

Prayer Walk

Now is your opportunity to pray specifically for your community.
You've been praying all along.
Now is your chance to get outside the walls of the church and pray.

Step 1 - Identify geographic area

Identify the geographic area will walk or drive.

Identify the stopping places. Here are a few suggestions:

- ministry partners
- police and/or fire station
- community buildings (government, schools, courthouses, jails)
- specific neighborhoods
- parks and/or playgrounds
- shopping malls and/or restaurant parking lots

Step 2 - Map your route & make course adjustments

- Map your route on google maps. <http://maps.google.com>
- How long will it take you to walk/drive to each of the locations you've identified? Make sure you include the time to return to your starting point.
- We recommend no more than 45 minute total drive time. Or 30 minutes walking. This time will be doubled, because you will be stopping to pray.
- Adjust the locations where you will stop and pray.
- Map your route again.

Step 3 - Choose date, time, and place

- Consider who will join you.
- Identify transportation needs.
- Consider safety (Is it safer at certain times of day? Do you need adults to help shepherd children or teens? Are seniors with walkers or wheelchairs joining you?)
- Consider presence: are there people you want to meet along the way? i.e., kids in a park, a ministry partner that is open specific hours, etc.
- Choose a date, time, and place that will best accommodate the above. You will need to prioritize the needs of the group and community.

Note: it is not important for the ministry to be open. You will not be going inside. Think of this as an introduction



Notes:

Step 4 - Invite people to join you

- Not sure who to invite? Make it a matter of prayer. No requirements or skills are needed for a prayer walk and/or tour. Anyone with a passion and interest in prayer, including children, can participate.
- Send specific invitations
 - A few considerations. You may want to invite people who:*
 - have specific knowledge about parts of the community,
 - are committed to prayer
 - have knowledge about resources in the community and/or needs in the community
 - are new to the community. Prayer walking is a great introduction to the community.
 - have with preconceived ideas about what is going on; they may be surprised.

Step 5 - Communicate

- Email ministry partners and places you will stop. Identify a basic description of what they do for the community from their website (or conversation with the leaders) and ask them if there are ways you can be praying for them

Step 6 - Send reminders

- Email or call participants one week in advance
- Email or call participants one day in advance

Step 7 - Make last minute preparations

- Bring bottles of water for participants if you are walking. Even if you've asked them to bring water, have extras on hand.
- Make sure that gas is in the car if you are driving.
- Copy maps for every car or at least one other walker.
- Gather descriptions of the mission of each location and specific prayer concerns.

Step 8 - Gather

- Arrive at your meeting location at least 15 minutes early.
- Gather participants in a circle.
- Read a scripture, offer a brief reflection, and ask a question. The question could be something as simple as, “Where do you see the light of Christ?” after reading Matthew 5:14-16
- Explain what you will be doing.
- Pray for the church, the people gathered, the people you encounter, and the Spirit to empower you as you go.

Step 9 - Go!

As you go....Invite people to be observers. When you stop at your first location, invite someone to read the description of what is happening in this location as well as how you can pray.

Step 10 - Pray

- Invite one person to open the prayer and one person to close the prayer.
- Hint: the reader is usually a good person to invite into this role because they have just read a description
- Popcorn prayer. Pray for whatever you have seen, what is on your heart, the leaders, the people in the community, the challenges, the gifts, your fears, your heartaches, as well as your joys. This is a moment to be vulnerable before God and the people you are with.
- Pray specifically. Offer petitions and praise for the way God is moving in your community.

Step 11 - Remember Who Sent You

When you meet people who ask you what you are doing, be prepared with an answer. Use this as an opportunity to be a blessing in your neighborhood. Ask if there is anything that you can pray for them...and pray, right then.

Step 12 - Return and Celebrate

Your natural tendency will be to depart as soon as you arrive back at your meeting location. Resist the temptation!

Gather one more time and debrief your experience.

Ask participants:

1. What did you see, hear, experience?
2. Where did you specifically experience God's presence in our time together?
3. What is your next step? This is an individual question intended to seek a commitment. The action may be as simple as committing to pray daily for a specific community. It may also include inviting others to pray, serving at a ministry location. Seeking to explore how the church can be a blessing
4. Give God thanks for the commitments, the God sightings, and your time together.

Why? The practice of naming where you've experienced God's presence is the first step of articulating and claiming our faith...regardless of how many years you have attended worship or been a member of the church. Naming God's presence and making a commitment to action is where transformation begins. **BONUS:** Follow-up with an email. Thank people for their participation.

A note about driving v. walking

It doesn't matter.

