

5.1.b Prayer walking (Next section)

Prayer walking is a two-way dialogue with God in a specific location that is being prayed for. What distinguishes prayer walking from other types of prayer is that in prayer walking there is a progressive, real-time interaction between God, the intercessor(s), and the people and places encountered in the location being prayer walked.

It is this real-time interaction that makes prayer walking a powerful means of interceding for a community. In prayer walking, we are giving time to God to show us specific people, places, and situations that he would have us pray for. We are believing that the things that we encounter as we walk are not there by mere coincidence, but rather by God's divine pre-positioning, in order that they may be prayed for.

The effectiveness of prayer walking does not in any way diminish the effectiveness of praying for individuals or communities from afar (also a very effective form of prayer that has had a powerful impact on the world). Prayer walking is simply a different means toward the same goal of seeing communities transformed.

However, by placing the intercessor on-site, prayer walking has a number of key advantages that prayer-from-a-distance may not have:

- It allows the intercessor to pray for many of the specific elements that make up the community, in a way that is more difficult from afar
- It exposes the intercessor's emotions and senses to the community in a powerful way, allowing God to reveal His own heart more clearly
- It can be a powerful expression of faith in prayer, as each place where the intercessor(s) set their foot is claimed for God's Kingdom (Joshua 1:3)
- It allows for opportunity to immediately become an answer to prayer for specific needs that arise, whether by helping someone in difficulty, defusing an argument taking place, assisting an elderly person to get to where they need to go, giving comfort or dignity to a needy or homeless person, responding to an emergency situation, etc.

5.1.b.i What to Pray

Prayer walking, like all types of prayer, should be led by the Holy Spirit, with a responsiveness to His promptings. At times it is also helpful to have a specific set of items to pray for as you walk.

One model that can be helpful in this is the GEHARP model. GEHARP is an acronym that can be easily remembered, with each letter of the acronym representing a specific area of prayer that can be applied in any and every location. The model is shown below:

GEHARP

G	Glory
E	Expansion
H	Hearts and Minds
A	Authority
R	Revival
P	Prosperity

The acronym GEHARP can help you focus on six key focal points in prayer that are related to God's heart for all nations, as you walk through a place.

G: Glory of God

That God would be glorified and exalted and worshipped in this street/area/building

Hab 2:14 For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

*Ro 15:9 so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:
"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name."*

E: Expansion of the Kingdom

That many people in this location will come to salvation, communities of believers be planted, insider movements ignited

Isa 9:7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.

2Co 10:15-16 Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the gospel in the regions beyond you.

H: Hearts and Minds

That strongholds and bondages will be lifted from the minds of the people in this place, and that hearts will be stirred with hunger for Jesus and truth

2Co 4:4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Ac 17:11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

A: Authority

Taking authority over principalities and powers in this location that work to defend and nurture spiritual strongholds, speaking prophetic words over the place, releasing visions, dreams, signs and wonders in Jesus' name

Mt 18:18 "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Ac 19:15 One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?"

R: Revival

That believers living in this area would be awakened by the Holy Spirit, have love and passion stirred in them for the lost, and rise to meet the need in their neighbourhood

Lk 10:2 He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

Eze 37:10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

P: Prosperity

That God would bring blessing and prosperity to this street/area/region that would show His eternal kindness, demonstrate the blessing of His Kingdom, and cause His people to prosper

Jer 29:7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

Ps 84:5 Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. Ps 84:6 As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.

5.1.b.ii Systematic Prayer Walking

Another effective way to prayer walk is to systematically walk and pray through every street (alley/path/track) of a community over a given period of time. The advantage of this kind of an approach is that it gives the team praying a tremendous amount of insight into the community, and extended opportunities to interact with God about the community. Depending on the size of your community, a systematic endeavour to pray through the community could take weeks, months, or even years.

Some of the elements of a successful prayer walking plan include the following:

Planning: In order to systematically cover the area, a reasonably good street map is very helpful. In places where street maps do not exist, hand-drawn ones can be put together with the help of tools like Google Earth (www.google.com).

Leadership: It is good to have one person designated as the overall coordinator of the prayer effort. This person determines where the group will walk each week, or will designate someone on the team to do so.

Consistency: Having a regular time for prayer walking is best. Many teams have found that prayer-walking once per week is a good amount. Other possibilities are on a bi-weekly or monthly basis. For short-term teams, daily walks (or even twice daily) are possible.

Tracking: Take time after each walk to keep a journal of specific things that God showed you during the walk. This can provide valuable prayer material for the community that can be used in other prayer meetings later on, and can also form the basis of other strategic initiatives in evangelism, church expansion, etc.

5.1.b.iii Prayer Walking and Prophetic Acts

Prophetic acts are specific actions that God leads us to do that proclaim an aspect of His divine intent for a person, a community, or a region. Often, this proclamation is not done for other people to see, but simply as an act of obedience before God or as a proclamation in the unseen realms. Some of the acts that God sets in motion may seem strange or unconnected to the current spiritual needs of the community, only to make sense later on. In all cases, when a prophetic act is

undertaken in obedience to the clear prompting of God, His power is released in ways that can significantly shape and shake a community.

Although the concept of prophetic acts may be relatively new to some, examples of prophetic acts can be found in the Scriptures. Jeremiah was called to bury stones in clay in the pavement at the entrance to Pharaoh's palace, as a proclamation of coming defeat (Jer. 43:9-13). In 1 Kings 13, a man of God is called to speak a proclamation to an inanimate object - an altar. Ezekiel was told to prophesy to dry bones and command them to rise (Ezekiel 37:4). Agabus tied his own hands and feet with Paul's belt to deliver a specific message from God (Acts 21:11).

Prophetic acts are specific actions that God prompts his people to do in specific locations and times. They should not be undertaken in a place simply because they were used with power somewhere else.

Some examples of prophetic acts that have been done in various parts of the Muslim world in the past 10 years include:

- a prayer team sharing communion (bread and wine), and then burying portions of the remaining bread and wine in the northern, southern, eastern, and western-most points of the city
- a container of water being prayed over and prophetically poured into the sea next to a city
- a multi-week campaign of praise and worship - done in a low-key manner - through the streets of a city of key religious significance
- a prayer team designating one person to embrace a specific building with his arms as the rest of the team prayed for the influence of that building on the community
- The door-posts in a building being anointed with oil as a proclamation of God's presence and protection there

These examples are not meant to be used as a template, but rather to simply serve as a sample of the kinds of things God may call teams of intercessors to do by faith.

Story: One day the Lord spoke to the young people about a certain barrio in the city called Castilla. They were to walk around it and pray over it every morning before they went to their classes at the University. They did this faithfully for several weeks. Years later we simply marvelled at the number of useful servants of the Lord that have come from this barrio to go into all the earth to serve the Lord. When He says Prayer Walk, obey Him. You will understand why some time in the future.