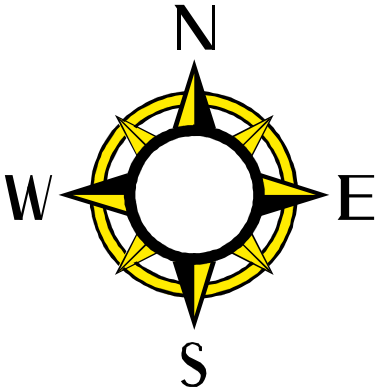

PrayerWalking
Prayer in Motion

Rick Shepherd, Director
Prayer and Spiritual Awakening Department
Florida Baptist Convention
Cooperative Program Ministry
1230 Hendricks Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32207
800-226-8584 X3098

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PRAYERWALKING
What is it? How does it work?

Prayer in Motion

Covering a community in Intercessory ***Prayer***
Being Ready to Show His ***Care***
Responding to Divine Appointments to ***Share***

PrayerWalking is…

*...Covering a Community in Intercessory **Prayer***
*...Being Ready to Show His **Care***
*...Responding to Divine Appointments to **Share***

Prayer in Motion

***NOTE—Meditate and pray through *one particular passage or verse* for a while, restating the truths in your own words and applying them to the current need or situation. Then go to another passage.

- **SPEND TIME IN PRAISE USING SCRIPTURE**—restate the praises of God in your own words. Make the place you walk a place of worship.
- Pray following the **DIRECTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**
  ***He will sensitize you to needs around you and how to pray Scriptures for those needs.
  ***He will guide and orchestrate your Team in prayer using the individual gifts and heart burdens in each Team member's life.

God will be faithful to guide you by His Word and by His Spirit. Remember, He is the one who wants the **Lord Jesus exalted in every place you walk. He tells us—**

> *"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. For we are a fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things?"*
>
> *2 Corinthians 2:14-16*

PrayerWalking is …
… Covering a community in Intercessory ***Prayer***
… Being Ready to Show His ***Care***
… Responding to Divine Appointments to ***Share***

Here's How

PrayerWalking with a Purpose and a Plan

- **PREPARE IN PRAYER** *before* you travel to pray.
- **Put PRAYER TEAMS together.** Two to five people make up a team. Teams are best in pairs or triplets, especially in light of walking down a street in most PrayerWalks.
- **Map out your ROUTE**—consider each area, safety for the teams, any traffic, etc.
- Decide **WHERE** each team will **START.**
- **Decide your TIME/TIMING**—when you will **START** and the **DURATION** of your walk (usually about 30 minutes to one hour, perhaps up to 1 ½ hours).
- One option for some wanting to be involved in the PrayerWalk who are not able to physically walk is to be part of **SUPPORT TEAMS** at the church praying for those on the PrayerWalk. They can also be praying for the areas where each team is walking.
- **Decide when and where to REPORT BACK** after the PrayerWalk.
- **MEET AND START** your walk—Walk or ride past the homes, businesses, government buildings, or school areas quietly. Don't stop or stand for a long time in front of homes or businesses. Simply pray as you walk.
- **Pray SHORT SENTENCE PRAYERS,** specifically targeted to what you are seeing and to how God is opening and widening your vision.
- **PRAY USING THE WORD OF GOD.** Carry a small copy of Scripture or a pocketsize New Testament/Psalms. Pray based on the insight God gives you and your team member(s) as one of the Team members reads or quotes Scripture out loud. This can be a great encouragement in worship and prayer as you walk as well give insight into intercession where you are in the walk. What do you see or hear around you as you walk? Pray accordingly.

PrayerWalking

One of the most exciting "new" ministries many churches are discovering is the ministry of PrayerWalking or PrayerJourneying. It is as simple as going to a specific place, walking (or driving) through the area (neighborhood, downtown, etc.), and praying. Someone has defined it as "praying onsite with insight." It is "Prayer in Motion" or "Prayer on Location." So many have experienced a newness in their praying and in the ministries of their church or mission through this simple tool.

When we look into Scripture we find that it is really not so "new" after all. The twelve spies could have turned their mission into a PrayerWalk if only they had believed God—Joshua and Caleb certainly did. They saw all that the Ten saw—the land flowing with milk and honey, the abundance at every turn, and the walled cities and giants, bigger and stronger than the Ten. Joshua and Caleb saw all this with one exception—they also saw ***God*** and what He had promised to give them. They saw victory instead of defeat. They had prayerwalked as they walked for forty days. The two spies that went into Jericho years later did the same. They experienced the working of God in their walk through town and saw Rahab and her family begin to follow the Lord God.

When we turn to the New Testament, one of the clearest examples of the Holy Spirit leading in a PrayerWalk is seen in the life of the Apostle Paul. In Acts 17, Paul arrived in Athens after being kicked out of Thessalonica and then Berea. While he was waiting on some of his ministry companions to join him, he walked through the city carefully observing the people and their many idols. As he did this, the Spirit of God led him on a PrayerWalk. Acts 17:16 says that as he walked about he was greatly distressed, his spirit was stirred in him, he was being provoked by all the idolatry he saw. He took advantage of every opportunity to share the message of the Messiah Jesus in the synagogue and he spoke day after day in the marketplace. Then he was invited to speak to the philosophers at Areogapus where we hear him tell about his Prayer Walk.

In Acts 17:23, he mentions **walking** about, **carefully examining** the objects of their worship. He **found** an altar to an unknown God and began to tell them about this God—he knew Him personally and told the Athenians about Him as the Creator, the Lord, Savior and Judge. Some who heard believed and joined with Paul (a word meaning to join wholeheartedly, to stick like glue), some sneered, and some wanted to hear more later.

It is the same with us as we go about in life and ministry. If we will PrayerWalk where God has placed us, He will give us opportunities to get the message out. So, where do we start? I'm glad you asked…

HOW DO WE PRAYERWALK? FOLLOW THE "5-T" PATTERN:

1. **Travel** (walk, drive, skate, jog, get moving) to a place equipped with your "prayer-pack" like you would on a hike with a backpack. Be ready to pray. What do you need in your "Prayer Pack"? First, make sure you have a **cleansed** heart—you're walking with a clear conscience toward God and others, all sins dealt with, confessed, and cleansed (1 John 1:7-9). Then, focus on the Lord, **confident** in Him to guide you in prayer and in answers. (Don't get sidetracked by focusing on the "messes" you may see.) As you walk, make sure you are **calling** on the Lord not just talking to others about what you are seeing. And always walk **carrying** a caring heart as you go.

When Paul walked through Athens, his spirit was "provoked"—stirred and disturbed… and praying. When we see a need, we too can be burdened and the Holy Spirit can lead us to pray. That happened with Paul. Note this—he was not provoked ***until*** he was in that place. The same applies to us. When we go to a place—a place at church or a neighborhood or a business or at home or wherever—at that place we can receive new burdens and new insights into how God wants us to pray. We can be stirred, even disturbed, and begin to pray in a new way.

Prayer in Motion

Remember, as you prepare for VBS (or any other Event), bathe all in prayer **before the Event**—have workers get ***prayer partners*** who will pray for them as they minister. Place the ***names*** of everyone involved in the Prayer Room or give them to an Intercession Team. Pray ***during*** the Worship Services in the weeks prior to the Event. Have Sunday School ***classes*** pray. Then **during VBS or other Events,** pray for ***each*** child, youth, or adult that comes. Place a copy of ***registration cards*** or ***attendance cards*** in the Prayer Room or some place where people can pray for them. **After the Event,** pray for those who came, for those who received Christ, for those who made other decisions, and for the families of each child, youth, or adult.

So, **Ready—Fire—Aim!** When we cover an **Event** in prayer, we are getting **READY** God's Way, we are looking to Him for the **FIRE** of His Presence and the fullness of His Spirit to be at work, then our **AIM** will be the same as His—we will be joining Him in His work His way, targeting changed hearts, changed lives, changed families, and a changed church.

Rick Shepherd

Look to Him for the **FIRE** of His Presence and the fullness of His Spirit to be at work...

AS YOU GO, look for ways God wants to get the message out. Look for opportunities—open doors for the Word. Pray for open doors for His Word in the places God places you (Colossians 4:2-4). Jesus said in the Great Commission, "As you go, make disciples…" PrayerWalking is a good way to start and your church is a good place to start!!

REMEMBER *YOUR PERSONAL* PRAYERWALKING

On a Personal Level, PrayerWalk your home, each room, each family member's place in the home, asking God for the fullness of His will in each heart and life. PrayerWalk your neighborhood, your place of work, your school, wherever God places you in life.

DON'T FORGET!!!
PRAYERWALKING SPECIAL EVENTS

What About Special Events such as VBS (Vacation Bible School), the County Fair, Christmas or Easter Celebrations, Outreach Dinners, Fall Festival, Spring Fling, etc.? PrayerWalking is a great way to get ready. Remember the saying "Ready. Fire! Aim!!"? "Ready, fire, aim" is often quoted as the motto of someone who fails to plan properly. But when it comes to VBS or any other Special Event, it may actually be the way we are supposed to go—if we know the ways of God. We can go one of two ways. We can "ready, fire, aim" and miss out on all God wants to do or we can **"Ready"** ourselves by looking to God for His **"Fire"** first, then our **"Aim"** will be according to His ways and His targets. How do we get ready God's Way?

Let's apply this to VBS—Vacation Bible School. Before anything happens, go to the places at church or backyards or wherever you will have VBS, and PrayerWalk those places. Go to the neighborhoods, the apartment complexes, the roads and streets from where the children, youth, and adults will be coming. And pray! Pray through those places following the **5-T Pattern.**

As in backpacking, you can go it alone, but it's best to **Travel with a Team**—a team of two or three prayer partners all focused on the Lord and His grace adventure. Members of a Team encourage one another as one member's prayers build on another member's.

2. Then, there is the **Touch Factor—**Like Paul in Athens, you are ***touched*** by what you see, so you pray. As you pray you are ***touching*** that place with the Presence of God through prayer. You can touch people—children, families, neighbors—with prayer. Even when they are unaware, God can be at work. When you pray **trusting God to guide you in prayer**, He will touch people through your praying.

3. **Talk to the Father**. He knows all the needs and knows how to meet those needs. As you walk, speak the Father's language. What is that? It is Scripture. Use Scripture as you pray. Read, quote, sing Scripture as you walk. Pray those truths to the Father. Carry a small Bible or New Testament or portion of Scripture and read it as you PrayerWalk. Pray the things you see in Scripture. For example, knowing He wants people to come to Him through His Son the Lord Jesus and remembering Jesus said no one can come to the Father except through Him because He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, you could pray what Jesus said to Paul in Acts 26:18—that God would *"open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in [Jesus]."*

4. **Tell and Teach** as God opens doors. There will be opportunities on a PrayerWalk to tell others of the love of God. It may be as simple as telling an inquisitive neighbor that you are praying for the families in the neighborhood. God may open a door of witness during the walk, a divine appointment of grace. Be ready to share the message of God's love and forgiveness in Christ give a word of hope or encouragement. Paul did that as we see in Acts 17:17 and we need to be ready to do the same.

5. **Time for Decision.** As Paul found in Athens, we often find that some who hear sneer, some want to hear more later, and some want to come to Christ and join the family of God (Acts 17:32-34). As you walk and pray, ask God to bring people to that point of surrender to Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Ready for the Adventure? **Start** in prayer (look to the Lord to guide you). **Stand** in prayer (stand in Christ as you pray depending on the Lord for His strength and wisdom in how to pray). **Step** in prayer (step by step follow the Lord in prayer, through prayer). **Stay** in prayer (keep at it). Finally, **Stand in Awe** (rejoice in His work, in His answers, and in the ways He accomplishes His will.

Prayer in Motion moves from house to house, office to office, school to school, church to church; wherever God leads us in prayer. Ultimately, **Prayer in Motion** goes from heart to heart.

START BY PRAYERWALKING YOUR CHURCH!

OK. How can we Start? Here is a good Starting Point!! **START by PrayerWalking Your Church.** HOW? Pick a time and Gather together where you meet together for your worship services each week. This can be with a few or many. **Start** at the pulpit and pray over that area, praying for the preaching of the Word, for wisdom in leading the people God has in that place. Go from there to the surrounding platform and pray for all the worship leaders, for the instrumentalists and singers. Then go to the pews or chairs and pray over the congregation. From there, go to each Sunday School room, the nursery, the area where children meet, and where youth meet. Then go onto the parking lot and the church grounds praying over each area, asking the Lord to make His ministries effective in this place with these people for this time. Think of it as praying in concentric circles with the pulpit at the center of the circle. The message of God's heart from His Word is at the center, central to all we do.

Start by Prayerwalking your Church

THEN, go out from there. From the church grounds or meeting place, go into the neighborhoods around the church. Go to the elementary schools, middle and high schools, community college, businesses, offices, etc. in your area. Pray over them, around them, lifting up the leaders and followers in education, business, government, and recreation. Pray for other churches in your area. Ask God to move in their midst, to make them faithful messengers of the Word of God, of the gospel of Jesus Christ.