

THE BACKYARD MISSION PROJECT

**EXPECT ONE OR TWO PEOPLE TO REALLY SEE
THE VISION. THEN GET THEM TO SELL THE
PROJECT TO EVERYONE ELSE**

The Visionaries . . .

- Guard the vision as the project progresses
- Remain flexible as the project evolves
- Have the end product in their mind's eye
- Focus the leadership team toward the goal

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BE REALISTIC ABOUT THE TIMETABLE. IT TAKES MUCH LONGER TO PLAN A BMP THAN YOU THINK

Keys to a realistic timetable. . .

- **Make sure that you have AT LEAST 9 months**
- **Plan backwards from the event, not forward to it**
- **Pay attention to meeting dates for the Church Transformation Consultation Team if you are applying for a grant**
- **Registration information needs to go to other churches at least 2 months in advance**

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PARTNER WITH AND SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY, DON'T JUST TRY AND HAVE YOUR CHURCH DO SOMETHING TO THEM

Keys to serving your community. . .

- **Focus on serving our neighbors instead of helping those in need. This is essential!**
- **Enlist skilled people in your community regardless of church affiliation.**
- **Enlist other churches in your community to support the project, but give your church the responsibility to run the program and the authority to control it.**
- **Had neighbors nominate each other instead of asking for applications for help.**

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DON'T BE AFRAID TO ADAPT THE REGION'S PROGRAM TO YOUR CONTEXT

- Type and number of projects
- Cancel worship

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ESTABLISH A LEADERSHIP TEAM WITH CLEARLY DEFINED ROLES

- Unite them with their skill set and passion
- Help them get the vision for sharing that passion with others
- Depend on their skills and abilities to see you through
- Look for administrators and organizers, not just workers
- We had 6 Teams: Painting, Home, Yard, Sidewalk, Kitchen, and Leadership

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THE PROJECT FOCUSES ON DISCOVERING MISSIONAL NEEDS. AS A CHURCH YOU ALSO NEED TO DEFINE AND IDENTIFY YOUR PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY GIFTS

- You need to know the gifts of individuals in your congregation.
- You need to know the gifts of your congregation as a whole.
- You need to build on your assets
- You will need to find resources to help where you have limitations
- There will be needs you cannot meet because you do not have the skills to do it. That is ok.

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THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS OVERCOMMUNICATING

- The budget in each monthly business meeting
- 3-4 months prior we reminded people to take Friday off of work
- Sermons focused on BYMP for 4 weeks prior to the Project
- 1 week before we asked people to contribute supplies
- Eyeballed each project before we did the project
- Last six weeks we had a weekly meeting of the leadership team after the service

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NETWORK WITH YOUR CLUSTER PASTORS

- We had 40+ workers from out of town. All of the workers were affiliated with a pastor in the SE Colorado Clusters Together in Ministry group or someone on region staff.
- Pastoral support AND PARTICIPATION is the key to making this work in your cluster.

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REMEMBER THE RELATIONSHIPS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE RENOVATION

This is true....

- With the leadership team...
- With the community leaders...
- With those you serve...
- With those that are serving...
- Within your local church...
- With people you meet along the way...

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EXPECT TO LEARN THINGS ABOUT YOUR CHURCH DYNAMICS YOU HAVE YET TO UNDERSTAND

- Our church was not used to working together as a team toward a common goal.
- Our church is not used to communicating in a forthright and direct manner.
- Our church liked to be included, but will not offer themselves to participate. You must personally ask.
- Our church does not like to organize or plan, it likes to just “go with it”.

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USE THE PROJECT TO IMPROVE THE CHURCH'S SELF-CONCEPT

- Develop a “can-do” attitude
- Affirm the Missional aspects of the project as a church character trait
- Build the church's visibility and notoriety in the Region, your local community, and possibly in the denomination as a whole
- Use the Backyard Mission Project to help define the church's long-term goals and objectives