

Prayerwalking---Praying Onsite With Insight

By Steve Hawthorne of Waymakers

Prayerwalking: Praying On-Site With Insight. We've come to call this sort of on-site intercession "prayerwalking." It's simply praying in the very places that we expect God to bring forth His answer. The prayers are intercessory rather than devotional. Prayerwalkers learn to pray beyond their own concerns, focusing their prayers on behalf of their neighbors.

Prayerwalking is usually a low-profile affair: Friends or family stroll two-by-two through their own neighborhoods, schools and work places, praying as they go. There are some occasions when the prayer should be demonstrative, but usually it's being on the scene without making one. Though they usually walk unnoticed, prayerwalkers quickly become aware of the realities and needs of their neighbors.

Fulfilling Our "Seek and Save" Mission. Prayerwalking certainly isn't the only way God is calling us to pray, but it may be the best way to be sure we have prayed for every person of our land. No list includes all of the homeless, or every child, or the transient, or fresh immigrants, or many others. If we are serious about praying for every person, it will require systematic, sustained prayerwalking as an important part of our prayers.

I'm convinced that Christ is fulfilling His "seek and save" mission (Luke 19:10). Our part of that mission involves seeking people. He will do the saving. Prayerwalking may be the simplest way for us to seek people. Our prayers are without question God's preferred way to save people, because He is honored and thanked with every answer to prayer. Some suggestions as you pray in your neighborhood:

Pray with a Partner.

- You can prayerwalk alone, but many find that their prayers are more focused when expressed with a friend.
- Pray audibly for clarity and better agreement.
- As you finish, discuss - or even write down - the prayers, people, and places of most importance. You'll be ready for the next round of on-site prayer.

Pray with God's Spirit.

- Invite the Spirit of God to accompany you, guiding your steps and your words.
- Be attentive during moments of silence, allowing the Holy Spirit to help you see with His eyes and pray in accordance with His heart.
- Address God directly when contending with evil or its aftermath. Ask God to redeem people as he restrains the enemy.

Pray with God's Word.

- Read Scripture aloud. God breathed it and loves to bless it.
- Express God's thoughts in your own words.
- Carry Scripture with you. Use a small Bible, or note cards.
- Choose a particular verse or theme as a base for your prayers throughout one day's prayerwalk. Use another to launch your prayers the next day, and so on.

Pray with Purpose.

- Pray for the present-hour needs of people and places that you see.
- Sketch a map to focus on select streets and homes.
- Pray quietly. You can be on the scene without making one.
- In confidence of God's unfolding purpose that includes your preparation prayer, don't look to initiate gospel conversations during your prayerwalk. Pray for God to open doors of communication soon.
- Explain what you are doing to inquirers: "We're praying God's blessing on the neighborhood. Are there specific ways we can pray for you or others?"

Waymakers offers a wonderful resource called "Seek God for the City." Pray powerful prayers of biblical hope for the people of your community. This 64-page prayer guide makes it easy for you to pray rich, biblical prayers for spiritual awakening throughout your community. Dated to unite prayer during the 40 days to Palm Sunday. Every prayer revised annually. They also have many other short books with prayer prompts for prayer walkers that would be useful. Find this at www.waymakers.org. Many other great resources here.