

# Basic PrayerWalking

by Dave Gehrls ` Christ For The City International  
dave@cfc.org ~ www.gehrls.net

## The Value of PrayerWalking:

1. Prayerwalking is "Praying onsite with insight." It launches us beyond church walls and into our neighborhoods where we can "watch and pray" and become aware of what's going on, be it good or evil.
  - PrayerWalking does not make our prayers more powerful. An intercessor can pray just as effectively for China here as in China. **Distance is not a barrier to Spiritual Authority.** See Matthew 8:5-13
  - PrayerWalking moves us into a type of prayer where **God can guide our eyes**, and touch our heart with what moves His heart. It helps us focus around His priorities.
2. It begins to **lift the veil over people's eyes** and prepares them for further contact with the Good News of Jesus.
3. It **holds back the forces of darkness** as we do hands-on spiritual warfare at key points in our localities.
4. It eventually **blankets the whole city**, home by home, school by school, business by business, and building by building in prayer.
5. It enables us to take **spiritual ownership** of our neighborhoods as we pray and believe that every place the sole of our foot treads will be given unto us by the Lord.
6. It produces **an excitement** among the people of God as they see the effect of their praying in a declining crime rate, a reduction in violence, thriving churches, favor with government authorities and the lost finding Jesus.

## Some Biblical Insights:

1. Rebuilding the City Walls.
  - Nehemiah 4:15-19– Nehemiah led the people as they came together to re-build the walls of the city. The workers rebuilding the city wall were spread all around the city. Whenever one part of the wall came under attack the leaders would sound a trumpet at that spot and everyone would rally to the sound of the trumpet.
  - Nehemiah's Walls speaks to unity, teamwork and relationship. Churches are like workers along the city walls each one next to and helping its neighbor, and also across the city.
2. Intercession
  - Numbers 16–The consequences of Israel's rebellion unleashed judgment... within minutes thousands were dead as a plague swept through the people. Moses commanded Aaron to quickly and light an incense censor (prayer) and run and stand between the dead and the living and the plague stopped...but almost 15,000 had died. Many more would have died, but effective intercession before God limited the losses.
3. Spiritual Warfare
  - Habakkuk 2: 8, 17–Habbakkuk says that human bloodshed is violence to the land and all its inhabitants. Human bloodshed violates neighborhoods... Every person, animal and even the vegetation and ground has been violated because of the human blood shed there. The area where human blood was shed needs to be cleansed and reclaimed for King Jesus.
  - Ephesians 6:12 reminds us that our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers in the heavens. This is a spiritual battle and in order to win the battle we must call on the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in prayer.

- Romans 12:21 instructs us “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” We drive out the darkness simply by turning on God’s light... His Love defeats Hate... His Truth overcomes Lies... His Hope conquers Despair
- I Timothy 6:12 tells us to fight the good fight of faith in the presence of many witnesses.
- Jesus said in Luke 10:19 “Behold, I give you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall injure you.”
- Jesus said in Matthew 18-20: “Truly I say to you, whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. “Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. “For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst.”
- We are authorized by Jesus Himself to make it costly for Satan to kill people in our city... Exercise and grow in the authority He gives you over all the power of the enemy.

**God is calling His Church to bring prayer to the streets...to pour out the salt from the saltshaker to rally to the "Sound of the Trumpet ...believers from many churches ...from diverse Ethnic heritages, prayerwalking together in unity... Cleansing and Reclaiming the ground, contesting the enemy for every act of violence, praying for and ministering to victims, police and even reaching out to those arrested and in jail.**

### **Our mission:**

- To call believers outside the church walls to pray...to confront evil right in the street.
- To train and mobilize believers in various forms of prayer and prayerwalking.
- To see an ongoing dynamic prayer presence in each high crime area that is locally led but involving believers from all over the city. The strategy is God’s people working together side by side to rebuild our community. This will be accomplished by churches and community leaders coming together to take responsibility for our neighborhoods.
- To have prayer teams on the site of every murder usually within 48 hours of the crime...Reclaiming the ground, contesting the enemy for every act of violence, praying for and ministering to victims, police and even reaching out to those arrested for the murder in jail.

### **Types of Prayerwalking**

- A. Some prayerwalking is public—it designed to make a spiritual statement to the community and to the spiritual realm.
  - “March For Jesus” is an example.
  - Public prayerwalks are a call to believers to pray and make a difference, to bring a message of hope to hurting neighborhoods that raises awareness and says, “You are not alone...We are from churches all over the city coming to be with you and stand against violence in our city.”
- B. Some prayerwalking is more private—it is "Praying on the scene without making a scene".
  - The primary goal in this strategic prayerwalking is to intercede and hear from God...without drawing unnecessary attention to us.
  - During this time we are talking to God about our neighbors before we talk to our neighbors about God.
  - This is usually done quietly, individually or in twos and threes. No Bibles or signs, in good weather and blending in with everyone else on the streets.
  - This Prayerwalking allows God to guide our eyes to see His heart and His priorities and then to align our prayers and plans accordingly.
  - It can reveal "Cornelius's" (someone God has spiritually prepared to receive the gospel).

- C. The kinds or purposes of prayerwalking are endless. Here are some applications we are currently encouraging:
1. Strategic Prayerwalks—Calling believers from all over the city to stand together in hurting areas of our city.
    - Saying to hurting neighborhoods, “You are not alone! We are the body of Christ standing together.”
    - Encouraging people to take spiritual ownership of their neighborhood by establishing an ongoing prayer presence.
  2. First Responders—Mobilizing the body of Christ to timely onsite prayer at crisis events in our community.
    - Selected spiritual SWAT like prayer teams who respond quickly to pray onsite at major crime, community crisis events and other significant attacks on the community.
    - First Responder crime prayer teams will pray onsite usually within 48 hours of violent crimes beginning with murder to cleanse and reclaim the land to make it difficult for Satan to kill people in our city.
    - It is not unusual to have neighbors come out to thank us and join us in prayer.
  3. Walk the Block Prayer—Congregations, usually after a service, walk their neighborhood in small groups.
    - As they walk, they are looking with spiritual eyes and also looking at their physical surroundings. They pray and then let God lead them to other things that need to happen in their community.
  4. Evangelistic Prayerwalking—Mobilizing churches and community groups to prayerwalk neighborhoods, praying blessing, protection, and favor as they seek God’s heart and priorities.
    - Prepares neighborhoods for more effective outreaches
    - Combined with prayer mapping and journaling it confirms God’s heart and gives us the spiritual keys to the neighborhood.
    - Mapping and journaling also identifies the "Cornelius’s" that are ripening fruit in God’s garden.
    - This is usually quietly, individually or in twos and threes. No Bibles or clipboards, in good weather and blending in with everyone else on the streets.
  5. Business Prayerwalking—Prayerwalking businesses with their owners and/or managers to ask for God’s wisdom, protection and favor.
    - Mapping and journaling also identifies areas of need as well as new ideas.
  6. Civic Prayerwalking—Prayerwalking government sites and for our leaders.
    - Key areas including City-County Chambers, Police and Fire also for individual leaders or specific requests from civic leaders.
  7. Embrace Our City In Prayer Week—
    - Calling churches and groups to a unified plan of prayerwalking which covers the entire metro in one week.
  8. Repentance Prayerwalks—
    - Calling pastors to lead believers to a unified prayerwalk of repentance as an illustrated sermon of “Repentance in Unity” and a public declaration of our city and nation’s desperate need for God’s mercy.

# Prayerwalk Organization and Guidelines:

## Leadership Preparation

Leaders need to prayerfully research the city, identifying the areas of highest violence and historical strongholds of sin. These often correlate with the spiritual “high places” where Satan has established strongholds and even demonic temples of various types. Geographic and spiritual maps are helpful.

1. Leaders should quietly visit these areas in a small groups and seek the Lord’s strategy as to where, when and how to proceed.
2. Before doing a large public prayerwalk in an area small teams of leaders should quietly “spy out the land” asking the Lord for specific tactics...
  - Where are people to gather? A local church, park business, or government building makes a great base for a prayerwalk,
  - Mark out the physical parameters prayerwalk. Select an area that can be saturated in prayer within 30 to 45 minutes.
3. Prepare some guidelines for the prayerwalkers including some scriptural prayer launching pads.
4. In your church announcements include the goals and relevant facts. Tell people to dress casual and that children make great prayerwalkers. Note that there will be security and the police have been notified and invited.

## Event Organization (for a one to two hour event)

1. Open event with statement of purpose and introduce pastors and civic leaders present. Keep this time brief...people should be Prayerwalking within 20 – 30 minutes.
2. The prayerwalkers should be divided into small teams of about four to ten and encouraged to prayerwalk with somebody they don’t know from another church (this is important as it builds citywide unity).
3. Teams should have at least one experienced leader and then be sent out randomly in all directions unless the Lord has called for a march or parade.
4. Have teams return by a set time to debrief and close the event.
5. If possible have a Worship and Prayer team at the assembly site to provide a spiritual umbrella over the area during the prayerwalk.
6. After teams are assembled and just before heading out do the Spiritual Preparation below.
7. Inform City and Police officials of the event involving churches from all over the city and invite them to come. Ask for a police presence and encourage people to bless and pray for them individually as they have opportunity. Prepare leaders with guidelines on how issues and disruptions are to be handled.

## As you PrayerWalk:

1. Ask God to show you His heart and plan for your neighborhood. Ask Him to **guide your eyes** to what He wants you to pray for... that you might see with the **“eyes of Christ”**.
2. Learn to **pray with your eyes open** and **pray for what your attention is drawn to**.
  - Prayerwalking is like turning on a bright light in a dark place...all eyes are drawn to it... physical and spiritual ...Heavenly and demonic. **Nothing around you will be coincidence or accidental**. Be watchful and prepared to respond to distractions and opportunities...
3. Note physical, cultural and spiritual gates, doors (posts) and gates that allow or block access.
4. The natural use is often connected to the spiritual purpose.  
**“What happens here?” “What would the Lord desire here?” ...now pray into that.**
5. Position yourself (i.e. sit in their chair) to see what they see and pray from that perspective.
6. If someone asks, **“Who are you?”** Share briefly that you are part of [group or local church name] that is praying God’s blessing, favor and protection over this area. People with questions or concerns should be directed to one of the organizers.

## **Spiritual Preparation (keep brief, under ten minutes):**

### **1. Individually**

- Confess known sin.  
"If I hide iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." -Ps 6:18
- Give God the "cares of life"...  
which distract you, which cause you to worry, and which choke His word until it becomes unfruitful.
- Submit to the will of God.  
Ask that His Kingdom come, and His will be done... Trust that God can guide the appointed leader and that we keep in harmony (unity).
- Give grace to others...  
who may pray or worship differently than you. Don't let Satan divert your focus off the Lord Jesus and His purposes

### **2. Two Corporate Prayers led by Pastors or other leaders:**

- Asking that we may see with the eyes of Christ.  
Where is His attention focused? To hear and pray His priorities in this place?
- For Spiritual Protection... Put on the "Full Armor of God."  
Cover our families, our homes our belongings, etc. as we prayerwalk

## **Prayerwalk 30-45 minutes.**

## **Debriefing After the Prayerwalk (to be adapted to type of prayerwalk):**

### **1. Quickly people sharing —**

- **What did God do in/for you as you prayerwalked?** Sharing about the general experience of PW. The goal here is "I can do this...this was a great growing experience..."
- Did you connect to a new spiritual brother or sister from another church or denomination?
- **What did you hear from God as you prayed? His Heart, His Priorities for this area?** People need to experience the reality that "God is listening to us and speaking to and through us about this area... "I can hear Him!"
- Some may focus on the demonic activity in the area. Affirm the reality of darkness and evil here, then share that if we go out focused on Satan that is all we will see, because he is all over the place... what we need to see is Jesus here... we overcome evil with good...driving out the darkness with light...people know how bad it is, they need hope...
- If you are training in mapping and journaling use a whiteboard or newsprint to begin looking for any initial confirmations of leadings.
- Tell people who have natural knowledge of the area to hold this information to use as natural confirmations of what God may be showing others.

### **2. Have people surround to pray and bless pastors and other leaders.**

### **3. Announcements for the next PW**

### **4. In closing face outward to our city in all directions and corporately beseech God to come in a new way...**

- For real revival and city transformation.
- Announce to your city that the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ has come...
- Pray for the peace of your city and bless your city in the name of Jesus...

# Some insights from years of Prayerwalking

1. The battle is the Lord's
  - a) The key to victory is to discover the Holy Spirit's strategy and cooperate with Him. Jesus only did what He saw the Father doing...
    - Ask to see with the eyes of Christ the Father's heart and plan.
    - Faith sees what God desires for us to do and then "Trusts and Obeys."
  - b) Joshua 5:13-6:2
    - The Lord Jesus is before us with His sword drawn and leading His angelic hosts.
    - He is here to take the city...

The question is not "Is He with us?" but, "Are we with Him?"
2. We are not so much warriors against darkness as we are bearers of light.
  - Satan loves to get our eyes off Jesus and lead us into a game of "**Spiritual Dungeons and Dragons**" but no one gets saved!
  - **If you look for evil, that is all you will see**, because it is everywhere. Ask God to show you where He is looking and what His heart is. --John 5:19
  - Romans 12:21 instructs us "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." We drive out the darkness simply by turning on God's light... His Love defeats Hate... His Truth overcomes Lies... His Hope conquers Despair
  - We go out keeping our eyes on Jesus, and when the enemy and his forces surface, then we use appropriate spiritual weapons...then get our eyes back on Jesus.
3. PrayerWalking will give us God's priorities and action plan.

When we pray, God will listen...  
If we listen, God will speak...  
If we don't obey, God may stop speaking...

## Journaling

1. **Pray from the general to the specific...**
  - A big ship is steered by a small rudder, but it must be moving for the rudder to steer it. Start with what you know is generally God's will from His word for a place or people. As you do this, the Holy Spirit may then take your prayer in a specific direction. The key to hearing God is a humble heart.
  - The Holy Spirit leads us in many different ways some call nudges, burdens, promptings, visions, or revelations. He may just lay something on our heart as we are praying. For the purpose of simplicity we will generalize these as "Prayer Leadings" or "Leadings."
  - Many people use terms to describe these leadings like "saw, felt, sensed, etc. It is important to distinguish between the leadings of God's Spirit and New Age or Occult practices. We do not use any kind of ESP...we are totally dependent on the Holy Spirit to reveal what He wants us to know as we pray.
2. **Journal these leadings**, especially when your prayers go from the general to the specific. Be sure to clearly document the location and date prayed.
  - Do not worry excessively about whether your prayer leading is correct or not. We are all growing in our ability to hear and know His voice and we all miss it at times. We have discovered that God will independently confirm what He is saying through others.
  - When a number of separate people or groups find that God has lead them to pray similar prayers over a specific area, home or business, we have usually identified one of God's priorities or a "Cornelius" (someone God has spiritually prepared to receive the gospel).

**For help and resources contact** Dave Gehrls at Christ For The City International

dave@cfc.org ~ www.gehrls.net ~ 402-651-3136

**See Prayerwalk Videos at:** <http://www.youtube.com/DaveGehrls>