, and let people see him interacting and having fun with people in the community. He may also be used to give the invitation at the end of the gospel presentation. Beyond that, the pastor should have no other responsibilities. Volunteers should be instructed to take questions and concerns to team leaders or the command center, not the pastor.

Block Party Coordinator

The Block Party Coordinator will be the one who oversees the event. All team leaders will report to this person. The Block Party Coordinator will be responsible for:

- ✓ Scheduling and leading team leader meetings.
- ✓ Making sure all legal issues are addressed. The Program Leader and Logistics Leader will probably need to be involved in this process. (See chapter four.)
- ✓ Making sure all team leaders have received adequate training and resources.
- ✓ Making sure someone is responsible for every detail. Delegate and empower your leaders as much as possible.
- ✓ Providing support and resources for team leaders as needed.
- ✓ Establishing and monitoring the budget and distribution of funds.
- ✓ Ensuring that the communication of the gospel is clear in everything that takes place.
- ✓ Obtaining sponsors for the event. The Promotions Leader may assist with this responsibility.
- ✓ Determining the schedule with team leaders for the day of the event.
- ✓ Making sure the command center is staffed with volunteers able to handle difficult situations, a doctor or nurse, and a first aid kit.
- ✓ Being the “go-to” person for team leaders on the day of the event.
- ✓ Evaluating the event. While the event is happening, take notes on good and bad things you observe so that those can be discussed during the evaluation process. Instruct team leaders to meet with their teams after the event to evaluate their area. Arrange for an evaluation meeting with all of the team leaders after they have had a chance to meet with their team members. See Appendix C for a Sample Evaluation Form.

Prayer Leader

The Prayer Leader is responsible for making sure the entire process of the Evangelistic Block Party is covered in prayer. As mentioned in chapter nine, prayer is the most important thing you will do in preparation for this event. The Prayer Leader needs to be a prayer warrior who “gets” the importance of this role.

The Prayer Leader is responsible for:

- ✓ Personally covering the entire event in prayer. He or she should personally pray for and ask others to join them in praying for:
 - The lost
 - Each team leader and the pastor
 - Laborers
 - Good weather
 - Residents in the surrounding area (You may wish to divide up the phone book among team members to pray for each household.
- ✓ Engaging the entire church congregation in praying for the block party. The Prayer Leader should coordinate this with the pastor. You may want to hold a special prayer meeting the night before the block party. It is also a good idea to hold a prayer meeting as soon as the vision is cast for the event. Prayerwalks can be scheduled for several weeks leading up to the event. (See chapter nine for more on this topic.) If you have shut-ins or elderly people who are unable to be on-site the day of the event, recruit them to serve as prayer warriors during the event.
- ✓ Recruiting and leading a prayer team for the Evangelistic Block Party. The team members may have responsibilities in other areas as well, but they will be mindful to incorporate prayer in everything they do. You may also wish to have a prayer tent. The prayer tent would be manned by the prayer team and would be a place where guests could come throughout the party to have someone pray with them, but especially after the gospel is presented.
- ✓ Making sure that the follow-up process is covered in prayer. Pray for each person who prayed to receive Christ at the event. Pray for those who will be counseling new believers.

Program Leader

The Program Leader should be someone who has a passion to see the gospel communicated in a powerful way. This person needs to have a good understanding of the community and the people you want to reach so that the program and games are contextually appropriate. This person will be responsible for:

- ✓ Lining up appropriate entertainment (drama, music, presenters, etc.) so that the gospel is presented in an engaging and powerful way.
- ✓ Making sure you have all of the necessary equipment (sound, stage, etc.) for the program.
- ✓ Deciding which games and activities will take place and making sure you have the resources, equipment, and people to operate them.
- ✓ Working with the Block Party Coordinator to make sure all equipment meets legal requirements.
- ✓ Working with the Block Party Coordinator to make sure there is appropriate time allotted in the schedule for the gospel presentations and all of the other entertainment.
- ✓ Working with the Evangelism Leader to see if there are appropriate ways to use the “performers” while they are “off stage” to mingle and share the gospel as well (preferably after their performance).
- ✓ Choosing an appropriate person to serve as the emcee for the event. The Program Leader may choose to be the one responsible for this. Whoever it is needs to have an outgoing and entertaining personality.

Evangelism Leader

The Evangelism Leader needs to be someone who is very passionate about evangelism and making sure the gospel is shared. This person will be responsible for ensuring that those who attend the block party hear the gospel, have the opportunity to respond, and are provided with resources to grow in their walk with Christ. This person is responsible for:

- ✓ Making sure that *every* volunteer is trained in presenting the gospel. This person will need to schedule two training events about one month before the block party and also be prepared to have a brief training the day of the event.
- ✓ Working with the Program Leader to determine how the gospel will be presented.
- ✓ Ordering evangelism materials including Bibles, tracts, and follow-up materials. (See chapter eight.)
- ✓ Recruiting an evangelism team whose primary focus will be sharing the gospel and talking and praying with those who pray to receive Christ.
- ✓ Making sure every person who attends the block party leaves with some material that includes the Evangelism Response Center phone number (1-888-JESUS-2000).
- ✓ Overseeing follow-up, making sure it takes place in an efficient and timely manner. (See chapter 12.)
 - Process all cards and information received from the event.
 - All new believers should be followed-up with by someone on the evangelism team within 48 hours of the event.
 - Prepare pre-written letters that are ready to be quickly customized and mailed as soon as the event is over.
 - Make sure that information about the next event is distributed during the block party.

Promotion Leader

The Promotion Leader is responsible for making sure the community is aware of the Evangelistic Block Party. This person's responsibilities include:

- ✓ Determining the best methods for promoting the event. Mailings, hand-outs, yard signs, posters, and flyers are all possibilities. Social media Web sites (such as Twitter and Facebook) and community sites (like Craigslist) are great promotional tools as well.
- ✓ Creating attractive publicity materials. You may wish to enlist a graphic designer to assist with this.
- ✓ Working with the Block Party Coordinator to obtain sponsors and seeking their assistance with promoting the event.
- ✓ Recruiting a promotions team to assist with distributing the promotion materials. This team will distribute materials prior to the event (no sooner than one week), but also the day of the event. The team that does this the day of the event is referred to earlier in this manual as the "sweepers." They will be out in the area around the block party inviting people to come. The people on this team should have outgoing, bubbly, attractive personalities.
- ✓ Making sure material with church information and future community events is distributed at the block party.

Additional Notes

Make sure all of your promotional material includes the following: what it is, where it is, when it occurs, what time it starts, who is sponsoring it, and that it is **free**.

Don't promote the event too far in advance. People tend to forget. The week before the event should be your primary promotion time. *As mentioned in chapter 10, 90 percent of your promotion should take place the day of the event.*

If you want 100 people to come, distribute 1,000 fliers door-to-door. Usually, one person will attend for every 10 fliers you place at the doors. Using posters, yard signs, social media, and word of mouth will all help to boost your numbers.

Hospitality Leader

The Hospitality Leader's primary responsibility is to make sure that every guest feels welcome. This person's responsibilities include:

- ✓ Recruiting a hospitality team to assist on the day of the event.
- ✓ Handling registration and door prizes. The Promotions Leader may be able to assist with door prizes as he or she connects with sponsors.
- ✓ Overseeing the food. This person may wish to enlist someone to specifically handle that area, or the Hospitality Leader may choose to be the one responsible for the food. This will include purchasing the food, organizing the team of servers, and working with the Block Party Coordinator to secure a permit for cooking the food, if necessary. (See the Hospitality Leader Checklist in Appendix C.)
- ✓ Deciding what "carnival-type" foods to serve (popcorn, snow cones, cotton candy, etc.) and making sure you have the equipment and materials necessary. This person will also need to make sure there are people trained on how to operate these machines.
- ✓ Organizing "felt needs" ministry, if that is something you will be including in your block party. Examples include clothing distribution, food pantry, health screenings, and so forth. The Hospitality Leader may wish to enlist someone to specifically oversee this area.

Additional Notes

Serving Food. Kind and courteous workers should present the food in a pleasing and appetizing manner. Have workers serve the food instead of distributing in a self-serve style. This will ensure cleanliness and fair portions for all. (See the Hospitality Leader Checklist in Appendix C for menu suggestions and guidelines.)

Clothing Distribution. If you will be distributing clothes, you will need a team to be responsible for this area. Kindness, courtesy, gentleness, understanding, and firmness are attributes that team members should possess. Clothes can be provided by church members, the Salvation Army, or a local mission organization. Begin receiving clothes well in advance so that you have all of it in two weeks before the event. Accept only clean clothing in good condition. Separate clothing into six groups: men, women, boys, girls, preschool, and babies. Arrange the clothing neatly on hangers or folding tables. Provide adequate room for people to browse.

Logistics Leader

The Logistics Leader should oversee the setting up and tearing down of the event. This person's responsibilities include:

- ✓ Working with the Block Party Coordinator to assist with any legal issues.
- ✓ Building stage or finding someone else to build it, if needed.
- ✓ Working with the Hospitality and Program Leaders to provide additional support with equipment.
- ✓ Coordinating with other leaders to find out what equipment will need to be set-up and torn-down.
- ✓ Recruiting a team of people to assist with set-up and tear-down that are physically able to lift heavy equipment.
- ✓ Working with other team leaders to determine the best set-up for the event. (See the Sample Set-Up Diagram in Appendix C.)
- ✓ Overseeing and planning the mock block party for training (in conjunction with the Block Party Coordinator and other team leaders).
- ✓ Making sure as much of the set-up takes place the day before the event as possible.
- ✓ Making sure the set-up team arrives early enough the day of the block party to provide plenty of time to get everything set-up. This includes tables, equipment, games, chairs, etc.
- ✓ Monitoring the block party for safety. The Logistics Leader may want to have a security team if security is not provided by local law enforcement.
- ✓ Making sure everything is taken down and cleaned up when the event is over.

Appendix B - Resources

Resources To Help You Prepare

Resources To Help with Prayer

God's Plan for Sharing Resources

Training Resources

Miscellaneous Resources

Thirty Day Prayer Guide for Unreached People

The Jericho Prayer Walk

Block Party Trailer Information

Resources To Help You Prepare

Evangelism Planner: The Evangelism Planner will help you plan a comprehensive yearly evangelism strategy for your church or ministry. The software features proven evangelistic resources, project management capability, timelines, interactive planning calendar, and strategy recommendations. This resource is available for free online at www.gpsplan-it.com or you can request a copy from the Evangelism Department of your Baptist State Convention office.

Community Assessment Manual: Created by the North American Mission Board, the Community Assessment Manual provides tools to help you plan for the assessment, gather the information, and put it all together to help you see where God might be leading you to reach out to the people in your community. To request copies, send an e-mail to toolkit@namb.net.

High Impact Events: This manual helps churches plan and prepare for an evangelistic event. This manual can be purchased at www.nambstore.com or downloaded for free at www.gps2020.net.

Area Crusade Manual: This resource assists in all the preparation for conducting an evangelistic crusade. It can be purchased at www.nambstore.com or downloaded for free at www.gps2020.net.

Revival Preparation Manual: The *Revival Preparation Manual* takes you through practical suggestions for planning a revival in your church. It can be purchased at www.nambstore.com or downloaded for free at www.gps2020.net.

Fundamentals of Doing a Block Party: This podcast features Bobby Gilstrap, Director of Missions for Huron & Southeastern Baptist in Michigan, talking about the fundamentals of doing a block party. The podcast can be listened to here: www.christianpodder.com/episode/index.cfm?episode=71281

Southern Nevada Block Party Manual: This manual is designed to help maximize the evangelism impact and contains information specifically related to conducting block parties, park events, and sport clinics to the glory of God. For a copy of this manual, contact the Southern Nevada Baptist Association at (702) 732-4171 or e-mail hwatson@snba.net.

Resources To Help with Prayer

Great Commission Prayer Ministry: This booklet will help you develop a Great Commission Prayer Ministry in your church. You can download the booklet for free at www.namb.net.

Prayerwalking Made Simple: This small booklet, published by the Georgia Baptist Convention, is a practical tool that can be used to equip the saints in the basics of prayerwalking. Contact the Georgia Baptist Convention (www.gabaptist.org) to order this resource.

God's Plan for Sharing Resources

God's Plan for Sharing (GPS) is the central theme of Southern Baptist's North American evangelism initiative through the year 2020. GPS stands for God's Plan for Sharing. The vision of this initiative is to inspire and encourage Southern Baptists to fulfill the Great Commission in North America by the year 2020. This initiative guides churches to build their ministries around four biblical markers: Praying, Engaging, Sowing, and Harvesting. There are a number of *God's Plan for Sharing* related resources:

Across North America 2010: Association Preparation Guide: This guide is a free download at www.gps2020.net.

Across North America 2010: Pastor/Church Preparation Guide: This guide can be purchased at www.nambstore.com or downloaded for free at www.gps2020.net.

Additional GPS resources are available at www.gps2020.net.

Training Resources

FAITH Evangelism Resources: These are available at LifeWay stores or online at www.lifeway.com.

Share Jesus Without Fear: This Bible study is available at LifeWay stores or online at www.lifeway.com.

The Net: The NET is an eight-week evangelism training that equips believers to share their faith by using their personal testimony. It can be ordered at www.nambstore.com.

One-Day and One-Hour Workshops: The One-Hour Workshop can be taught in as little as one hour and covers only the basics of developing one's personal testimony and

the use of the witnessing card. The One-Day version is normally taught over a period of three hours, and includes expanded information and a planned witnessing encounter. For additional information about these workshops, visit www.namb.net.

Miscellaneous Resources

If you need more volunteers ... The Bridge is an online project-volunteer management system where hundreds of short-term mission projects in North America are posted, providing opportunities for volunteer mission teams and individuals to serve the Lord. For Southern Baptist churches, associations, and ministry centers, The Bridge is a way to post requests for students and adults on the Web. Projects include construction, World Changers, Vacation Bible School, Backyard Bible Club, sports evangelism, block parties, lay renewal, campground, church planting, and many others. Visit The Bridge at www.thebridge.namb.net.

If you need drama material ... do an Internet search for “Christian dramas;” visit www.tangle.com (formerly GodTube) and do a search for outreach skits; or contact T.I.M.E. Ministries (www.timeministries.com or call 256-319-2080) for their DVD presentation of dramas and pantomimes, as well as instructions on how to use them (available for a small fee).

If you need resources for sharing the gospel with children ... visit the NAMB store at www.nambstore.com or the Child Evangelism Fellowship Web site at www.cefpress.com.

If you need information on reaching Hispanics ... Call (888) 749-7479 for the Church Planting Group at the North American Mission Board and request a free copy of the book *Reaching Hispanics in North America*.

If you need promotional resources ... visit www.outreach.com.

If you want to look into purchasing or renting a block party trailer ... e-mail blockpartytrailer@timothyinstitute.org. The Timothy Institute has Evangelistic Block Party Trailers complete with graphics on the outside and filled with an assortment of attention-grabbing tools. Trailers come complete with a bounce house, popcorn machine, sno-cone machine, tables, chairs, tents, games, shelving, and instructions on how to set it all up. Trailers also come with “The Timothy Institute Block Party Manual” and 500 pieces of witness literature to make sure it’s not just a block party, but more importantly an “Evangelistic” Block Party.

Thirty Day Prayer Guide for Unreached People

(Fill in the blanks with the name of a specific unreached people group.)

1. Read Luke 1:11-20. Just like Zechariah, after many disappointments it is easy to begin to believe that the blessing will never come. Pray that we will believe the Lord's words that it is His desire to save all nations.
2. Read Luke 1:21-25. When the Spirit of God moves and things begin to happen, pray that we will remember where the blessing has come from and praise Him.
3. Read Luke 1:38. Pray that they will submit to our Father with humility and awe that He would even use us to fulfill his plans for the _____ (People Group).
4. Read Luke 1:76-79. Pray that we will prepare the way for the Lord to enter the hearts of the _____.
5. Read Luke 2:15. Pray that the _____ will come to see what the Lord has done.
6. Read Luke 2:17. Pray that as the _____ hear about Jesus, they will spread the Word.
7. Read Luke 2:20. Pray that the _____ will return to their own people and neighborhoods glorifying and praising God.
8. Read Luke 3:6. Pray that all mankind will see God's salvation.
9. Read Luke 3:16. Pray that the _____ will see beyond us to Jesus, who is more powerful than we are and who can baptize them with His Holy Spirit.
10. Read Luke 4:14. Pray that the news about Jesus would spread through the whole countryside.
11. Read Luke 4:38-39. Pray that as the _____ are healed they will get up and begin to serve Jesus immediately.
12. Read Luke 5:4-5. Pray that we will be obedient and put out into "deep water" whenever the Lord calls us to.

13. Read Luke 5:6-8. Pray that when the harvest comes we will be overwhelmed with humility in the face of God's awesomeness and undeserved blessing.
14. Read Luke 5:16. Pray that we will constantly withdraw from the crowds to listen to God speak to us.
15. Read Luke 5:26. Pray that the _____ will be amazed at God's works and praise Him alone.
16. Read Luke 5:27-28. Pray that as the _____ are called they will get up and leave behind everything that binds them to follow Jesus.
17. Read Luke 5:34-35. Pray that God's people will fast and pray for the _____ to be saved.
18. Read Luke 6:9-11. Pray that both we and the _____ will be repentant instead of angry when our sinful attitudes are pointed out.
19. Read Luke 6:35-36. Pray that we will love the _____ no matter how we are treated in return.
20. Read Luke 7:18-23. Pray that when the Lord comes in a way we are not expecting that we will not fall away in unbelief.
21. Read Luke 7:30. Pray that the leaders among the _____ would not reject God's purposes for themselves.
22. Read Luke 7:41-48. Pray that the _____ will have a right heart before Jesus and love much. All the knowledge we can teach about Jesus is worthless if it does not produce a right heart.
23. Read Luke 8:15. Pray that we and the _____ would with good hearts hear, retain, persevere and produce a crop.
24. Read Luke 9:24. Pray that we and the _____ will lose our lives for Jesus.
25. Read Luke 9:62. Pray that the new _____ Christians will not turn back.
26. Read Luke 10:2. Pray that God will send native / indigenous workers back into the harvest field.

27. Read Luke 10:13. Pray that the _____ will respond to the Lord's miracles in true repentance.
28. Read Luke 10:27. Pray that the _____ will love the Lord with all of their heart, soul, strength and mind.
29. Read Luke 10:30-37. Pray that we will go out of our way to show mercy to the _____ people.
30. Read Luke 10:39. Pray that we would turn from our busyness and take time to sit at the feet of Jesus.

Jesus came into the world nearly 2000 years ago to reveal God's plan to bring all people into a right relationship with Himself. But the task is not complete until every nation and every people of every language has heard. Ask Jesus what part He desires of you to play in completing the unfinished task of loving the lost.

Note: This Prayer Guide is made available from the International Mission Board and can be downloaded at <http://media1.imbresources.org/files/82/8283/8283-45920.pdf>.

The Jericho Prayer Walk

The Jericho Prayer Walk is seven intentional weeks of claiming a community for Jesus Christ through prayer. During this seven week season of walking and praying, ask God to raise up leaders from the community who would feel the same ownership of the dream that God had led upon your heart. It's amazing how He always does! The plan is simple...

WEEK ONE: Walk the community, praying the resurrected Christ through the locked doors, and ministering to others through prayer.

WEEK TWO: Enter the community at the same time as last week, praying and ministering to the people in prayer (you will be amazed at the curiosity and increasing interest).

WEEK THREE: Same as week two. Almost always on this third week, people of peace will appear, wanting to join in your prayer walk and participate with you in reaching their community for Christ.

WEEK FOUR: Same as week three. Begin to talk with the people of peace about what God is saying to your heart regarding their community. Welcome any feedback as well as their desire to be a part of this new work. Ask them to become your prayer partners.

WEEK FIVE: As you pray, walk a little slower and stay a little longer. God is seeding into the community not only their need for Christ, but the church or bible study being birthed in their backyard. Become more public with your intentions.

WEEK SIX: Same as week five. Begin announcing the dates (with flyers) of any harvest event or kick off rally that your team and the local leaders have planned.

WEEK SEVEN: As you prayerwalk the community, continue to give out flyers, announcing the kick off rally with time, place, and other details. During the prayerwalk, ask the community to follow you back and join your team for prayer at the place you intend to start the new church or bible study (i.e., a person's home, community center, club house, under a tree, etc.). Almost always by the seventh week, a cluster of people you have been praying with would have committed their hearts to Christ, and are ready for a new beginning.

Block Party Trailer Information

The following are nationwide *associational* statistics provided by the Timothy Institute of Evangelism:

Almost **one million people a year** are hearing the gospel through Evangelistic Block Party Trailer events throughout the country.

The cumulative total since we started production is over **two and a quarter million people** who have already heard the gospel through the Block Party Trailer events.

And the stories that we're hearing from the churches are remarkable as well. Church plants are baptizing new members who first heard about the church through an Evangelistic Block Party. Vacation Bible Schools are doubling and tripling their average attendance by using the trailers. People who have never shared their faith before are now finding joy in presenting the gospel. Churches are getting out and engaging their communities with the good news like never before.

As you seek God's plan for sharing in your area, you may want to consider the benefits of having an Evangelistic Block Party Trailer in your association.

Average trailer is used over 43 times per year.

Some trailers are used over 90 times per year!

Comparable cost to rent all the items in the trailer at a local rental/party store per use:
\$1,200

Average attendance at a Block Party: 400 people

Median attendance: 175-275 people

Life span a Block Party Trailer: 7-10 years with moderate repairs/replacements.

Do the math per trailer:

People hearing Gospel annually: 16,000 +

People hearing Gospel trailer lifespan: 112,000+

Annual saving to the local churches: \$ 50,000 +

Lifetime savings to the local churches: \$ 350,000 +

For additional information about Evangelistic Block Party Trailers, visit
www.timothyinstitute.org or e-mail blockpartytrailer@timothyinstitute.org.

Appendix C – Sample Forms

Local Resource Contact List

Sample Timeline

Sample Set-Up Diagram

Sample Program Schedules

Prayer Card

Registration Card

Response Card

Witnessing Outline

Follow-up Letter

Checklist for Hospitality Leader

Simple Follow-Up Plan

Evaluation Form

Local Resources

Reminder: Your local Baptist association may be able to help direct you to some local resources. Here are some things you might look for:

Balloon Animal Creator _____

Face Painters _____

Drama teams _____

Musicians _____

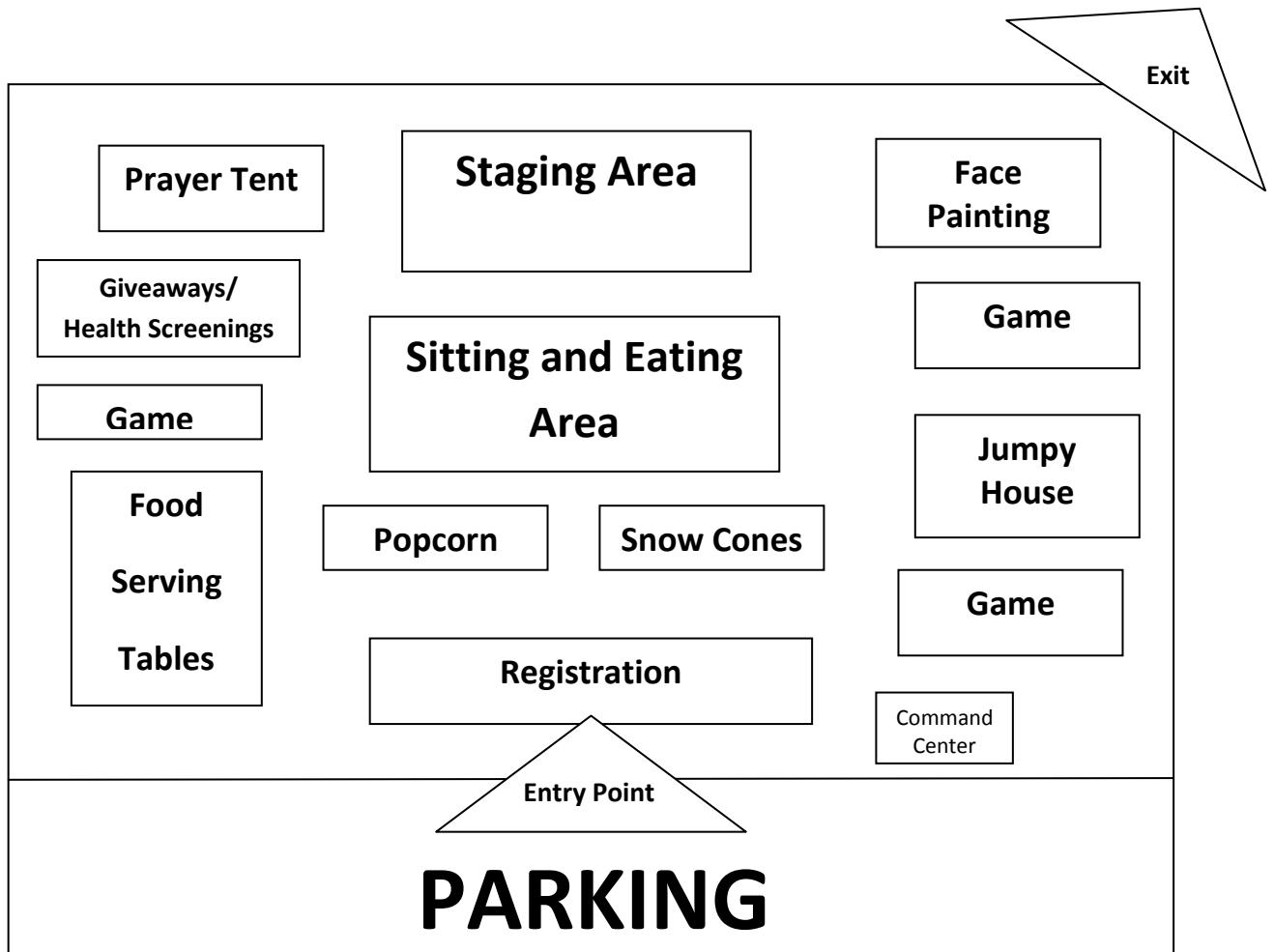
Clowns _____

_____	_____
_____	_____
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Sample Timeline

Prayer meeting to present block party proposal to church	6-12 months
Enlist block party leaders	6-12 months
Research legal and insurance issues	6 months
Secure block party site (and permits, if necessary)	6 months
Enlist block party committees	6 months
Secure program participants (speakers, musicians, performers, etc.)	6 months
Arrange for equipment, decorations, menu, etc.	3 months
Order witnessing, counseling, and follow-up materials	3 months
Make hospitality arrangements (lodging, meals, transportation, etc.) for outside program participants if necessary	2 months
Print publicity fliers, create registration cards, and make posters	2 months
Build stage if necessary	4 weeks
Secure prizes and materials (Bibles, registration cards, commitment cards, etc.)	4 weeks
Witness training session	4 weeks
Distribute fliers, hang posters	1 week
Reconfirm all arrangements, permits, hospitality, food, volunteers, etc.	1 week
Make sure all food and supplies have been purchased	2-5 days
Set-up as much as possible	1 day
Conduct training re-cap	Event day
Clean up	Event day
Visit all new converts	Within 48 hours of event

Sample Block Party Set-Up Diagram



Sample Program Schedules

Pulaski-Blue Spring Block Party Saturday, April 12, 2008, 3:00 P.M.

Schedule

- 3:00 P.M.Program
- 3:40 P.M.Invitation/Counseling
- 3:50 P.M.WBC @ Pulaski Invitation

Blessing/Meal

Program Continues

- 4:30 P.M.Second
Invitation/Counseling
- 4:40 P.M.Drawing for Prizes
- 5:00 P.M.End of Block Party

Tuscumbia Celebration for Christ

Spring Park

Saturday, October 24, 11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

Session I (11:30 A.M.)

Solo
Puppets
Mimes
Puppets
Mimes
Puppets
Sketch
Solo
Puppets
Mimes
Puppets
Mime

INVITATION

Session II (12:30 P.M.)

Greetings/Blessing

CHOW TIME

Session III (12:35 P.M.)

Puppets
Leslie
Puppets
Sketch
Mime
Puppets
Solo
Mimes

INVITATION

Session IV (1:20 P.M.)

PRIZES

Prayer Card

He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Luke 10:2

List the names of up to five people who are not saved or do not have a church home. Pray every day for the next 30 days for them specifically. Pray that their hearts would be softened to the gospel. Pray for an opportunity to share the gospel with them and to invite them to the block party.

Registration Card

Name: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Children's Names and Ages: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Are you a member of a local church? Yes / No

If yes, which one? _____

How did you find out about the block party? _____

Registration Card

Name: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Children's Names and Ages: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Are you a member of a local church? Yes / No

If yes, which one? _____

How did you find out about the block party? _____

Response Card

We hope your life was touched by the gospel presentation made today. In response to today's presentation, please share with us where you are in relation to God:

- ☐ I prayed to receive Christ today.
- ☐ I recommitted my life to Christ today.
- ☐ I am already a follower of Christ.
- ☐ I would like more information about _____ Church.
- ☐ I have questions about God and would like someone to contact me.
- ☐ Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Prayer Requests:

Questions/Comments:

Witnessing Outline

There are many ways to initiate a witness of Jesus Christ. It is best if you review several and decide on at least one, clear-cut method that you will use. The FIRM approach, which is simply an acronym to help you remember how to approach someone, is useful with people you do not know.

F— Ask about family—listen.

I— Ask about interests—listen.

R—Ask about religion—listen.

Consider the following options:

- When you attend church, where do you attend?
- Would you say you have come to know Jesus Christ in a personal way or would you say you are in the process?
- Do you think much about spiritual things?
- Who do you think Jesus Christ was and is?
- What are you into spiritually?

M— Share the message.

If their response to your questions indicates that they do not have a personal relationship with Christ, ask for permission to share the gospel.

Taken from *Family to Family: Leaving a Lasting Legacy* by Dr. Jerry Pipes and Victor Lee.

Witnessing Outline (continued)

Steps To Peace with God (Billy Graham Evangelical Association)

Step 1: God's Purpose: Peace and Life

God loves you and wants you to experience peace and life—abundant and eternal.

The Bible says ...

“We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” —Romans 5:1 (NIV)

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” —John 3:16 (NIV)

“I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” —John 10:10 (NIV)

Why don't most people have this peace and abundant life that God planned for us to have?

Step 2: The Problem: Our Separation

God created us in His own image to have an abundant life. He did not make us as robots to automatically love and obey Him. God gave us a will and a freedom of choice.

We chose to disobey God and go our own willful way. We still make this choice today. This results in separation from God

The Bible says ...

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” —Romans 3:23 (NIV)

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” —Romans 6:23 (NIV)

Our Attempts to Reach God

People have tried in many ways to bridge this gap between themselves and God ...

The Bible says ...

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.” —Proverbs 14:12 (NIV)

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.” —Isaiah 59:2 (NIV)

No bridge reaches God ... except one.

Step 3: God's Bridge: The Cross

Jesus Christ died on the Cross and rose from the grave. He paid the penalty for our sin and bridged the gap between God and people.

The Bible says ...

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ."

—1 Timothy 2:5 (NIV)

"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God." —1 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." —Romans 5:8 (NIV)

God has provided the only way. Each person must make a choice.

Step 4: Our Response: Receive Christ

We must trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and receive Him by personal invitation.

The Bible says ...

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." —Revelation 3:20 (NIV)

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." —John 1:12 (NIV)

"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." —Romans 10:9 (NIV)

Where are you?

Will you receive Jesus Christ right now?

Here is how you can receive Christ:

1. Admit your need (I am a sinner).
2. Be willing to turn from your sins (repent).
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the Cross and rose from the grave.
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit.

(Receive Him as Lord and Savior.)

Sample Follow-Up Letter

Dear _____,

Thank you for attending our block party on Saturday. We hope you enjoyed the games, food, and presentation.

We wanted to let you know about another upcoming event we thought you might be interested in. [Insert information about next ministry event as part of the overall evangelism strategy.] We hope you can join us for this event.

If you have any questions about the presentation you saw at the block party, about our church, or about God, please feel free to contact us at [insert contact information]. Also, please feel free to call or e-mail us your prayer requests so that our prayer team can be praying for you.

If you have questions about a relationship with Christ and it is after regular business hours, you may call 1-888-JESUS-2000 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or send an e-mail to *erc@namb.net*.

Checklist for Hospitality Leader

The following lists are based on an Evangelistic Block Party for approximately 50 people. You will need to make adjustments based on the number of people you are expecting.

Non-Food Items

- ☐ Plastic Tablecloths
- ☐ Gloves for cooks and food servers (1 box)
- ☐ Charcoal briquettes (6 pounds)
- ☐ Lighter fluid
- ☐ Paper plates (50)
- ☐ Napkins (100)
- ☐ Plastic cups (50)
- ☐ Forks, spoons, and knives (50)
- ☐ Large plastic garbage bags
- ☐ Paper towels (at least 2 rolls)
- ☐ 25-gallon cooking pots (2)
- ☐ Steam table serving pans (2)
- ☐ Serving spoons
- ☐ Serving forks
- ☐ Large folding tables (2)
- ☐ Punch and tea bowls (1 for each)
- ☐ Plastic bags for extra food to give away
- ☐ Ice chests for storing ice
- ☐ Plastic or paper bags for giveaway food and clothing (100)
- ☐ Door prizes
- ☐ Registration forms
- ☐ Name tags or shirts for workers
- ☐ Direction signs to registration, restrooms, parking, etc.

Sample Menu

Barbecue Chicken

- 20 pounds of chicken
- One gallon of barbecue sauce
- Chicken seasoning
- 1-2 sets of grill utensils
- 1-2 barbecue brushes

Wash the chicken thoroughly in cold salt water before cooking. Consider using a meat thermometer to ensure that the chicken is cooked thoroughly before serving. Rent or borrow a large trailer-type barbecue grill. If you are not able to get one, you will need about two small grills (and you will need to allow more cooking time).

Beans

- 4 pounds of pinto beans

Wash and soak beans all night before cooking. Put a seasoning meat such as ham hock into the beans. Add 1-2 small cans of stewed tomatoes and 1-2 small cans of tomato paste to the beans. Season beans with chili powder, garlic powder, salt and pepper.

Rice

- 3 pounds of rice

Cooking time for long grain rice is 10-15 minutes if placed in boiling water. After washing the rice, cook with butter and salt.

Drinks

- 10 pounds of crushed ice
- 1-2 gallons of punch syrup
- 1 pound of powdered team
- Sugar for tea

Note: McDonalds has been known to donate orange drink syrup with large containers.

Hot Dogs

- 3-4 packages of hot dogs (2-3 pounds)
- Equal number of hot dog buns
- One large bottle each of ketchup, mustard, relish

Simple Follow-Up Plan

(As part of overall evangelism and discipleship strategy)

Week One

- Mail letter from pastor to all block party guests. Letter includes: a list of Sunday School or Bible study classes and small groups; an invitation to attend a coffee fellowship hosted by the pastor and Sunday School or small group leaders.
- Begin visiting homes.
- Have a list of the first names of everyone who registered for the block party and ask church members to select names to pray over, making sure that every name has been taken.

Week Two

- Mail postcards from classes and small groups to all visitors, inviting them to Sunday School or small group Bible study.
- Host a coffee fellowship.
- Continue visiting in homes.

Week Three

- Continue visiting in homes.
- Sunday School or small group classes make phone calls inviting guests to class fellowships.

Week Four

- Continue visiting in homes.
- Sunday School class or small group fellowships are held.

Week Five

- Follow-up so that all guests have had several contacts from the church and Sunday School or small group.
- Hand “invitations” to baptismal candidates. Candidates send invitations to their baptism to family members and friends.
- Baptism Sunday! Celebrate! Invite guests of baptismal candidates to meet the pastor.
- Have a prepared, ongoing discipleship plan for the new believer. Your best choice is to continue to use the Sunday School or small group Bible study in their spiritual development.

This plan was adapted from the GPS: Across North America 2010: Pastor/Church Preparation Guide.

Evaluation Form

For All Leaders

What did we learn?

What went well?

What can we improve upon?

For the Block Party Coordinator

How much money was spent?

How many volunteers did we have? Was that number adequate?

Was the gospel clearly communicated in everything that took place?

Did the team leaders have all of the resources, support, and training that they needed?

For the Prayer Leader

Was the entire church engaged in praying for the event?

Were the lost prayed for?

For the Program Leader

How were the games received?

Did the presentations made from the stage seem to connect with the audience?

Was the gospel clearly communicated in the presentations?

Did people seem like they were having fun?

Did people seem to stay for a while?

For the Evangelism Leader

Was the gospel shared?

Approximately how many times and in what different ways was the gospel shared?

What was the response to the gospel presentations?

Was one method better received than others?

Did the minglers have opportunities to talk to people about Christ?

Was every volunteer trained in how to share their faith?

Did you have appropriate evangelistic materials for preparation and to distribute during the event?

Was every new believer followed up with in a personal visit within 48 hours of the event?

Promotion Leader

What method of promotion seemed to generate the best response?

Was the event promoted enough?

How many sponsors did you have?

For the Hospitality Leader

How many attended?

Of those who attended, how many were church members? Non-church members?

How was the food received?

Was there the right amount of food left over to be sent home with guests?

Were there enough door prizes?

For the Logistics Leader

Was everything set up and in place well before the event began?

Did the layout of the block party seem to be effective?

Were there any issues with set-up that could have been avoided?

Were there any problems with the equipment that could have been avoided?

Reminder: Some results may not be immediate. You may continue to have results weeks and months down the line as a result of the follow-up done.