Prayer-Walk Guide

Prayer Has Left the Building!
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Make a Commitment

To Participate in a Prayer Walk

After prayerful consideration I am planning to Prayer Walk:

Date: __________ Time: ____________ Location: ________________

People Joining Me: _________________________________________

Ideas of Areas to Prayer-Walk...

- The place God leads you to serve in outreach
- Neighborhood
- Schools/University
- Workplace
- Government centers
- Shopping Centers/Malls
- High place to oversee the city
- Places of false religion
- Areas of historic significance
- Sports facilities
- Parks
- Churches
- City services locations

With Whom Could I Prayer-Walk? Here are some ideas...

- Your community group or Bible Study group
- Your family
- Your friends
- Your fellow Christian neighbors
- Your ministry team

To Participate in “Church Has Left the Building”

After prayerful consideration I am planning to be a part of the answer to our prayers by participating in “Church Has Left the Building:”

Date: __________ Time: ____________ Location: ________________

People Joining Me: _________________________________________
What is Prayer-Walking?

There has never been a mighty movement of God where He did not call His people to pray. Prayer revives the hearts of God’s people as it prepares our communities for God’s Word to be spread. As we pray for our communities, we can begin to see a spiritual awakening around us prompted by God, not our programs. Prayer allows us to tap into God’s power. Realizing this, we can know that concentrated prayer has the power to literally change the world around us. A great way to put our prayers into motion is through prayer-walking our communities and neighborhoods.

Prayer-walking involves taking our prayers to the very places where we desire to see God’s presence manifested and our prayers answered. It is the powerful dynamic of prayer on-site with insight from God’s sight.

As you pray, you will find that God opens your eyes and prepares your heart to see the city from His perspective. Your sorrow may deepen for the plight of the city while your hope grows for what God desires and is able to do through your prayers. You may discover a new appreciation for people as God sees them and so become more interested in their welfare. Prayer walking is “Ordinary believers stepping into the streets to pray effectively for their neighbors. With eyes wide open to real needs and with ears open to the promptings of God’s Spirit, intercession becomes an adventure” (Graham Kendrick).
“Why can’t I just stay at home or gather at church to intercede?” The answer is... “you can”. And God will hear and respond to your prayer as He will to the prayers of those who go. Praying “on location” while seeing, feeling, touching, smelling and hearing is to pray with more intensity. After the prayer journey is over, you will never pray the same way again for the location of your walk and the people you met there.

An additional value of location-praying has to do with presence. Since Jesus lives within you and the Holy Spirit works through you, there is a sense that your prayer-walking provides light in dark places and salt in unsavory places (Matthew 5:13-16). If your body really is a “temple of God” (I Corinthians 3:16) then where you go, you represent His presence.

Prayer-walking is intentional. Jesus says of His Church that “the gates of hell will not prevail against it.” When believers pray on the offensive against the work of her enemy, the devil begins to tremble, the darkness is penetrated, and the Holy Spirit is unleashed in people, families and communities (see Acts 4:23-33). Spiritual strongholds of sin and bondage in people’s lives come down as believers intercede for salvation, spiritual and physical health, spiritual and physical needs. (See Ephesians 6:10.)

“When people work, people work.

When people pray, God works.”
Preparation for Prayer-Walking

**Prepare Spiritually:**

**Know you are sent by God.** Don’t make this commitment for any other reason than you are following God’s leading.

**Know you are clean and covered.** Be sure you’re in good relationship with God. Prepare your heart by praying and studying His word. Confess your sins to allow him to use you and work through you. (See Psalm 66:18; Psalm 51:10-13.)

- Pray in repentance and faith (Mark 1:15)
- Pray for God’s Spirit to search your heart (Psalm 139:24-25)
- Confess and forsake all known sin (1 John 1:9)
- Pray for a sensitivity to God’s work (John 17:24)
- Pray for open doors to share Jesus with others (Col. 4:2; Acts 4:31)
- Pray for spiritual eyes to pray strategically (Eph. 1:1)

**Know God’s Guidance.** Ask God to guide, direct, lead and impress you with His agenda for His people.

**Know Your Mission.** Prayer-walking is an act of worship and obedience. God wants to use you to advance His Kingdom. Expect that He will help you see the true spiritual needs and battles to be won for people who need breakthrough. Expect that He will act. Expect that He will hear your prayers. Expect that He will use you to love His people.
**Prepare Strategically:**

**For the Location:** If you are prayer-walking as a group or family, take time to pray for God’s guidance for where, when and what to pray. It may be helpful to do some historical or demographical research on the area. The key is to do what you can to familiarize yourself with the area. Ask some basic questions relating to the area and the people who live there: what kind of people live in the area (e.g., ethnicity, religions, ages, interests, socio-economic status)?

**For Divine Encounters:** As Christ sent the disciples out two by two, He expected them to engage and encounter people who needed to hear the Gospel (see Luke 10:16). He instructed them to pray and go with the intention of sharing the life-changing power of Christ. Prayer-walking teams need to be prepared to share a Gospel witness with those they encounter. There is a simple layout of the gospel in the back of this guide, but add your story of how Jesus, in your life, is Good News (Gospel)!
**Prepare Logistically:**

As you prepare for the actual prayer-walk, decide who, where, and when of your prayer-walk. Write your commitment down in the front of this guide.

**Pre-gather:** Prayerfully determine whether you will target a specific area and how long the walk will be. Set a time to return to a central location for a brief follow-up prayer and reporting time. If any members of your group have physical limitations, plan to “prayer-drive” and/or intercede as others walk.

**Gather:** Discuss the area/route to be walked. Divide into small teams (three seems to work really well, or pairs or fours if necessary. Five is too many). Discuss any helpful information that relates to the area being walked. Pray specifically for protection, divine appointments, boldness to share with people as led by the Holy Spirit and wisdom to know how to pray as you prayer-walk. Review practical tips related to prayer walking.

**Prayer-Walk:** (See the practical tips on the next page).

**Re-gather:** At the appointed time and place, reconvene to share ways the Holy Spirit led you to pray, what you saw, learned, and any spiritual challenges you encountered. Pray for specific people and strategic points of concern raised by the teams. Commit to continue to pray for these people and this area. Celebrate what God is doing and will continue to do as a result of your prayers.

- Record in this guide any impressions, celebrations or promptings for further prayer.
- Make a commitment to be a part of the answer to your prayers. Participate in “The Church Has Left the Building.”
- Don’t let this be a one-time thing. You did it! Try it again.
Practical Tips

- As you walk, keep your eyes open and be observant. Ask God to let you see through His eyes and pray His agenda for people.
- Take your Bible and pray scripture as a base for strategic prayer.
- Remain open to the thoughts and ideas God may be speaking to your heart about what you see, scriptures which come to mind, insights about the people in the area.
- Pray aloud and agree with one another’s prayers. Verbalizing your prayers helps you to focus on the objective of prayer.
- Make it a prayer conversation with the Lord and your team.
- You can also pray silently at times.
- Walk slowly to allow time to observe and cover the community in prayer. The key is intercession for people.
- If the process gets awkward or uncomfortable, admit it to your team and ask them to pray.
- Claim God’s love and compassion to remove spiritual blinders and remove barriers that hinder people from Jesus.

(more on next page)
More Practical Tips...

- Pray for people, marriages, families, businesses, government, leaders, husbands & wives, children, civic leaders, senior adults, churches, revival and spiritual awakening, God’s word to spread, people to accept Jesus as Savior and whatever the Spirit prompts you to pray.

- To make prayer-walking an act of worship, practice...
  1) thanksgiving, 2) praise, 3) repentance.

- Pray blessings over the area. (see suggestions in this guide).

- You can be on the scene without making a scene. Be sensitive – if you are led by the Holy Spirit to stop and pray or to make friendly contact with someone, then do so. Otherwise assume you are to intercede in prayer and keep walking.

- An easy way to open a conversation is to say “We are out praying for the community. Is there a special way we could pray for you?”

- Be super sensitive about taking pictures. You are there to pray.

- Wear appropriate clothing to comfortably walk and be relevant to the contextual surroundings.

- You may want to carry information about the church if opportunity arises to invite someone.
Scripture Prompts for Your Prayers

Praying for the Lost

Hearts  Pray for Receptive Hearts (Luke 8:5-15)

Eyes and Ears  Pray for their Spiritual Eyes and Ears to be opened (Matt. 13:15; 2 Cor. 4:3-4)

Attitude  Pray for unbelievers to have and understand God’s Attitude toward sin (John 16:8)

Released  Pray for the lost to be Released from barriers and strongholds that hinder faith (2 Tim. 2:25-26)

Transforming  Pray for unbelievers to experience a Transforming life in Christ (Rom. 12:1-2)

Sent  Pray for Christian witnesses to be Sent to share Christ with the lost (Matt 9:35-38)

Praying for Christians

• Pray for believers to be renewed in the joy of God’s salvation (Psalm 51:10-13)
• Pray for believers to live a Christ-like character before the world (John 17:11)
• Pray that Christians will experience the joy of Jesus in their lives (John 17: 13)
• Pray for divine protection from Satan (John 17:15)
• Pray that believers will live set apart and holy lives in Christ (John 17: 17)
• Pray for Christians to be united in mission and purpose (John 17: 20-21)
• Pray that believers will join Christ in His redemptive work (John 17: 24)
More Scripture Prompts...

PEACE FOR THE CITY: Jeremiah 29:7,

OPEN HEARTS: Acts 16:14

OPEN DOORS: Colossians 4:3-4

AUTHORITIES: 1 Timothy 2:1-4

GOD’S FAVOR: Isaiah 61:1-4

TURNED HEARTS: Luke 1:17

REMOVED OBSTACLES: Isaiah 57:14

SPIRIT’S MINISTRY: Ephesians 4:12

SALVATION: Acts 26:17-18

HEALING: 2 Chronicles 7:14

KINGDOM ADVANCED: Matthew 11:12
Blessings to Pray over the People in the Area

The acrostic BLESS and it is a very helpful method.

**B** – Body: physical needs.

**L** – Labor: All of the labor of their hands.

**E** – Emotions: their emotional needs.

**S** – Social: For their relationships among one another and others.

**S** – Spiritual: all of their spiritual needs.

**Also Bless the Area Praying for...**

- Faith to endure to the end.
- Laborers for the harvest fields & hope for the harvest.
- Deliverance from evil.
- For a few “Barnabas” servants to be raised up among us.
- For ears to hear and hearts to confess Jesus Christ is Lord.
- Jeremiah 29:7, for peace upon our nation.
- II Timothy 2:1-3, for rulers and authorities, so that the believers may lead an unprovoked and quiet life for every kind of practiced devotion and service.
- That the believers would increase and fill our state. Psalm 115:12-15; Genesis 1:28
- 3 John 1:2, that the believers would prosper in all respects and be in good health, just as their souls prosper.
- Psalm 128:1-4, that we would flourish as we walk with the Lord.
- Pray all of Psalm 103:2-6.
God asks us all to be prepared to give witness to what He has done in our lives. Add your story and perspective to these simple truths about the Good News (Gospel) of Jesus Christ.

**God’s Purpose**
God is a spiritual being who is both holy and loving. He loves everyone and desires a personal, spiritual relationship with each individual. John 3:16

**Our Problem**
We are born into this world without a personal relationship with God because we are sinners. Our sin carries the penalty of spiritual separation from God, both in this life and throughout eternity, unless we are rescued. Romans 3:23; 6:23

**God’s Provision**
Because God loves us, He provides a way to forgive our sin and bring us into a personal relationship with Him. Jesus died for us and was later resurrected from the dead. Romans 5:8; 4:25

**Our Response**
We must individually accept His forgiveness and establish a covenant relationship with Him through faith in what God has done through Jesus Christ. Romans 10:9-10, 13; Ephesians 2:8-9, John 1:12

**Our Prayer To God**
The following words can be presented to God as a sincere expression of one’s desire to establish a spiritual relationship with Him.

> Dear God, I believe that your son, Jesus, died on the cross and was raised from death. Because I am a sinner, I need your forgiveness. Please forgive me for all my sin and come into my life. Right now, I turn away from my sinful life and acknowledge Jesus as my Savior and Lord. Thank you for forgiving me and giving to me the gift of eternal life. Thank you for the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit in my life. Amen.
Take Note

Record any impressions, celebrations, convictions here....

What is God saying to me about how to be part of the answer to our prayers?

Where should I serve my neighborhood or community as a part of “The Church Has Left the Building?”
Prayer Has Left the Building

At Christ Community Church, we shut down every other program and meeting in order to spend a week in prayer. We do this three times a year.

Once a year, on a Sunday morning, the Church Leaves The Building in order to put hands and feet to our faith...in order to BE Jesus to our lost and hurting community...in order to love as Jesus loved.

Why not combine the two?! Prayer does not have to be contained! Join us as we get out into our community and ask God to show us what we need to see, tell us how we need to pray, and inspire us how to be a part of the answer to the needs around us.