

## Prayer-Walking and Community-Based Praying

**What is Prayerwalking?:** Prayerwalking is simply praying in the very places where you expect God to answer your prayers.” (What Would Jesus Pray”, by Waymakers)

It is a type of intercessory prayer where you pray in the very place in which you seek God to work. Prayerwalking brings us into close contact with the people in the community for whom we are passionately praying.

**Definition:** Prayerwalking is defined as praying on-site with insight. The walking is incidental. It is only the vehicle which enables us to pray in close proximity of those in the community who need our prayer. It is on-site intercession.

**Prayerwalking is not new.** All of us have done it in the past and continue to do it in the present.

**The terminology is new.** Prayerwalking is so simple that the only teaching you need on the subject is that which would keep it from getting complicated.

### **Prayerwalking is praying on-site.**

- Prayerwalking is not devotional walks with God.
- Prayerwalking is praying on behalf of other people.
- Prayerwalking is not just getting in close proximity to those for whom you pray so you can get clarity for what you should be praying. It does however, enable your heart to identify with what you are praying for so you can put your heart in the line of fire with all the spiritual dynamics that need to and will happen.
- Prayerwalking helps sensitize you to the issues. The sounds, sights, and smells help to engage our spirit in intercession.

### **Prayerwalking is praying with insight.**

- It is **responsive** insight. What you pray for is in front of you.
- It is **researched** insight. It is praying with knowledge of the history of the areas or community in which you are praying.
- It is **revealed** insight. We need to pray and ask God to reveal to us what needs should be prayed for as you pray. We need to let the Holy Spirit direct us as we pray.

### **Prayerwalking is being on the scene without making a scene.**

- You do not have to make a scene.
- It does not require you to be the center of activity.

### **Prayerwalking is being in the public square without being in the public eye.**

- The only time you should make a scene or be in the public eye is when you really have clear guidance from the Lord.

### **Prayerwalking balances:**

- **Worship**, which exalts God; **Warfare**, which contends with evil; and **Welcome**, which builds Christ's reception among the people.

**Practical Prayerwalking:** 1. Pray with a partner, 2. Pray with a purpose – God's desire  
3. Pray with God's Word – pray God's promises more than problems, 4. Pray with God's Spirit  
5. Listen and watch for God

**Conclusion:** Focus on God and not the technique. We can get deluded into trusting in our ability to pray and follow certain methods. (Much of this material courtesy of Bob Tremaine, Director of Missions, Parker-Palo Pinto Associations)

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### COMMUNITY-BASED PRAYING

**Community Observation Guide:** Look for evidence of the following

**People groups:** Who is standing at bus stops, hanging out on street corners, going into businesses, playing in the park, waiting in line at the store? Note ages, ethnicities, languages, and apparent economic status. How much do you see people interacting with one another?

**Places of activity:** A pizza joint crowded with youth, a shopping plaza, a heavily trafficked intersection, playgrounds, school zones

**Structures:** What are the types and conditions of the structures (homes, businesses, roads, parks)? How much "free space" is there in the community? What is the mix of private and public space?

**Services:** Where can people go to shop, eat out, get an education, worship, and receive assistance? What appears to be the quantity and quality of available services? Who is providing services, and who is receiving them?

**Signs of change:** Note which businesses are opening or closing, and if housing is under construction, for sale, or being demolished. Check for languages added to shop signs, and buildings used in ways different from their original purpose. Overall, do conditions appear to be getting better or worse?

**Signs of hope:** Where is there evidence of God's grace and God's people at work? Look for churches and nonprofit organizations, playing children, uplifting artwork, Christian symbols, social gatherings, and gardens. Look especially for local assets that could be connected with neighborhood needs.

**Signs of need:** Look for evidence of hardship, hurt or injustice. Is what you see specific to particular areas or affecting the neighborhood as a whole? Be aware that marginalized people and social problems are often hidden, especially in communities that appear well-off.

People groups	Places of activity	Structures	Services	Signs of change	Signs of hope	Signs of need

Adapted with permission from **Community Study Guide: Understand Your Church's Context for Ministry** by Heidi Unruh (2007), [www.fastennetwork.org](http://www.fastennetwork.org). From Faith In Action Guide