***WINDSHIELD SURVEY***

***OBSERVE YOUR COMMUNITY***

**Preparing to Survey Your Community**

*A windshield survey is as simple as it sounds it is one that is done fully or almost so by observing things as you drive thru a designated area. This gives you your first overview or big picture look at your community.*

*This is best done with 2 or more people in a vehicle together so one can drive while the other(s) is observing and making notes. Though this is mostly done by observing what you see as you drive feel free to stop and talk to people as the Spirit prompts you. You might want to take some pictures along the way but be careful to not be intrusive into peoples privacy.*

*As you drive be aware of others driving and walking around you so as to not impede the flow of traffic, to be safe for all and to not draw too much attention to yourself.*

*Before beginning the survey get well acquainted with the questions provided in this document so as to help you be more aware of the types of things it will be good to observe. The driver should have studied a map of the area so as to be well acquainted with the area.*

*Conduct the survey on more than one day and at different times of the days and different days of the week. This could be the same team going out multiple times or different teams going at different times. This will give a more complete picture of the community.*

*These questions can also be used to do a walking survey of an area. Walking thru an area gives you more opportunities to interact with people outside their homes or within businesses.*

*Prayer:* As you do the survey ask God to lead you to those whom He wants you to see, meet and build bridges for the sake of the gospel. Ask the Spirit to open your eyes to the spiritual and physical needs of the community.

**STUDY AREA**

Draw out the area or describe the boundaries of the area you are surveying.

**A. Observe the peoples of the survey area.**

1. What racial groups do you see here? (Asian, White, African-American, Hispanic etc.)
2. What nationalities and languages are evident in this area? (Indicators include ethnic restaurants, grocery stores, artwork, phone cards, flags, etc.)
3. What affinity groups do you see? (Homeless, bikers, gangs, arts, cowboys, college students etc.)
4. What businesses or occupations do you see? (White collar, blue collar, schools, etc.)
5. What economic groups do you see? (Upper, middle, or lower)
6. **Observe the area’s spiritual climate –** You might want to stop and talk to leaders of Christian and non-Christian groups to ask what they see as the needs of the community and other insights as to the overall community.

1. What types of Christian churches and ministries do you see?

2. What types of non-Christian religious groups do you see?

3. What types of physical and spiritual needs do you see?

1. **Observe the physical environment of the survey area.**

1. Housing types

\_\_\_% Single family dwellings \_\_\_% Multihousing

\_\_\_ % Condominiums \_\_\_% Mobile homes

\_\_\_%High rise apartments \_\_\_% Other

2. New neighborhoods

a.

b.

c.

3. Neighborhoods in transition

a.

b.

c.

4. Institutions

\_\_\_ Elementary Schools \_\_\_ Middle Schools

\_\_\_ Universities \_\_\_ Hospitals

\_\_\_ Prisons \_\_\_ Industrial Sites

\_\_\_ Shopping Malls \_\_\_ Other (specify)

1. **Discuss observations regarding possible ministry opportunities**
2. **Are there other discoveries and insights that you feel would be good for your team to know about this area.**
3. **Pray for the peoples of the survey area.**

Include time to stop and pray for the neighborhood and the various groups of peoples that you are observing. Perhaps buy a drink somewhere, sit in the park, eat at a local restaurant or hang out in a public place. Note any insights God gives you or your team as a result of praying.