

THE BACKYARD MISSION PROJECT

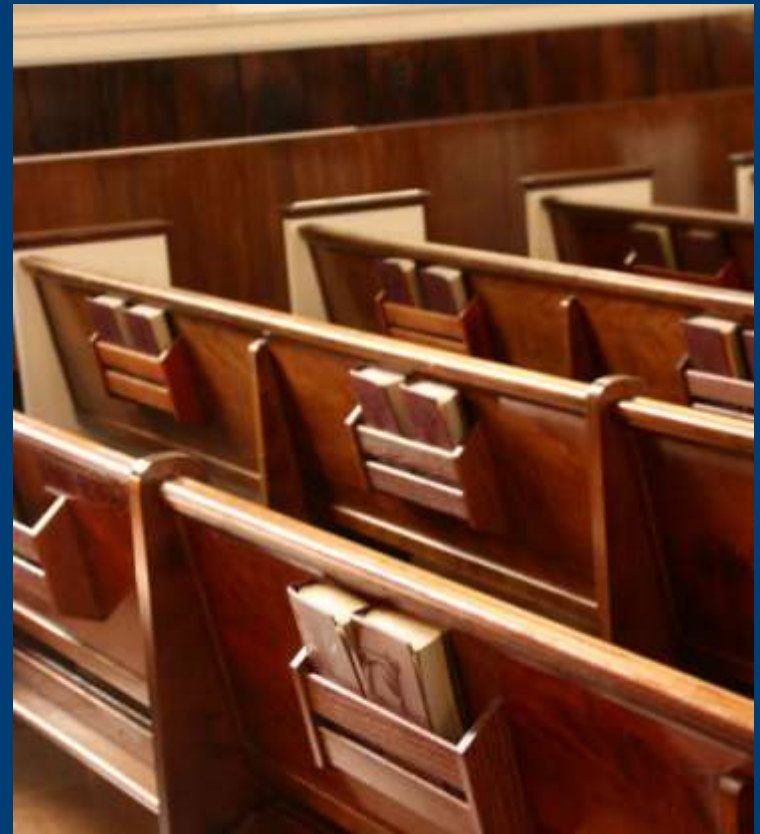
Connecting Churches, Building Relationships

American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains

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The sky is falling

- The church is no longer relevant
- Denominations are dead
- No hope



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Our God is able!



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**Many of our churches are aging
and in decline**

- Faithful servants
- People who love God and love their church



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God can lead us to new life

- We can be healthy, thriving churches
- God is not through with us



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A Jump Start

- The sickening sound of a car that won't start
- Call a friend or AAA
- Doesn't fix all the problems, but it gets you going



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SURVIVAL MENTALITY

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Survival Mentality



- Approximately 10 churches close everyday
- ABCRM has closed 4 churches in the past 2 years
- How many churches near you are “at-risk”

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Survival Mentality

- Goal of Survival
- Memory as the Glue
- Fear of Change
- Control-Oriented Leaders
- Money-Oriented Attitude

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Missional Mentality

- Goal of Doing Missions
- Ministry as the Glue
- Change Is Normal
- Permission-Giving Leaders
- Money Is a Tool for Doing Ministry

Survival Mentality

- Goal of Survival
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Foundation for the Backyard Mission Project

INCARNATIONAL CHURCH

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The Incarnational Church

- Present in the Community
- Life-Giving Ministry
- Invitational
- Commissioned



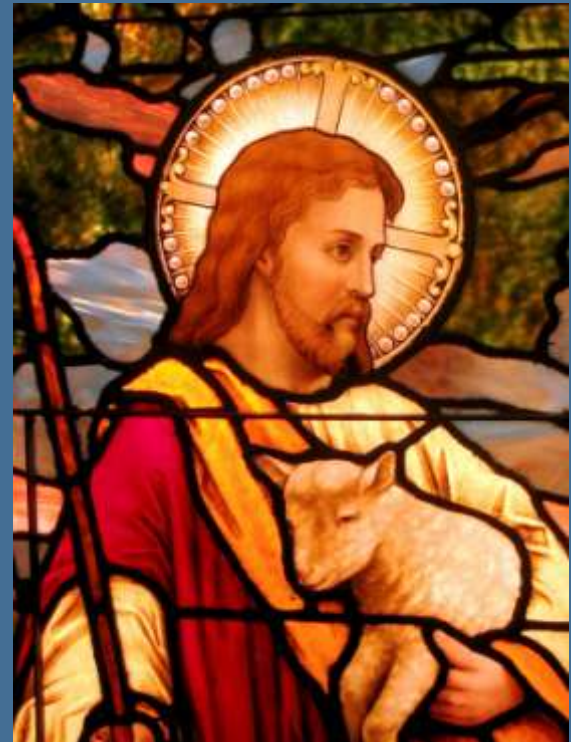
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Present in the Community

The Word became flesh and
lived among us . . .

John 1:14

We are called to be the hands
and feet of Christ in the
world.



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Life-Giving Ministry

I came that they might have
life, and have it abundantly.

John 10:10

We don't do ministry to give
people religion or rules, but
to give them life, abundant
life in Christ.



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Invitational

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16



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Commissioned

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8



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Purpose and Objectives

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Purpose

The Backyard Mission Project seeks “jump start” transformation in the local church.



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Objectives

- Serving your community
- Building relationships
- Connecting churches



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Serving Your Community

- Good deeds and good news can't be separated
- Your church can be a vital part of your community
- Serving is a NORMAL expression of being a church



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Building Relationships

- Community Leaders
- People you are serving
- Good deeds prepare people to hear the good news.



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Connecting Churches

- People don't want to go to another meeting
- Supporting other churches
- Providing human and financial capital
- Doing together what we can't do alone



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FBC Fowler Backyard Mission Project 2009

10 THINGS WE LEARNED

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Be Back in 15 minutes

BREAK

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HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE BACKYARD MISSION PROJECT

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Getting Started

- Coordinate with your Ministry and Mission Coach
- You will need the other churches in your area



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Warnings

- Simple, but not easy
- Hours of planning and preparation
- Transformation is the goal



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BUILDING YOUR TEAM

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Danger of Being a Lone Ranger



If you want to go fast, walk alone.

If you want to go far, walk together.

Elke Loeffler

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Key Members of Your Team



- Your pastor
- Key influencer
- ABWM leader
- Construction person
- Detail person
- Communicator

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Changing the Way Your Church Works Together



- The goal is to transform the way your church works.
- Many small churches are willing to let you do everything
- You are hoping to develop leaders and discover passions

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CHOOSING PROJECTS

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Criteria for Projects

- Community based
- Serving others
- “Doable”



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Ask!

- Ask community leaders
- Ask other pastors in town
- Ask your members



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Match Skills and Passions

- Sidewalks?
- What skills do you have in your church?
- What resources can you draw upon
- Something for every level of volunteer



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CONNECTING WITH CHURCHES

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Leverage Relationships

- Pastors
- ABWM
- Region staff



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Teachable Moments



- Responsibility to help sister churches
- Do more by working together
- Good deeds and good news

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Communication

- Communicate early and often
- Registration
- Projects
- Promo pieces
- www.backyardmissionproject.org



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KEYS TO SUCCESS

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Keep Your Church Engaged

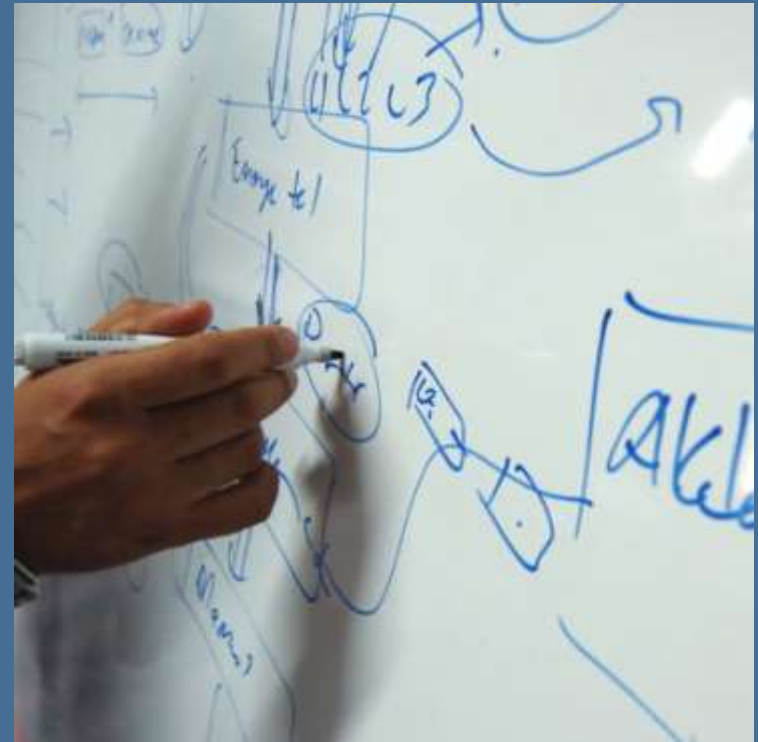
- How can people get involved?
 - High and low commitment involvement
 - Extensive jobs to quick jobs
- Communicate until you are sick of telling the story
- Have fun



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Be Organized

- Many moving pieces
 - Volunteers
 - Projects
 - Meals
 - Supplies
- Take care of the details



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8 Steps to Change

- Create a sense of urgency
- Pull together a guiding team
- Develop the change vision and strategy
- Communicate for understanding and buy in
- Empower others to act
- Produce short term wins
- Don't let up
- Create a new culture

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AFTER THE PROJECT

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After Your Project



- Celebrate
- Do a postmortem
- What are you going to do next?
- How are you going to pay it forward?
- How are you going to tell the story?

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Mike Oldham and Clint Walker

Q & A

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Work in Clusters

IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL PROJECTS

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Identifying Potential Projects

- Where would be the best site for the next BMP in your cluster?
- How can we build support from other churches?
- When should we try to do the BMP?
- What is the next step we need to take?
- What might keep it from working?

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FINAL THOUGHTS

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- Final thoughts
- Lunch instructions
- Prayer for upcoming BMPs and lunch