

Adopt-a-Block

A Ministry of Community Transformation

Many people around us have spiritually calloused hearts. They are in desperate need of Christ, but there is a great disconnect between them and the body of Christ in the church, even though many methods of evangelism have been employed by the church in our communities. *What they need is not another ministry program, another outreach event, another block party or another give-away. What they need is for people to consistently love them and serve them in the image of Christ Jesus so their hearts can be opened to receive Christ and their lives can change. They need godly, loving relationships with Christians which lead to salvation and the empowerment of people toward their God-given destinies.* This is the *life-call* of the Christian - the mandate given by Christ in the Great Commission: "*Go and make disciples*" (Matthew 28:19).

Ask yourself these questions:

- How many people do you know personally in a seven block radius of your church?
- How many people in this area are you praying for by name?
- How many people do you know in the building across the street or around the corner?

Problem: We are not building relationships with the people around us. To build a church, you must build relationships with the people in your community.

Revival is not about how many people we pack into our church building. Revival is about how effectively we impact the community around us with the cross of Jesus Christ!

This is why we are going to adopt the blocks around us! We are going to care for them as if they are our own. *We - meaning all of us, not just one or two, or those with titles or leaders - are going to become the pastors of the streets around us, making them our own, and doing as evangelist Reinhard Bonnke says, "Plunder hell to populate heaven!"*

For this reason, *we are going to adopt the blocks around us - one by one.* We will adopt each house, each apartment and each project building . . . *one by one.* By doing so, we will build relationships with the people around us. God will open our eyes and ears to the hurts and needs of the people. We will build relationships with them that contain these simple ingredients: *Christ-likeness, consistency, and servanthood.* As we do, people will begin to open up to us.

Adopt-a-Block will become a powerful vehicle to love and serve the people around your church. There are many people around us with needs that no one else is attempting to meet. Churches are waiting for people to come in their doors. *This is not what Christ has called us to do. He has called us to go to their doors, to walk among them people as Jesus did, to hear their hearts and their hurts like Jesus did, and to speak life, truth, and peace as Jesus did, leading them into life-changing relationship with God!*

If we want to reach our city, we must be faithful to the people right outside our doors. And this is the way that we will do it:

1. Groups of two to four people will form an *Adoption Team*. They will adopt a block or an apartment/project building.
2. Adoption Teams will *visit* their blocks each week.
3. As a member of your Adoption Team, you will knock on the doors of each family. You will introduce yourself, present information (literature, Bibles, etc.) and ask if you can pray for that family.
4. Adoption Teams will keep a journal. In your journal, you will record the names of residents, addresses, birthdays, prayer requests, any other important information, and your reflections of the needs that are present.
5. By *consistent* visitation and prayer, you will learn the needs in each home. You will visit weekly and pray daily for the people you are loving on *your* block.
6. You will meet together with your Adoption Team before and after reaching out to your block. You will pray and seek God's heart together for the people you are meeting and keep an accurate record of what God is doing.
7. Once per month, Adoption Teams will meet with church leadership to discuss progress and develop strategies to reach people on each block around you.

As we are able to correctly identify the needs of the people, we will be able to build ministries that are relevant, effective, and have the potential to be long-lasting. New blocks and buildings will be added as God leads and as fruit is maturing in each block. We will take our communities one block and one family at a time, as long as it takes to bring true revival.

We will be:

- **Consistent.** Without consistency, we cannot build relationships. Consistency shows that you - *and God* - truly care about their needs. We will be consistent with our words and commitments, remembering what we have committed to and following through with it.
- **Prayerful.** We will walk in the authority of the Spirit and follow His leading with each family and with each step in the process of their salvation and discipleship.
- **Passionate.** People will know if you are knocking on their door out of godly passion or out of obligation. We are passionate about them knowing Christ and Him setting them free.
- **Patient.** We will seek to understand God's timing for each person, and walking by the Spirit, we will know how to be compelling, but not pushy.
- **Prepared.** *"Have your feet fully prepared with the Good News"* (Ephesians 6:15).
- **Full of Faith.** *"You can say to this mountain, 'Be removed and cast into the sea,' and it shall be done."*
- **Godly.** We will spread the fragrance of Christ wherever we go.

"If you have faith and do not doubt, ... you can say to this mountain, 'Be removed and cast into the sea,' and it shall be done." Matthew 21:21

"Every place that the sole of your foot treads upon, I have given you."

Joshua 1:3