

Come & See – Prayer Walking

What is Prayer Walking – what are we as a prayer team going to do when we visit another EMC church?

Graham Kendrick, Steve Hawthorne: *“Prayer-Walking: Praying On-site with Insight.”* Please try to read this book before the trip. Prayer Walking is very simply praying close to the place where you expect the prayers to be answered. It’s “drawing nearer to pray clearer.”

Why do we prayer-walk?

1. To increase our own vision and passion for the people we are praying for
2. It gives us specific insights because of the things we see and hear. This then gives further prayer fuel for the future
3. It sometimes furnishes actual opportunity to pray for specific people or specific sites
4. We share God’s burden for that place worldwide, or denomination-wide

Kendrick says that spiritual things happen in three directions when we prayer-walk at the place where we desire to see prayer answered:

1. Before our holy God (heavenly realm)
2. In the realm of evil powers
3. In the community.
 - a. We worship before a holy God (praise opens the windows of heaven for blessings – we don’t understand it all, but know it is true)
 - b. We do warfare against evil and strongholds are destroyed
 - c. We welcome Christ’s kingdom into people’s hearts and thus effect the community

Preparation

1. No, you don't need to be a prayer 'warrior' to go. We want to learn. We have all learned to pray and we all have things to learn from each other, I'm sure. We also want to pray intelligently and with power. So, if you're up to this learning experience, welcome aboard!
2. EMC has put together material for you to use as orientation, and it is expected that churches organize their own schedule together with the church you are partnering with.
3. Personal preparation: We assume you have really felt from the Lord that you should do this. The team leader will be giving some suggestions for how to prepare yourselves both to be personally prepared and to be prepared for prayer ministry. Hopefully the team can do some fasting on set days together. If this is new, don't be afraid. God will teach you.
4. Before you leave it would be good for the home church to send the prayer team group off with a prayer of anointing over each team member to consecrate ourselves to the Lord in this ministry, and commission the group for service.

Where do we prayer walk?

1. Streets where people live
2. Government buildings – where decisions are made for the town/city/country
3. Historic places where foundations were laid for a city/country
4. Places where people congregate: parks, stadiums, halls
5. Centers of commerce & culture: malls, banks, markets, theatres
6. Centers of religion: churches, public religious statues

How do we pray while walking?

We walk and pray with our eyes open. We will usually choose a partner for the daily walk, sometimes 2 or 3. We will walk, observe, then we pray, often conversationally in short sentences, sometimes longer. We may sometimes pray as an entire group if we're in a place that does not draw attention to ourselves. We can use 3x5 cards with verses God gives to us to pray, or use prayer booklets, or just go with our minds tuned in to the Spirit's moving.

Don't be afraid of periods of silence. Listening is part of praying. We can worship in our hearts as we walk silently. Feel free also to talk to people if the opportunity arises. You can even tell them you are praying if it seems appropriate and ask them how you can pray for them. You can also chat with each other but don't let it distract from actually praying.

Four Common Stages of Prayer

1. We praise and worship God.

- a. We will usually have a praise and prayer time most mornings before leaving to prayer-walk. Once we are on the streets, we don't parade our prayers before people; that would be pharisaic. But we do sing in our hearts to the Lord. Our worship can be the reading or reciting of Scripture. We bring God's glory and praise to the streets. In some places we can also sing out loud.
- b. We welcome His presence into the community. We invite His kingdom to be established where we walk, in the city/country. We make His praise glorious in the streets. At this stage we also look for the blessings (the good things) we already see in the culture and the city.
- c. We will often have a debrief in the evening which will include worship and prayer.

2. Praying God's promises back to Him.

- a. At this stage we often ask God, "What is your will for these people?" We have many Scriptures that give God's will, e.g. 'that none should perish and all come to repentance.' Ask the Lord for Scripture as you prepare and begin praying those Scriptures. It will be exciting to see how the Lord unites our spirits to pray for the same things and the same Scriptures. Put these verses on 3x5 cards or into a notebook if you want to remember them.

3. Doing spiritual warfare.

- a. We come with humility but with complete authority because of our position in Christ - taking on the armour of God, Ephesians 1 and 2. We read and pray the Scriptures that speak about our victory over Satan and the hosts of darkness. We declare God's victory on the site where we are praying. We may repent as we praise, repenting on behalf of the people who are not following Him in this place. This is called *Identificational Prayer*. Often we are moved to repent for our own sin of not taking them the gospel sooner.
- b. We're careful *never to pray curses* on people or on a town. We as God's people have been called to bless. So, even in doing spiritual warfare against the hosts of darkness, we speak blessing to the people whom we are praying for, to be released from evil's bondage. 1 Pet. 3:9 says, "Do not repay evil with evil...but with blessing, because to this you were called."

4. We pray for specific needs.

- a. This involves listening and watching. At the end of the day we will debrief to compare and rejoice in the similarities and variety of needs God showed us.

Ministry to the Host Church Pastors/Leaders

A significant component of our prayer ministry will be for the church leadership specifically. We will spend time with each pastor, inviting them to share their concerns, challenges, and requests. We will pray for them and over them, seeking God's intervening in their lives. We will also encourage prayer for the church leaders/elders/board/council/deacons, whatever is the case.

If billeting happens, we encourage you to pray for them and their families. Let's bless them with our presence. It's also appropriate to leave a small gift and thank-you note for their hospitality.

Journaling

We encourage those who enjoy journaling to keep a record of what happens each day.

Things to keep in mind are:

- What did God lead you to pray? (Scripture, songs, words, etc.)
- Where did you pray? What were your impressions?
- For whom did you pray? What were your concerns, burdens?
- What impressions were you feeling?
- What were you really praising the Lord for?

Conclusion

An important part of prayer walking is giving God the glory in all we do, say and sing. He's the focus of our praying, not ourselves. He is our Abba Father, our Daddy who cares deeply about us and those for whom we pray. He has promised to answer! Ask & you'll receive; seek...knock. Will he give you a stone if you ask for bread? "How much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask!" (Mt. 7) Let's ask and receive!