

# Backyard Missions: Little Resources... Big Impact!

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## The Nehemiah Model of Community Change

# Anyone Can Lead!

1. “Sadness of the Heart”—2:2
2. Prayer—2:4
3. Acceptance—2:8
4. Collaboration—Ch.3
5. Opposition—Ch.4
6. Perseverance—Ch.7
7. Advocacy & Engagement—Ch. 5 & 6
8. Anchor & Envision—Ch. 10

# The Fortitude Model



- Start with a Spirit-filled directive (“**Sadness of the heart**”)
- Create a Spirit-led initiative (**Prayer & Acceptance**)
  - Indirect ministry
  - Unattached to a church body or organization
  - Meet where they are
  - Be consistent
  - Utilize existing resources, free marketing, and donated time, talent, and treasures
- Engage the community (**Collaboration**)
  - Volunteers
  - Donors
  - Business/Organizations/Providers
- Protect organizational boundaries (**Opposition & Perseverance**)
- Expand change efforts (**Advocacy & Engagement**)
- Gird the foundation & plan for the future (**Anchor & Envision**)



# Start with a Spirit-Filled Directive

“Sadness of the heart”  
Nehemiah 2:2

The Spirit  
leads...  
But use a  
fleece!

## Needs Assessment...

- It's not about...
  - YOU
  - What you want or can do
  - What is easy
  - What is likable
  - What is “instagrammable”
- Find the GAP and FILL it
- Assess available resources

## Pick Brains...

- Build relationships with the experts and those in the field
  - Join groups
  - Set meetings
- Discuss your ideas with...everyone!
- KNOW your community...boilerplate programs may not be right for your community



# Create a Spirit-Led Initiative

Prayer & Acceptance  
Nehemiah 2:4,8

# Allow the Spirit to guide

## Indirect ministry

- Attract everyone and alienate no one
- Infuse spirituality
  - Reach recipients and volunteers
- Broaden support avenues
  - Religious, corporate, special interest groups

## Unattached to a church body or organization

- Churches “silo”
- Volunteers stick to “allegiances”
- Paves the way for unlimited collaborations

Allow the Spirit  
to guide

## Meet them where they are

- Think outside the box-  
where can you best reach  
your population?
  - Safety, comfort, ease,  
convenient times

## Be consistent

- Create a solid vision  
and mission statement
- Start only what you  
can reasonable expect  
to  
continue...consistently
  - Community  
expectations
  - Recipient  
expectations
  - Provider  
expectations



Allow the Spirit  
to guide

## **Utilize existing resources, free marketing, and donated time, talent, and treasures**

### Resources:

- Space, materials, food, people

### Marketing:

- Social Media
- Radio/Newspaper
- Community meetings and church presentations
- Farmer's Markets, fairs, and events allowing booths
- Website (can be free)

### Donations:

- Volunteers, expertise, finances and items



# Engage the Community

Collaboration  
Nehemiah 3

“next to them”

### Volunteers

- Low barriers
- Inclusive
- Cultivate regulars while inviting new
- Manage carefully
  - Lay volunteers lack training and experience in boundaries

### Financial Donations

- Use a fiscal sponsor/agent
- Make giving easy
- Highlight the impact of small donations
- Show what they are supporting—items or activities
- Tell stories/testimonies

“next to them”

## Item Donations

- Strictly regulate
- Suggest drives or adoption of 1-2 items only
- Use social media to solicit donations of specific items
- Manage frequency/intensity of “asks”
- Suggest relevant donations (gender, age, profession)

## Business Organizations Providers

- Partner with:
  - Local and corporate businesses
  - Nonprofits
  - Social service agencies
  - Libraries
  - Local governments
  - Schools/Colleges
- Think “quid pro quo”



# Protect organizational boundaries

Opposition &  
Perseverance  
Nehemiah 4 & 7

# Strengthen my hands

Nehemiah 6:9b

## Opposition

- Providers
- Citizens
- Churches
- Municipalities
  
- Expect
- Listen
- Make changes...or stay the course
- Be quick to address negativity

## Protection

- Be okay with “no”
- Know your “niche”
- Stay within your resources and means
- Let go of anything or anyone dragging you down or “going rogue”
- Stay focused on policies and mission



# Expand Change Efforts

Advocacy & Engagement  
Nehemiah 5-6

Teach how to fish...

## Advocacy

- Build relationships with local and state legislators
- Advocate for policies needed for your population
- Continuously educate public about the issues—build awareness
- Can be on individual, organizational, or governmental level

## Engagement

- Equip individuals and organizations to advocate on behalf of your population and organization
- Get involved with other organizations or groups that can benefit you





# Gird the Foundation & Plan for the Future

Anchor & Envision  
Nehemiah 8 & 10

<b>What is the Problem/Issue?</b>	<b>What Resources Exist?</b>	<b>What are the Gaps?</b>	<b>Solutions that can Utilize the Nehemiah and Fortitude Models of Community Change:</b>