

A PASTOR’S

GUIDE FOR NEIGHBORING



**Neighboring Objective**

To obey the Lord’s Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:37-40) and His New Commandment (John 13:34-35, 1 John 4:7-12) to fulfill His Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) to advance His Kingdom.

**Neighboring Obstacles**

* Busyness and/or Isolation characterize, for the most part, those in our cities today.
* Busyness of people in the church—they don’t have margin in their lives for loving their neighbor.
* Perceived fear and the idea that we have never done church this way before.
* Church culture is contrary to this—existing church structure, events, and programs.
* Certain members in your congregation will oppose it.
* The enemy is dead set against this.

**Neighboring Prayer Support**

Prayer is essential for the advancement of God’s kingdom and overcoming obstacles the enemy will throw at you. I strongly urge you to read *Combat Prayer* and establish a prayer team that will stand with you as you move your congregation into neighboring.

*—Combat Prayer: Weapons for Advancing God’s Kingdom*— Anthony Rodriguez

* Ask God to help you call, assemble, and to pray with a group of dedicated intercessors and participants on a regular basis.
* Ask God that your people will see their neighbors through Christ’s very own eyes.
* Ask God to move in your heart and in the heart of your people, so that each of you are overwhelmed by His great love for the lost.
* Ask God to compel each of you into actions on behalf of your neighbors, because His love is so heavy on your hearts.

**Neighboring Plan**

**VIM Formulae-**

“General pattern of all human accomplishments.” Dallas Willard

* Vision— What I would like to accomplish or a desired goal.
* Intention— A desire and commitment to work toward the desired vision.
* Means— The method or plan to accomplish my vision.

**Example**— Learning a language— You must be motivated to learn a language.

Vision— I want to learn Spanish so that I can communicate with people in Spain

Intention— I intend to study Spanish three evenings a week until I leave for Spain.

Means— I am going to use the Rosetta Stone system to learn Spanish.

**Example**— Neighborhood Initiative’s VIM

Vision— The Whole Church taking the Whole Gospel to the Whole City One

Neighborhood at a time.

Intention— I intend to move churches and believers forward in neighboring to advance God’s kingdom.

Means— Coaching pastors and leaders, teaching on it, writing related books, social media, and loving my actual neighbors.

**Starting a neighboring movement in your church and/or city**

* Vision— A concrete plan for neighboring in your church—what you envision it to look like or your dream for what neighboring will look like with your congregation.
* Intention— A commitment to work your plan so your vision becomes a reality and becomes sustainable. You must be motivated.
* Means— An approach for bringing about the desired objective.

Once you have established a prayer team to support your work, a concrete vision and commitment to the vision the Lord has given you, it is time to plan or establish the *means* to carry out your vision. You and your leadership team will need to be led by the Holy Spirit to carry this forth. I am available to meet with you if you need help. You can reach me at 818-269-3608 or lynncory@neighborhoodinitive.org.

**Means**

1. **Establish a leadership team**

* The first step in moving things forward is a need for a leadership team that is wholeheartedly committed to the vision the Lord has given you. They will be essential in leading your church toward neighboring. They will be the influencers and leaders of the movement among your people.
* Every church/congregation/house church is different so there is no one way to put a team together. You must determine how this works best for your setting.
* I recommend, once you establish your team, that you have your team read one of the neighboring books available to acclimate them to neighboring (See NI resources below).

2. **Educate your people**

* For a season, teach the importance of loving neighbors.
* You will need to keep reemphasizing the importance of neighboring in your teaching, or your people will lose sight of the vision.
* The intent of your teaching is to lead your people to be obedient the Lord’s Great Commandment, his New Commandment, and the Great Commission and to be sensitive to the Spirit’s leading.

3. **Elevate Loving God and Neighbor**

* Establish it as your vision “To Love God and Love Neighbor.”
* It’s on your website, social media, etc.
* Stories

From the pastor and the people

In person and/or video

* Example**-** Bruce Zachary, pastor of Calvary Nexus, Camarillo, California.

1. A picture containing indoor, floor, ceiling, furniture

   Description automatically generatedTen-year vision
2. A picture containing indoor, floor, ceiling, furniture

   Description automatically generatedFront of his Auditorium- “To Love God and Love Neighbor.”

A picture containing indoor

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1. Lobby
2. T-shirts- “To Love God and Love Neighbor.”
3. Billboard- “To Love God and Love Neighbor.”



4. **Eliminate**

* + Church events and programs can be and often are obstacles to neighboring.
  + Create margin in the church for loving neighbors.
  + Eliminate those activities that keep your people from having time for loving their neighbors.

Two ways to do this:

1. Move some of these events into the neighborhood.
2. As you emphasize the vision, *slowly* drop certain programs and events that don’t line up with your vision for neighboring.
   * Encourage those in your congregation to create margin in their own lives for loving their neighbors. Ask them what they can eliminate.

5. **Neighboring Models to Consider** (If you need help, I can help explain the models.)

* **Neighboring Model**- A believer starts neighboring in their neighborhood based on what they may have learned from one of the neighboring books, a teaching, a friend, or the Spirit’s prompting.
* **Neighborhood-Regional Church Model** – Those from a congregation working together to show the love of God to neighbors nearby where a congregation meets for worship.
* **An Organic-Team Model**— A church establishes teams to engage neighbors, made up of intercessory teams, servant teams, and neighbors (leaders of teams) who are committed to actively loving and caring for their actual neighbors. The leaders coordinate activities in their own neighborhoods with their team.
* **Neighborhood-Proximity Church Model** - Saturating the immediate neighborhoods around where a church gathers with neighboring (loving neighbors). Instead of the more common regional church model, this kind of congregation targets a very specific locale that not only includes homes and apartments, but schools, and businesses as well. Leadership and congregation members, for the most part, live in the immediate neighborhoods. Thus, the focus is turned towards loving those in the immediate vicinity—to see the Kingdom of God manifested in their own community.

— Joe White Neighborhood Church Fresno, CA (For a closer look go to

http://www.neighborhoodchurchfresno.com/ or contact Joe.) You can read his story in *The Incarnational Church*, Pages 139—144.

* **Neighborhood-Group Model**- Geographic saturation of a community with neighborhood groups. Geographic groups draw participants from a location or region that all share in common. Also shared in common is the desire to love their neighbors. A Neighborhood Group may consist of all believers or a mix of believers and unbelievers. This type of group can come into existence in a variety ways: 1) leadership of an existing congregation decides to close their existing affinity groups and establish groups that have a geographic focus, or establish new small groups with a geographic focus while maintaining their existing affinity small groups; 2) a new church plant may choose to establish one or more neighborhood groups before initiating a larger gathering of all church members.
  + Bruce Zachary Calvary Nexus Camarillo, CA
* **Multi-Church Neighborhood Group Model**- In this case, the group consists of people attending different churches who all live in the same neighborhood. The intention is to simply join to pray and/or to study the Bible and for the purpose of loving their and neighbors and proclaiming the Lord’s Kingdom. This model is a “bottom up” approach with no central leadership from an established congregation.

— Shawn and Carla Caldwell Neighborhood Prayer Meeting (Read from *The Incarnational Church,* Chapter 20, pages 127—129 about Shawn and Carla’s prayer meeting.)

— Lynn and jo Cory Neighborhood Discovery Bible Study (Read from *The Kairos Adventure,* Chapter 34 about Lynn’s Bible study or from *Jesus’ Secrets* Chapter, pages.)

* **A Neighboring-Network of House Churches –** In some respects, this model resembles the Geographic Neighborhood Group, however, unlike the single group, here there is central leadership that oversees the network. Each house church targets a specific neighborhood, and the network joins together for fellowship on a monthly basis. Obviously, house churches are not burdened with the preoccupation of maintaining a church structure, and therefore, the network finds it easier to multiply. This type of flexibility results in greater opportunities to invest in building relationships rather than physical structures.

Glen Taylor— You can read his story in *The Incarnational Church*, Chapter 22, pages 135—138.

*— Neighborhood Initiative and the Love of God and The Kairos Adventure*— Lynn Cory—neighborhoodinitiative.org

* **A Citywide Neighboring Model**—Several churches working together to saturate a city with neighboring. This model goes beyond a single congregation, establishing a network of pastors and leaders who share a common desire to see their respective congregations and organizations unite to love the people of their city into relationship with Jesus Christ. Typically, there are one or two leaders called by God to initiate this kind of work. These leaders share a Kingdom mindset and understand that no one congregation can bring transformation to a city; that it requires the combined efforts of multiple churches working together in a city to bring this about.Corporate prayer among pastoral leaders is essential to the success of this model.

— Art of Neighboring Denver, CO is involved in a citywide movement. (Go to www.artofneighboring.com to obtain resources) You can Read Dave Runyon’s citywide story in *The Incarnational Church*, Pages 121—125.

— Loving Our Neighbors— Paul Haroutunion and Alan Doswald are initiating a citywide neighboring model (Go to https://esali.org/loving-our-neighbors) You can read Paul Haroutunion’s citywide neighboring story in *The Incarnational Church*, Pages 149—151.

— Chico Citywide Movement— Andrew Burchett— You can read his story in *The Incarnational Church*, pages 145—148.

— Love Camarillo— Bruce Zachary is involved in a citywide neighboring movement. (Go to www.lovecamarillo.com)

Model(s) you would like to incorporate—

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Resources:

*— Neighborhood Initiative and the Love of God*—Lynn Cory

— *The Incarnational Church—*Lynn Cory

*— The Kairos Adventure*—Lynn Cory

— *Jesus’ Secrets: For Advancing His Kingdom Today—*Lynn Cory

— *What Happened to the Grassroots Movement of Jesus?—*Lynn Cory

— For more neighboring content visit neighborhoodinitiative.org.

**Worksheet**

Then seek the Lord for guidance about the direction you should take in getting started with neighboring. Then answer the following questions:

1. **Prayer Team**— Who should I have on my prayer team?

2. **Leadership Team**—Who should make up my leadership team?

**3. Model—** What model(s) should I use?

**4. VIM**

**Vision—** What is the vision the Lord is giving me for neighboring in my neighborhood, church, and/or city? With your vision, you might want include your story as Bruce has with his vision and why you want to move neighboring forward with your church and possibly your city.

**Intention—** What kind of commitment do I want to give to it so that neighboring flourishes in neighborhoods with those in my church, and city? Prayer, intentionality, faithfulness will determine sustainability.

**Means—** What is the plan the Lord is giving me and what resources do I believe will be helpful as I move this forward? Include models that will work into your plan.