



# Reseeding America

## ADOPT A CHURCH MINISTRY

How to Conduct a Ministry to Resurrect a Dying Church, Church Plant, or Church in Decline





# BIMI Reseeding America

## Adopt a Church Ministry



A “helps ministry” you conduct utilizing your church to assist a struggling church or church plant

Every year in the United States 3,500 to 4,500 churches close their doors. The sad part of that statistic is that 800 to 900 of those churches that close are Baptist churches. This is an alarming statistic! New churches need to be planted, but we need to keep the doors of our existing New Testament Baptist churches open and doing what God has commanded the church to do. Many pastors know of at least one church in their area or maybe more that are in decline or may even be close to closing the doors.



The enclosed material is designed to equip you and your church to reach out into your Judaea and Samaria in order to assist a sister church in decline or to assist a church planter or man restarting a church who may need your help. The enclosed material will help you organize and execute a successful *door hanger bag distribution* for a struggling church, using professional looking literature and personalized Romans books. We have provided a step-by-step checklist of instructions and a PowerPoint presentation on the “do’s and the don’ts” of a successful literature campaign. Also included are seven days of devotions to encourage your church as well as the struggling church and its membership before a distribution would begin. There is also information for ordering materials, and there are tips for mobilizing and motivating your church before you head down the road to help a church planter or church in decline in your Judaea and Samaria. May God bless you as you **adopt** a church and encourage a struggling church planter or man restarting a church.



# Sowing the Seed Still Works!



Challenging God's people to get involved in reaching their community



Thousands of door hanger packets ready to distribute in Russellville, Arkansas

Over the years, Reseeding America has conducted many distributions for churches in decline or churches that needed what we call a *jump start*. As our schedule has allowed, we have been able to assist churches in decline or churches that needed a jump start with large Scripture distributions in an effort to encourage the local church and reach new families for our Lord.

As a ministry, Reseeding America has provided on site preparation prior to these distributions, which included assembling door hanger packets, preparing maps, and recruiting sister churches to bring groups to help with the distribution of materials. In some cases services were held leading up to these large Gospel literature outreaches. Distribution Devotional Booklets were given to the membership of the churches we were going to help. Each member was urged to use and read the booklet in hopes that the daily Bible verses and stories of how God used previous distributions would encourage them to pray for their outreach and to get involved.

Several years ago we organized and conducted one of these large Scripture distributions in Russellville, Arkansas, for Bible Baptist Church. After the distribution we received this encouraging email from the pastor.

*Dear Brother Larson,*

*I just wanted to give you an update on the recent results we have experienced from the Romans distribution.*

*First of all, I was pleasantly surprised by the involvement of our people in all aspects of the distribution. They responded exceptionally well to the preparation of the door hangers. Then as you know, we had a large number of folks come out for the actual distribution. Some of these were members who had not been involved in any aspect of the ministry.*

*Since the distribution, we have had first time visitors every Sunday but one. Not all of these visitors had received a packet, but we had not had visitors like that before. We definitely believe God blessed the effort.*

*So far, we have had three saved, two join the church, and one baptized. In addition to this, we have experienced a new enthusiasm among the members for the ministry.*

*I want to thank you so much for your help in this endeavor.*

*In Christ,  
Pastor Ron Kauffman*

**In a later email update, Pastor Kauffman wrote:**

*God is continuing to bless our church. We have averaged 19 more per Sunday January through June over last year.*

We believe if we can get local independent Baptist churches involved in conducting Scripture distributions for churches in decline, we can multiply our efforts and be much more effective in this church restoration ministry.



# Devotions

On the following pages you will find seven days of devotions to encourage your church membership as you launch out to adopt a church and assist the struggling church or church in decline with a Gospel literature distribution. The devotions can be reproduced and passed out to your members with the idea that they would read one devotion per day prior to a Gospel literature distribution for a church your church has "adopted."

The devotions can also be given to the church members and leaders of the church you are going to help. Encourage them to read and use them for seven days in a row prior to your church coming in to help them.

The devotions are real life experiences that my wife and I have had over the years as we have helped many churches in decline. They are written to be an encouragement to your church and the church you are "adopting."

It is our prayer that God will use these devotions to mobilize and motivate His people and to trust the Living God for great things.

Bob Larson

USA Director

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# DEVOTIONALS

Compiled by Bob Larson  
Reseeding America Ministries  
Baptist International Missions, Inc.

## **DAY ONE — “Missions is not geography; missions is people.”**

*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen (Matthew 28:19, 20).*

Perhaps you have heard someone say that “everyone in America has heard the Gospel twice, so why should we waste our time here when so many around the world have not even heard one time.” It is very true that multitudes around the world have not heard the Gospel one time, but, friend, that statement is true for many here in the United States also.

These statistics are surprising to most people:

- 70% of the population in America has no meaningful church connection;
- 80% of America’s teenagers will not attend any church this Sunday;
- 65% of America's children 12 years old and under have never been in a Sunday school class;
- 600 different cultural groups now exist here in America, and
- 4,000 churches closed their doors in America last year, 800–900 were Baptist.

Several years ago, I was east of Nashville, Tennessee, visiting for a new church. I ran into a young couple on their porch and after witnessing to them, I was able to lead them both to the Lord. I asked them if they had ever heard the Gospel message before. I expected them to say, “Oh sure, as a child” or “Yes, on the television.” As I was in the heart of the “Bible Belt,” I was somewhat surprised when they said, “No, never.” Is it important to continue to invite people to church? Is it important to continue to invite people to the Savior? Matthew 28 tells us to *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations*. It is of utmost importance to go with the Gospel to China, Kenya, Mexico, Brazil, and the uttermost. But it is just as important for you to carry the Gospel to your family, friends, and neighbors right here in your own hometown.

## **PRAYER CHALLENGE**

Please pray that God would lead your church team to

- those who have never heard the Gospel message,
- those who don't have a church home,
- families with children/teens who are not in church, and
- new families in town who are looking for a church.



**DAY TWO — “Fret not; Trust in the LORD; Delight thyself; Commit thy way, and Rest in the LORD.”** (Statements from Psalm 37)

*Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass (Psalm 37:4, 5).*

A church planter and I had been visiting in a growing town one hour east of San Francisco. We were becoming somewhat discouraged as house after house we found no one home. The pastor said that most of the people in his town worked in San Francisco but couldn't afford to live there so they commuted back and forth everyday. He said that it was often hard to find anyone at home as many seemed to only come home to sleep.

We retreated to the church planter's car and began to pray that the Lord would help us to find someone at home. We asked the Lord to help us to be able to lead at least one soul to Him that day. Back out to the streets we went with the pastor on one side of the road and me on the other. It wasn't long before I knocked on a door that was answered by a lady and her son. As I began talking to her, she said that just the night before, she and her son were talking about heaven and wondering if it were real and if so, how to get there. This dear lady and her son were very eager to hear the Good News of the Gospel. They gladly accepted the Lord as their Savior and were happy to be assured that heaven would someday be their home. Pray, believe, and trust the Lord. Have faith that He will answer your prayers as you commit your way to Him.

**PRAYER CHALLENGE**

Pray that God would lead your church team to those who are seeking the Lord.

## **DAY THREE — “Just One More Door”**

*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not (Galatians 6:9).*

No one said that passing out thousands of Scripture packets would be easy!! A flat street is a blessing and so are mailboxes that have ornate poles on which you can hang a bag. (You cannot place bags inside the box or on the flag though.) A newspaper box is a welcome sight also if you are not going up to the door. We were in eastern Oklahoma one time passing out packets in a very large area of project apartments. The apartments were two to three stories high and the entire area was hilly. Not only that, but the apartments were far apart and there were no mailbox poles. We had walked up and down stairs and hills all morning and just had one more door to go to before breaking for lunch. A young man, Daniel, stood on the porch of a third floor apartment watching us. He shared that he was a born again believer but said that his fiancée, Kimberly, was not. He quickly brought her outside so that she could hear the Gospel message. The young lady soon prayed and asked the Lord to come into her heart. We rejoiced and eagerly shared the Good News to the rest of the team at lunch.

After we had lunch, we went to a different part of town to pass out our packets. We found more apartments, but this time the land was flat so our task was much easier to complete. The morning had taken its toll though, and we were dragging by the time we came to the last door before quitting for the day. How surprised we were to look up and see Daniel looking down from the porch of a second floor apartment. He said, “Brother Bob, is that you?” It turned out that Kimberly wanted to visit her sister to borrow some clothes for church services that night and to tell the sister that she had been saved. Daniel quickly asked, “Brother Bob, would you tell Kimberly's sister about Jesus? She's not a Christian.” We felt that the Lord had certainly worked a miracle that day, not only in the lives of two sisters who came to know the Lord as their Savior but also in our lives as He led us to those two doors. How thankful we were that in spite of being tired, we visited all the doors in our areas and completed the task the Lord had for us.

### **PRAYER CHALLENGE**

Pray that the Lord would give your church team strength, determination, and power to finish the areas in your town that God needs you to reach.

## **DAY FOUR — “Grab a water bottle and let's go!”**

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58).*

The pastor had assembled 8,000 packets to pass out for the church in North Carolina. From the first morning, many of the church's members showed up ready to work. Several had arranged vacation days and were eager to go. Among the congregation there were several eager soldiers who arrived with backpacks, water bottles, hats, and hiking boots! We passed out so much material that morning that the pastor actually had to slow us down!! Why? Because fifty volunteers from the pastor's home church were coming on Friday to help for two days and he needed to have plenty of work for them to do also.

By the time Saturday morning rolled around, very few packets remained. We went to the laundromat later that day and passed out the few packets we had left as we did our laundry. I had one packet left in my hands when I noticed a young couple who had just entered the door. I handed them the material and invited them to services the next morning. How pleased we were to see the young military couple, along with many other visitors, in church the next day. “Many hands make light work” is a true saying, but it is encouraging and thrilling to see God's people who have a “mind to work.”

### **PRAYER CHALLENGE**

Pray that God would give your church team strength and determination to complete your task and that all would have enthusiasm and joy as they go.

## **DAY FIVE — “Be sensitive to the Lord's leadership.”**

*Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path (Psalm 27:11).*

The pastor of a very small church in West Tennessee wanted to take us out for sandwiches after I had preached for him that Sunday night. He was very sad because the church was struggling so badly. His head was bowed in discouragement as he talked with us. They had very few children of any age, and very few adults coming to services. He was ready to give the reigns of pastoring over to his son unless the Lord turned things around. He asked if we could help in some way. We had led in mass distributions of Romans booklets for new churches but had never led in one for a church in decline or struggling. We really didn't want to change our focus, but the Lord had other plans for us that night! We felt great empathy for the pastor and decided that the Lord wanted us to plan a distribution and special services for the church.

The pastor and his few people became very excited and really got behind the effort. Two East Tennessee pastors came to lead preaching and singing for the revival services, which were pretty well attended. Everyone rolled up their sleeves and 3,000 packets were passed out to homes in the area—3,000 packets were also mailed in a shopping guide to other homes in the county.

Six months later we returned to the church. Their attendance on Sunday mornings had increased from 25 to 100 people—which included children and teens! The pastor was excited and had decided to keep leading the church. When he walked across the platform in front of the church, he had a spring in his step and a smile on his face. How thankful we were that we had obeyed the Lord's leadership! This was the first of many distributions for churches in decline, distress, or needing a boost or jump start in which we have been involved. It has been a real pleasure for us to serve the Lord in this way and we look forward to many more in years to come.

### **PRAYER CHALLENGE**

Pray that the Lord would guide the members on your church team to be sensitive to the Lord's leadership in every area of their lives. Pray that each church member would just make up his/her mind to get involved not only in this distribution but also in supporting the pastor and serving in the church.

## **DAY SIX — “The people had a mind to work.”**

*So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work* (Nehemiah 4: 6).

A church in East Tennessee asked us for help. They had remodeled their auditorium and decided that it was a good time to get their people visiting out in the community. Church members had really not been involved in outreach efforts in years. A distribution for 10,000 door hanger bags that contained both a Romans booklet and a flyer about the church (which advertised special services and an invitation for the grand re-opening) was planned.

**Saturday** — We arrived at the church's mission apartment.

**Sunday** — I preached Sunday morning and Sunday night to explain what we would be doing and to get everyone excited about the opportunity to serve the Lord in his city.

**Monday** — I went with a gentleman from the church to survey the area and to help make plans for the week.

**Tuesday** — Early in the morning the pastor called, somewhat in a panic. He had received news that the builder would not be able to finish the auditorium for the coming Sunday as planned and advertised on the flyer. The pastor and two of his assistants had worked for hours the night before to remove all 10,000 flyers with the wrong information from the packets. He then had reprinted new leaflets with the corrected date and contacted church members to come help re-stuff the bags. His people responded well and we were able to complete our task.

**Wednesday** — We gathered all 10,000 packets in boxes and put them in front of the platform for services that night in the gym. I preached again with a challenge for the week and then led the church in prayer for the effort. We prayed that the Lord would guide and direct us to the right homes and that many hearts would be touched with His Word. The pastor encouraged everyone to get involved in the project.

**Thursday, Friday** — People of all ages did get involved. Groups gathered in the morning, afternoon, and evening and worked hard to get the information out to the community.

**Saturday** — We were almost out of packets so the pastor asked that only new workers were to go out that morning.

**Sunday** — Even though it was not the advertised special day, fifteen visitors appeared and several of them accepted Christ as their Savior following the pastor's message. We left rejoicing after the service.

**Special service** — 75 visitors, 15 salvation decisions!

Over the next several months, 30 new people joined the church. These results are not typical, but God certainly blessed the efforts of these people who *had a mind to work* in a special way.

## **PRAYER CHALLENGE**

Bathe this effort in prayer. Pray every day. You need the Lord's wisdom and guidance in every area of this work. Pray also that everyone in the church will be involved in this distribution.

## **DAY SEVEN — “Help one another.”**

*They helped every one his neighbor; and every one said to his brother, Be of good courage (Isaiah 41:6).*

A few special highlights:

We helped a church in the Sacramento, California, area with a large literature distribution after an arsonist burned down their sanctuary. I contacted several churches in the area to help pass out the 10,000 bags, containing a Romans booklet and church flyer which said, “Come see what the fire could not destroy!” What a terrific response from the churches! Pastors, families, and even a Christian school came ready to work in very cold weather. A group of over 50 people showed up the morning it was only 17 degrees! The response was a terrific encouragement to the church. All the packets were delivered and visitors came the next Sunday.

How about a USA missions trip? One young family called me and asked about helping in a future distribution. Calendars were studied, plans were made, and the family joined us in California to assist in a church re-start. It was wonderful to see this young couple and their two little children get involved in helping a church get back on its feet. Church members were encouraged and excited to see that someone outside of their congregation cared enough to travel all the way from North Carolina just to help them—especially since it poured rain most of the week! (By the way, my partner for one afternoon was a young man with a skateboard. He skated down the sidewalk to a house, left the board on the sidewalk, ran up and put the bag on the door and then ran back and skated to the next house. He passed out double what I did!!) Six new families visited the church the following Sunday.

I had worked for several days with two young brothers in Central California passing out hundreds of bags in a distribution for a church that had moved to a new location. There were 90 people who showed up on Saturday morning ready to work. Some were church members, but many came from other churches. On Sunday morning I was standing outside the front door acting like an usher to greet members and guests. I spotted a gentleman walking down the sidewalk toward the church and greeted him with, “Good morning sir, how are you today? Come right in.” He walked in and sat down in the auditorium. At the end of services that morning, he came forward during the invitation and I was privileged to lead him to the Lord. I sat with the gentleman after services at a meal the members had prepared. As I talked with him, I was surprised to learn that he had not been headed to the church that morning but was just out walking for exercise! Praise the Lord!

### **PRAYER CHALLENGE**

Pray that the Lord will raise up uninvolved people in your church to help you in this effort. Then would you be willing to pray that the Lord would use you to encourage those new laborers?



# Distribution Checklist

Step-by- step instructions for the pastor who wants to conduct a distribution for a struggling church

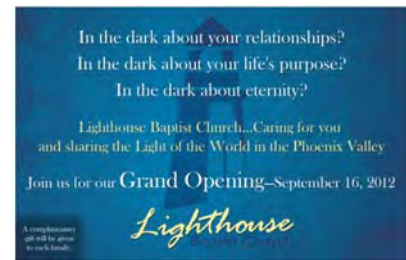
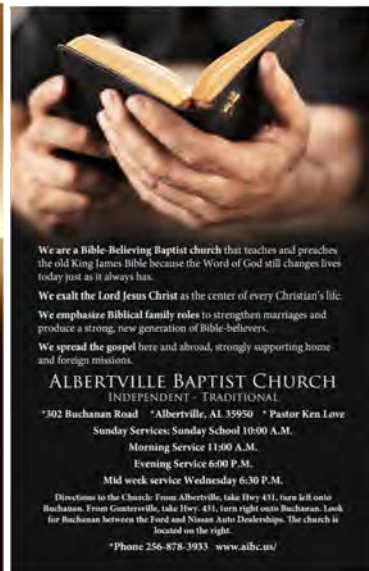
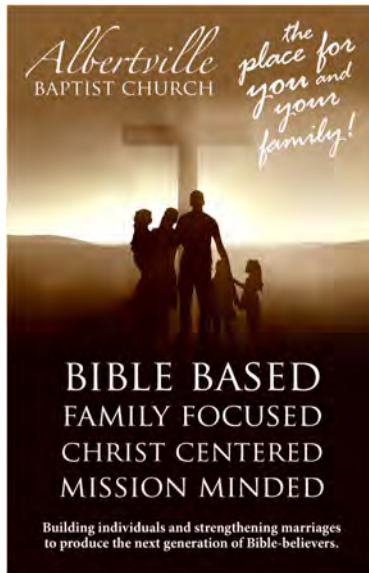
- Determine which struggling church, church plant, or church in decline you feel you could help.
- Contact that struggling church to see if they are open to your help. If the church has a pastor invite him out to lunch and explain to him what a Gospel literature distribution is and how you would like to help him with carrying out such a distribution and how it can help his church.
- Remind the pastor and the church that your church is coming to assist his church in this outreach. You are not coming to do it for him but rather your people are coming to work alongside his people to accomplish the distribution.
- Determine how many homes you need to cover. You can look up information on any city or town in the United States at [usa.com](http://usa.com). Find the state then the city. Next click on the housing info to see how many single family dwellings, apartments and condos would be in your area.
- Determine how many houses would be in the rural areas around your target city by going on [www.usps.com/business/every-door-direct-mail.htm](http://www.usps.com/business/every-door-direct-mail.htm). Follow the instructions and this postal web site. It will give you the number of postal stops the Post Office makes on any rural route around your target city.
- Set the date for your distribution.
- Get a good idea of how many Romans books, brochures, and door hanger bags you are going to need for the distribution from the two websites mentioned.

- Order your Romans Books, brochures and door hanger bags. Follow the instructions found in this manual to order your material. We will supply you with pricing when you let us know what quantities of materials you will be ordering.
- Have a bag-stuffing fellowship dinner or supper when all the materials arrive at your church and put everyone to work getting the door hanger bags ready for your “adopt a church distribution.”
- Take the devotions in this booklet and reproduce them and pass them out to your people and run extra copies for the church you are going to help so that everyone there will have a devotion packet. Encourage everyone to use the devotions the week before the distribution.
- Find some good city maps of the “target city” that you are going to cover along with a good map of rural areas in which you are going to distribute bags. Photo copy the maps and give to people as they go out each day to distribute the bags. Enlarge your maps and make a master map and post it so when people come back in each day from the distribution they can mark off the streets and roads that have been covered.
- Hang the door hanger packets on the mail box post in rural areas you are allowed to do this. You cannot put the packet in the mailbox or on the flag or on the door of the mailbox.
- Remember to stop during several of your services prior to your “adopt a church distribution” to ask God to direct in every aspect of the outreach.
- Work on Saturdays the best when it comes to distributions. Plan several Saturdays so your people and the people from the church you have “adopted” can help with the project.
- Remember you are NOT knocking doors on these distributions but simply hanging material on the doors. This type of project is a good way to get people involved who may not be confident in door knocking or witnessing but they can be motivated to assist in a project of this type.



# Color Brochures or Cards

*designed and printed and shipped to your church  
for your door hanger packets*



Reseeding America can assist you in designing a high quality colored brochure or card to place in your door hanger packets. We will also have them printed and shipped to your church.

Prices vary depending on the quantity, quality of paper, and size of the material you are having printed. Call us and we will be happy to quote you a price on your printing and shipping costs. We provide this service as a ministry for churches who are assisting churches or churches who want to conduct a Gospel literature distribution.

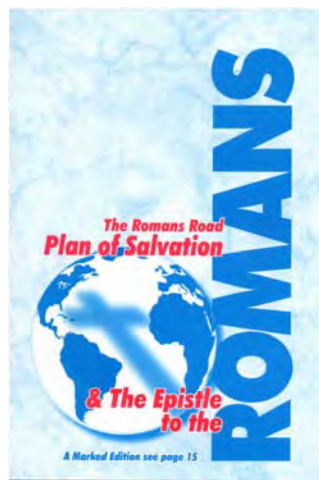
We do not make a profit on this service nor do we want to make a profit. We want to provide this service for churches who would be adopting a struggling church or helping a church planter or church in decline.

We would ask that all orders are paid for in advance. When paying for your order you direct all funds to the BIM I Seed Band Fund, Account #963, P.O. Box 9215, Chattanooga, TN 37412.

Order your material through Bob Larson at Reseeding America. You can call us at 423-605-6098 or you can text us at the same number. E-mail: [blarson@bimi.org](mailto:blarson@bimi.org)



# Ordering Romans Books



(front and back cover)

We have found that that a Scripture portion with all the information about a church printed on the back cover can be a wonderful tool for getting the Gospel into each home. We have also found out that most people will not throw a book containing Scripture away. They tend to hang on to it. We have had people attend a church two years after a distribution with the Romans book in their hands!

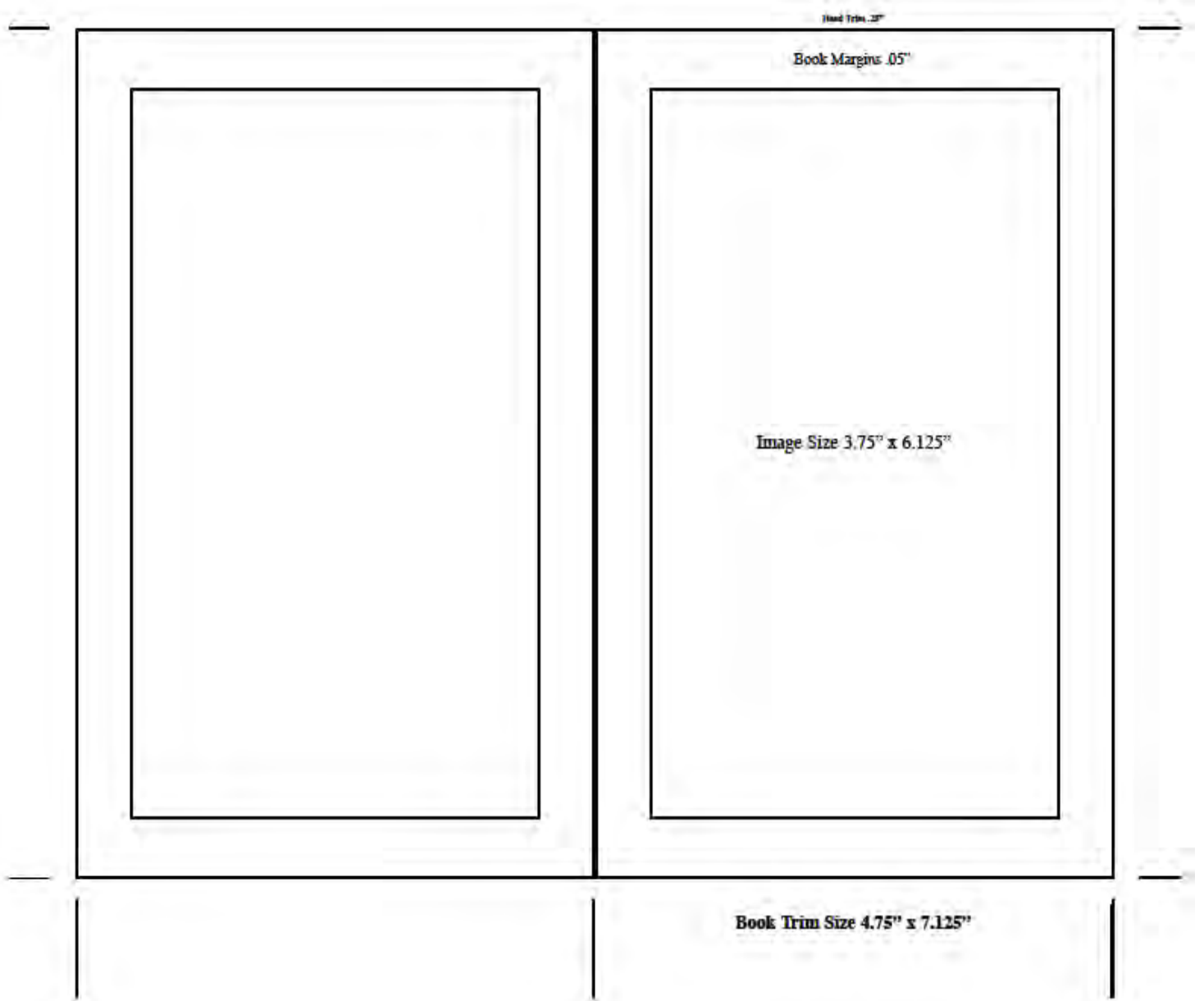
These books run 12 cents per book printed and shipped Yellow Freight to the nearest Yellow Freight Terminal in your area. You are responsible for picking up the books at your terminal.

**We would ask that all orders are paid for in advance. When paying for your order, direct all funds to the BIM I Seed Bank Fund, Account #963, P.O. Box 9215, Chattanooga, TN 37412.**

Order your material through Bob Larson at Reseeding America. You can call us at 423-605-6098 or you can text us at the same number. E-mail: [blarson@bimi.org](mailto:blarson@bimi.org)



# Romans Book Template



We cannot ship your Romans books until you have sent us the information for the back cover. The above template is not pictured to scale but it gives you the size you will be working with when you put your information on the back cover. Remember, we personalize the back cover in black ink only. If you use a map on the back cover, make it a very simple line drawing. Send back cover information to us at Reseeding America.

E-mail [blarson@bimi.org](mailto:blarson@bimi.org)

We will send you an e-mail copy to proof before the books are printed.



# Door Hanger Bags



You can order a cheaper bag, but for quality bags we use the ULINE Company. Delivery time is fast and they will usually ship the same day you order your bags. You can find them online at

<http://www.uline.com>.

In the search box on their home page type in: door hanger bags.

You will find several different sizes listed but the order number is S-2176. Order the clear bag; it measures 6"x12." They are shipped in boxes of 1,000 and run \$27 per box plus shipping.

This particular bag stands up well and the material on the inside of the bag can be easily seen.

