



Lighthouse Keeper

EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

May 2007

Prayer Walking by Les Cool

Now that the weather has turned nice, or at least nicer, every church should be thinking about prayer walking. Prayer walking is a free, and good for you (walking is good exercise), way to begin to touch your neighborhood for Jesus. Prayer walking is taking your desire to share Jesus into your community.

Prayer walking is a non-confrontational ministry to your neighbors. You pray for them as you walk by their homes, businesses, or places of recreation. You can walk and pray alone. Or you can travel for prayer in small groups. The idea is to be present, but not imposing or in-the-face-of your neighbors.

Prayer walking can be organized. You can develop prayer guides, divide up your community by streets, and march out for battle. Or it can be rather low key. You just head out for a walk and pray while walking. God will bless both initiatives.

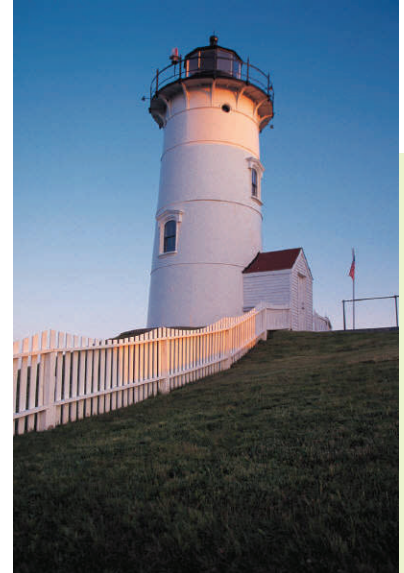
Consider the following information that has been taken from website materials sponsored by WayMakers as a good primer on prayer walking. The complete information they offer can be found on their website:

[http://www.waymakers.org/index.php?p_prayerwalking&PHPSESSID_1178b9aff9bf098e\)f6f9655bee70f56](http://www.waymakers.org/index.php?p_prayerwalking&PHPSESSID_1178b9aff9bf098e)f6f9655bee70f56)

How to Prayer Walk

Pray with a Partner:

1. You can prayer walk alone, but many find that their prayers are more focused when expressed with a friend.
2. Pray audibly for clarity and better agreement.
3. As you finish, discuss or write down the prayers, people, and places of most importance. You'll be ready for the next round of on-site prayer.



Prayer Walking (cont.)

Pray with God's Spirit:

1. Invite the Spirit of God to accompany you, guiding your steps and your words.
2. Be attentive during moments of silence, allowing the Holy Spirit to help you see with His eyes and pray in accordance with His heart.
3. Address God directly when contending with evil or its aftermath. Ask God to redeem people as he restrains the enemy.
4. Pray with God's Word.
5. Read Scripture aloud. God breathed it and loves to bless it.
6. Express God's thoughts in your own words.
7. Carry Scripture with you. Use a small Bible, or note cards.
8. Choose a particular verse or theme as a base for your prayers throughout one day's prayer walk. Use another to launch your prayers the next day, and so on.



Pray with Purpose:

1. Pray for the present-hour needs of people and places that you see.
2. Sketch a map to focus on select streets and homes.
3. Pray quietly, You can be on the scene without making one.
4. In confidence of God's unfolding purpose which includes your preparation prayer, don't look to initiate gospel conversations during your prayer walk. Pray for God to open doors of communication soon.

Prayer walking is not a subversive project. And prayer walking should not be approached in such a manner that your neighbors become your "church project." No one wants to be someone else's homework. Walk and pray because you love your neighbors. Walk and pray because it is a first step in the process of taking Jesus to your neighbor.

Always "explain what you are doing" to inquirers. You might say, "We're praying God's blessing on the neighborhood. Are there specific ways we can pray for you or others?" You will be surprised how many people respond with a request. And you might be encouraged as you discover other believers in your own neighborhood.

So, what's keeping you inside on such a nice day? Nothing to do? Let's take a prayer walk. Let's stretch our legs, breathing deeply of the fresh air. And as we lift our voices, seeking God's blessing on our communities, let's begin to make a difference.



Prayer Walking—Resources

Maybe you're ready to walk and pray. Maybe not. If the prior brief explanation is just not enough information for you, if you still have questions and concerns about prayer walking, then check out some of the following resources. These helpful tools are on-line. You will also be directed to a large number of books which can be purchased at your local bookstore.



<http://www.newchurches.com/public/resources/reading/docs/PrayerWalkManual.pdf>

<http://www.crosswalkamerica.org/prayerwalk.htm>

<http://www.waymakers.org/index.php?p=prayeralking&PHPSESSID=1178b9aff9bf098e0f6f9655bee70f56>

http://www.telleurope.org/Prayer_Walking.htm

http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/article_main_page/0.1703.A=150101&M=50022.00.html

<http://www.hannahscupboard.com/prayer-walking.html>



**“WE ARE PRAYING
GOD’S BLESSING
ON THE
NEIGHBORHOOD”**

Wanted:

Ideas! What have you been doing to reach your community? What resources have you used? And what were the results? Drop me a line or two about your successes and failures. Help us help one another in the areas of evangelism, personal or corporate. Please send your ideas and resources to Pastor Cool (for the next issue of the Lighthouse Keeper) at coolcopy43@comcast.net. Let's keep the flame burning brightly as we share our experiences!





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Lighthouse Resources

Mission America Coalition (www.missionamerica.org; click “Lighthouse Movement”) is committed to “Uniting Christians for Evangelism and Revival.” The Mission America Coalition (MAC) is helping mobilize Christian leaders and individual Christians to collaborate together to reach America with the love and grace of Jesus Christ. Their mission statement is “The whole Church taking the whole Gospel to the whole Nation—and to the World.” Through encouraging Christians to pray for, care for and share Jesus Christ with every person, the Coalition emphasizes spiritual unity, evangelism and revival. Check out its helpful website.



The Editor Needs to Hear from You:

Pastors, I Would Love to Hear from You... **What exciting programs and events has your church hosted? What worked? What didn't? Your testimony could be the impetus for the church in the next town. Send your story to Rev. Leslie Cool, the Lighthouse Keeper editor (coolcopy43@comcast.net).**

Personal Evangelism... **What is your favorite gospel presentation? The Four Spiritual Laws? The Bridge Illustration? Will you share with us? Please send your resources to Rev. Leslie Cool, the Lighthouse Keeper editor (coolcopy43@comcast.net).**