



A guide to prayer walking

An Introduction

Prayer walking is not walking around with our eyes closed hoping we don't run into anything. Prayer walking is when we take our prayers to the very streets and neighborhoods where we want to see God at work. It is what we do when we want to try to see a place through the eyes of God and gain clarity on the work God is doing in that place and maybe even on how He wants to use us there. It can be a powerful act of intercession and an eye-opening experience as God shows you things you may not have ever seen before when you drive by in your car.

I was first introduced to the idea of prayer walking when I was in seminary. I took an Urban Ministry class there. It met for 4 hours one evening a week. We spend the first 2 hours or so of class time walking one of the roughest streets in Kansas City. The goal (which we accomplished) was to walk the entire street start to finish. It was eye opening as you met people from all walks of life, prayed with people, saw bullet holes in the buildings on one side of the street while there were perfectly manicured lawns on the other. God moved in me perhaps more than on that street during that semester.

I want to invite you on a similar adventure. Would you join me in walking, prayerfully, throughout the neighborhoods of Portland? To ask for more workers, to intercede for the hurting and the lost, and to see where God is working and leading.

This isn't an idea that is foreign to Scripture. We see in the story of Joshua and Caleb as they walked prayerfully through the promised land with the desire to see it as God saw it and asking for His direction on entering it. We see it in Nehemiah as he prayed for the broken city he loved. Prayer was the first thing Jesus told the 72 disciples to do when He sent them on ahead of Him. So, let's follow the example that is before us and get into this city and pray for God's eyes to see and God's heart to feel.

Praying God uses this time to do a mighty work in you, in the places you visit, and the people you meet!

Pastor Matt

Feel free to use this as just a guide or as a journal as you walk. Use it however it is going to best support and encourage you in your time of prayer.

Prepare For The Adventure

Acts 8:26-27 - As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, “Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza.” So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship...

Psalm 32:8 - The LORD says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.

Isaiah 30:21 - Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, “This is the way you should go,” whether to the right or to the left.

Prayerfully Consider which way you should – where should you pray? (Don’t think too much – just go)
Write where you are headed (or where you ended up) so you can remember for next time:

Explore the neighborhood website (if there is one) – www.portlandneighborhood.com

Are there any popular parks? Where does it look like people hang out? Has this area been in the news lately?
What churches are in the area? What are you able to learn about this community that stands out to you?

Do you know anyone that lives or works in the neighborhood? If so, do they have any suggestions on where you should walk? Why do they suggest that area?

Who will you invite to join you?

As you walk be sure to pray for...

Eyes to see what God wants you to see

God's direction

Opportunities to talk with (and pray with) people

Ears to hear whatever God asks of you in this place (if anything)

This community to be filled with the love of God and people to be saved/discipled

God to send more workers to this field

Write down any initial impressions or thoughts you have as you start

Things to pay attention to and look for as you walk...

The people you see

The people you don't see

How do you feel while walking

Where do you see the most people

What seemed to be the most important

Where/what was the biggest need

Where did you see God at work

Did you feel prompted to stop walking and pray – if so, when and why?

***Take pictures of what you see (I don't recommend taking pictures of people without their permission). The pictures could be good prayer reminders for later.**

***Feel free to send your pictures and share about your prayer walk with others or Central. We'd love to hear about it.**