

# Everyday Missions in the Rhythms of Everyday Life

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**Much of what we do as a church is not meant to add things to the schedule but bring intentionality to the things we are already doing.**

**John 1:1-18** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) He was in the beginning with God. (3) All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. (4) In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men....(14) And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth...(18) No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.*

**John 1:14 MSG** *The Word (Jesus) became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.*

**When we talk about mission, evangelism, and outreach we are not talking about adding programs but bringing intentionality to what we do.**

**Misunderstanding of Christianity and Church:** Christianity and church are not simply a belief or a part of our life, it is all of life. Church isn't a building, program, or a meeting it is living a way of life together and on mission with God and His family.

If we see church and Christianity as a meeting or a program but a way of life.

**Psalms 68:5-6** *A father to those who have no father, a judge of the widows, is God in his holy place. (6) Those who are without friends, God puts in families; he makes free those who are in chains; but those who are turned away from him are given a dry land.*

**Acts 2:41-47** *On that day about three thousand believed his message and were baptized. (42) They spent their time learning from the apostles, and they were like family to each other. They also broke bread and prayed together. (43) Everyone was amazed by the many miracles and wonders that the apostles worked. (44) All the Lord's followers often met together, and they shared everything they had. (45) They would sell their property and possessions and*

*give the money to whoever needed it. (46) Day after day they met together in the temple. They broke bread together in different homes and shared their food happily and freely, (47) while praising God. Everyone liked them, and each day the Lord added to their group others who were being saved.*

**Acts 4:32-35** *The group of followers all felt the same way about everything. None of them claimed that their possessions were their own, and they shared everything they had with each other. (33) In a powerful way the apostles told everyone that the Lord Jesus was now alive. God greatly blessed his followers, (34) and no one went in need of anything. Everyone who owned land or houses would sell them and bring the money (35) to the apostles. Then they would give the money to anyone who needed it.*

**Misunderstanding of Missions:** Missions is the aspect of Christianity in which we are sent by Jesus into the earth to fulfill His mandate (Jn 17:21, 20:21). Missions is not just a "special call" for a few unusual people who live in strange places and do amazing things that other "everyday Christians" will never do. Missions is everyone, everywhere, all the time. It is across the street as well as across the ocean.

- **Jesus before cross: John 17:18** *"As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world;*
- **Jesus after resurrection: John 20:21** *"as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."*

**Theme of the Bible:** "God's family (Spirit filled disciples) together (with Him and each other) on mission."

**God's principle of incarnation:** At the incarnation God came in the flesh (Jesus moved into the neighborhood) and manifested God in the everyday rhythms of life.

**John 1:14 MSG** *The Word (Jesus) became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.*

**Rhythms of life in missions:** Missions isn't a project or a seasonal area of emphasis. It is done in the everyday rhythms of life. What are the everyday rhythms of life? It is the things every person on the face of the earth participates in (eat, rest, play, work, learn, and celebrate). Jesus was a great example of this. He went to celebrations (weddings, feasts, religious festivals, tax gatherers parties etc.) as well as synagogues and the temple. One important thing Jesus did in an everyday rhythm where a lot of Kingdom activity happened was eat.

**Rhythms of life missions is what the Bible says, "Making the most of every opportunity."**

*Col 4:5-6 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. (6) Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.*

**Mission to people:** The goal of all missions is to bless people and see them move from being a stranger, to an acquaintance, to a friend, and to a disciple. In Jesus' last prayer on earth, John 17, He prayed 3 times that His people would have the same type of relational life as the Godhead, and with the Godhead as He sends them on mission to the earth. The prayer can be summed up with the motto "God's family joined together on God's mission." This really is the theme of the Bible.

## Two types of Everyday Missions

**Along the Way Mission:** A focus on normal rhythms of life, like the good Samaritan on a journey, or in the journey of your home life (Mt 9:11, Lk 9:10).

**Intentional Mission Targeting an Area or Group:** An area or people group you intentionally go to.

*Act 16:10...immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.*

**We cannot assume people will come to us, we must go to them!**

**Missions isn't just about getting people to “come and see” but it is also about us being motivated to “go and be!”**

**Ideas for Neighboring (connecting with people who are around us every day) individually or with small groups**

- Have a hang out at various parks evening with snacks or a picnic. You may want to split up the group to cover two parks, or have a park rotation.
- Pray for any needs you come across with people especially healing (Mt 10:8, Lk 10:9)
- Split group up and have two places to host a hospitality Sunday once a month. Have visitors over for lunch after church with your group. If you prepare and there are no visitors then invite other church members. Meals together are always valuable.
- Use a coffee shop for an evening of coffee and dessert. Host your own (after hours at a coffee shop like Signet) bring desserts and offer free desserts and

coffee advertised in front of store. It would be good for their business as well as you are connecting with people.

- Prayer Walk your neighborhood and look for ways to engage and pray for neighbors.
- Hang out in the front yard. Start a garden, set up a comfy chair, play with the kids—in the front yard so you can chat with passing neighbors.
- Take part of your group to a sporting event of a single mom's daughter or son's baseball game.
- Have a front yard ice cream social
- Host a card game or movie night.
- Host a backyard theater and show a movie in warm months (in cold months inside). You can use a projector from the church. You can get ideas from [www.backyardtheater.com/](http://www.backyardtheater.com/)
- Make a neighborhood video responding to questions like, "What things do you like about this neighborhood?" and "What things would you like to change in the neighborhood?"
- Invite neighbors over. Have coffee, refreshments, or dinner.
- Ask for help. Borrow some sugar or a lawn mower. Ask for advice with a project or help carrying something heavy.
- Take more walks. Say hello to the people you pass or pray for your neighbors.
- Organize the neighborhood. Plan a block BBQ or neighborhood directory.
- Invite your neighbors over for theme night dinner (Mexican, Italian etc)
- Game night (Bunko, Poker, Pictionary, etc.)
- Build Your Own Ice Cream Sundae (build your own pizza)
- Bake some cookies and take them next door....still warm and chewy.
- Picnic at the neighborhood park
- Meet and Greet (pull out your grills, B.Y.O. meat)
- Garage Sale in the neighborhood
- Progressive Dinner on the block

- Water balloon war
- Tailgate Party
- Kickball Tournament (challenge the next street over)
- Slip-n-slide your cares away party
- Use Nextdoor.com to create a free neighborhood website
- Form a Neighborhood Watch group and volunteer to be the block captain or host a National Night Out [www.natw.org/about/](http://www.natw.org/about/)
- Facilitate a neighborhood yard sale
- Pass out 9 volt batteries for people to replace in their smoke detector
- Drop off an easy gift to appreciate neighbors
- Pass out fliers offering free gardening help, knitting lessons, or whatever you do well.
- During the Christmas season, facilitate a Christmas caroling event, inviting your neighbors to participate with hot chocolate and cider at the end.
- Ask your neighbors if they would like you to stop by once a month to pick up items they may want to give to the local clothing/food pantry.
- Host a party on your front yard during Halloween and serve "Hallo-weeners" (hot dogs) to all who stop by.
- Host a Ground Hog Day soup party. Fix different kinds of soup and invite neighbors to drop-in for a bowl of soup

### **Personal Habits to help us in our neighborhood (from "The Art of Neighboring")**

Do it in the normal rhythms of life pursuing to meet and engage new people  
 Prayerfully watching and listening to the Holy Spirit to discern where God is working.  
 Looking to boldly, humbly, and contextually proclaim the Gospel in word and deed.

1. Stay outside in the front yard longer while watering the yard
2. Walk your dog regularly around the same time in your neighborhood
3. Sit on the front porch and letting kids play in the front yard

4. Pass out baked goods (fresh bread, cookies, brownies, etc.)
5. Invite neighbors over for dinner
6. Attend and participate in HOA functions
7. Attend the parties invited to by neighbors
8. Do a food drive or coat drive in winter and get neighbors involved
9. Have a game night (yard games outside, or board games inside)
10. Art swap night – bring out what you’re tired of and trade with neighbors
11. Grow a garden and give out extra produce to neighbors
12. Have an Easter egg hunt on your block and invite neighbors use their front yards
13. Start a weekly open meal night in your home
14. Do a summer BBQ every Friday night and invite others to contribute
15. Create a block/ street email and phone contact list for safety
16. Host a sports game watching party
17. Host a coffee and dessert night
18. Organize and host a ladies artistic creation night
19. Organize a tasting tour on your street (everyone sets up food and table on front porch)
20. Host a movie night and discussion afterwards
21. Start a walking/running group in the neighborhood
22. Start hosting a play date weekly for other stay at home parents
23. Organize a carpool for your neighborhood to help save gas
24. Volunteer to coach a local little league sports team
25. Have a front yard ice cream party in the summer

## Theology of Eating

There are three ways the New Testament completes the sentence, 'The Son of Man came...' 'The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a

ransom for many' (Mark 10:45); 'The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost' (Luke 19:10); 'The Son of Man has come eating and drinking ...' (Luke 7:34). The first two are statements of purpose. The third is a statement that is descriptive. How did Jesus come? He came eating and drinking."

**Jesus spent much of His time eating and drinking.** His mission strategy often included a long meal, stretching into the evening. He did evangelism and discipleship round a table with some grilled fish, a loaf of bread, and a pitcher of wine. Luke's Gospel is full of stories of Jesus eating with people. In most of the book Jesus is either going to a meal, at a meal, or coming from a meal when Kingdom activity happens.

- In Luke 5 Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners at the home of Levi.
- In Luke 7 Jesus is anointed at the home of Simon the Pharisee during a meal.
- In Luke 9 Jesus feeds the five thousand.
- In Luke 10 Jesus eats in the home of Martha and Mary.
- In Luke 11 Jesus condemns the Pharisees and teachers of the law at a meal.
- In Luke 14 Jesus is at a meal when he urges people to invite the poor to their meals rather than their friends.
- In Luke 19 Jesus invites himself to dinner with Zacchaeus.
- In Luke 22 we have the account of the Last Supper.
- In Luke 24 the risen Christ has a meal with the two disciples in Emmaus, and then later eats fish with the disciples in Jerusalem.

Jesus didn't establish ministries, run projects, create programs, or create events. He often ate meals, personally interacted with people, and revealed God's Kingdom in the midst of it.

**The Luke 9-10 and Matthew 9-11 pattern for sending on mission (the 12 and the 70), had a focus on homes and meals.**

*Luk 9:4 "Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that city.*

*Luk 10:5-7 "Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house.' (6) "If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. (7) "Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house.*

Jim Peterson (book "Living Proof") writes: 'I know of no more effective environment for initiating evangelism than a dinner at home or in a quiet restaurant. Consider Jesus. Yes, he adopted the attitude of slave when he washed the disciples' feet. But think, too, how often he accepts service. He accepts hospitality from Levi (Luke 5). He lets the woman at Simon's house wash his feet (Luke 7). He asks for water from the woman in

Samaria (John 4). He's not just the helper of sinners, still less their project worker. He's the friend of sinners, who came eating and drinking."

## Five parts of the Matthew 9-11 Luke 9-10 pattern

**Perhaps the most significant mission field in the world is right under your nose. It is every day in our normal sphere of life.**

### 1. As much as possible go with family

Jesus sent them in pairs. "Two are better than one" Eccl 4:1. When this happens we have a much fuller representation of the love and perspectives of God for people.

*Luk 10:1 Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come.*

### 2. The first order of business is to give a blessing to people

*Mat 10:12-13 "As you enter the house, give it your greeting. (13) "If the house is worthy, give it your blessing of peace. But if it is not worthy, take back your blessing of peace.*

*Luk 10:5-6 "Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house.' (6) "If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you.*

Giving a blessing has to do with speaking positive words to someone. Blessing is about speaking God's life-giving words of praise and endearment over people. Giving a blessing is positively recognizing something God highlights in the life or future of someone. Blessings are something that brings life, hope, and lets people know God and others see, affirm, and appreciate them. The idea of a spoken blessing gives people a sense of hope. Our workplaces, marketplaces, and neighborhoods can have a negative atmosphere. A positive blessing will be in stark contrast.

When the Bible was being translated into Old English, the term blessing was chosen to translate the Latin word *benedicere* and the Greek word *eulogein*, both of which have the meaning "to speak well of, or to praise." It is where we get the idea of benedictions or eulogies. They are utterances that bestow identity, appreciation, and the release of something positive in God.

"Life and death are in the power of the tongue" (Proverbs 18:20-21). There is an amazing power in words that come from our hearts, both the power for good or for evil.

In the Bible, blessings from people such as brothers and sisters, parents, grandparents, and leaders held a special place. Blessings release Holy Spirit's life and activity into the life of another. Life-giving words stirred by the Spirit in our hearts and spoken out of our mouths have a tremendous power to both build family as well as influence others as we're on God's mission.

I have heard estimates that we hear around 30,000 words in a day. Words are not designed by God to simply relay information. They bring creativity and life. Words spark imagination and God's prophetic purpose. Jesus released the power of God through His words. Phrases like, "Be healed" (Mk 5:34), "Your sins are forgiven" (Mt 9:2), "Stand up and go your way, your faith has made you well" (Lk 17:19), and "Receive your sight" (Lk 18:42) were words that contained the power of God.

Giving blessings helps turn the volume down on shame, guilt, sorrow, condemnation, and lies that the enemy sows in people's minds and emotions. It also turns the volume up of the gospel of God and His will towards us. This is one thing God uses to put strength and confidence back in our souls. It is amazing how much God says about blessing/encouraging with Spirit-inspired words. Here are a few of them.

***Isaiah 50:4-5** The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of disciples, That I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple.*

***Ephesians 4:16-29** ... (29) Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.*

***Hebrews 3:13** But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*

### **Three ways to bless**

#### **1. Words of Affirmation** - A word or note lets them know they are noticed and valued

Mark Twain once said, "I can live for two months on a good compliment." I've heard it said that a word of encouragement is like oxygen to the soul.

#### **2. Acts of Kindness** - Who doesn't feel blessed when someone does them a favor or provides some kind of practical support? Cutting an elderly person's lawn. Babysitting an exhausted couple's kids. Helping a neighbor move. These acts of kindness literally lift up and bring strength to others.

#### **3. Gifts** - a thoughtful gift lets people know they are known, cared for, and valued.

**Blessers often have more impact than Converters.** Mark Russell in his book called *Missional Entrepreneur* tells of a study that was performed on two different missionary teams that were going to the country of Thailand. Both teams wanted to go in and establish businesses in the country. But after that, the two teams had very distinct strategies that they wanted to use. This study wanted to see what the results

would be of the different strategies. One team's strategy was to go to Thailand, start a business, and focus on blessing the people there. They would just get into the culture and find ways they could bless, help people, and serve them in tangible ways. They were the *blessers*.

The next group went into Thailand to start businesses, but their strategy was to go and focus on getting converts through the businesses. They went in with the plan to convert as many people as possible to Christianity. This group was known as the *converters*.

This study followed these two different groups for five years. Do you know what the results of the study were? The study found that the *blessers* had a far greater social impact in their area and had 50 times as many conversions as the *converter* group. They found that the *blesser* group not only outperformed the *converters* in bringing people to Christ but also had a huge social impact and made life better for the people in practical ways.

Intuitively, we know what this study proved empirically. It is only when we love people and bless them that they develop an interest in why we are doing it. It is the best way to help people find their way to God.

### 3. Look for receptive places and people ("house of peace, man of peace, worthy person").

**Luk 9:4** "Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that city.

**Mat 10:7-11** "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' (8) "Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give. (9) "Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts..."And whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it, and stay at his house until you leave that city.

**Luk 10:8-9** "Whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat what is set before you; (9) and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

#### Receptive Homes, Man of Peace, Worthy Person

**Mat 10:11** "And whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it, and stay at his house until you leave that city.

#### Worthy – deserving

**Luk 10:5-6** "Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house.' (6) "If a **man of peace** is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you.

#### Man of Peace - People who are receptive, responsive, and relational

The term “man of peace” literally means “a man who is searching for peace.” Apparently there was something in a way a person responded to the blessing “Peace to this house” that revealed the level of receptivity in that house. I would contend that it is our duty to discover the “Peace to this house” statement for our generation.

**Consider a few Scriptural examples of receptive men and women of peace and the profound impact that they had in their sphere of influence:**

- **Zacchaeus** - Luke 19:1-19 – He was interested enough to climb a tree to see Jesus. Jesus started a conversation with Zacchaeus and invited Himself to his house for the day. Why did Jesus do this? Jewish customs show that eating at another person’s house was a sign of friendship. Zacchaeus was responsive. Zacchaeus was a changed man and reveals the change by his next actions. He gives half of his wealth to the poor. He then pledged to make restitution of four times anything he cheated anyone out of.
- **Lydia** -Acts 16:13-15 – She listened to Paul’s teaching and God opened her heart.
- **Andrew** – John 1:35-42
- **The woman at the well** – John 4:1-26; 39-42 – She was open to Jesus and responsive.
- **Demonic** - Mark 5:1-20 – He came to Jesus on his own, and later beseeched Him.
- **Levi** - Luke 5:27-32
- **Cornelius** - Acts 10:1-48 – He was receptive to the angel and was eager to hear the Lord’s message through Peter.
- **Philippian Jailer** Acts 16 – He asked what he should do to be saved, received the word of the Lord, and his family was receptive to the gospel.

**What does a man or woman of peace look like? Here are a few things to look for:**

- 1) They are not just open to the gospel but they receive the gospel freely.
- 2) They are often in positions of influence with their family, friends, and within the community (Biblical idea of "household.")
- 3) They have the ability to introduce God's workers into their sphere of influence effectively.
- 4) They are also great "bringers and includers" of others into the life of the church.

There are certain people who are more open to spiritual conversations than others. Even Jesus said, “I have come to seek and to save those who are sick, not those who think they are already well” (Mat 9:12, Mk 2:17, Luk 5:31).

**The Receptive are those mentioned in the parable of the sower who seem to have good soil (Mark 4):** These are people who allow the Word to take root and grow. Their

hearts have been cultivated by Holy Spirit to receive spiritual things. It is this cultivating that creates openness to the gospel. These are people who produce spiritual fruit.

#### **4. Enter relational life with them and look for ways to bring healing and deliverance.**

God is always building in the context of family relationships. People aren't projects or ministry targets, they are people in the image of God that He loves and wants a relationship with. We need to convey that heart. This is the idea of not moving from house.

*Mat 10:10-12* *or a bag for your journey, or even two coats, or sandals, or a staff; for the worker is worthy of his support.* (11) *"And whatever city or village you enter, inquire who is worthy in it, and stay at his house until you leave that city.* (12) *"As you enter the house, give it your greeting.*

*Luk 9:4* *"Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that city.*

*Luk 10:5-7* *"Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house.'* (6) *"If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you.* (7) *"Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house.*

Meal time in that day was the means of relating with people along with eating food. Eating what is set before you means you relate with people where they are. As we are doing that we are to look for ways to bring healing, both physical and emotional, and healing from sin. It may be as simple as praying with someone about something. Most unbelievers will not refuse someone praying for them if you just ask. Jesus blessed people (unbelievers) by feeding them and healing them. He didn't withhold blessings because of their sin.

What happens when Jesus finds a receptive heart? Lost souls find direction. Hopeless people discover that there is a new hope. Those who are world weary are given new strength. Thirsty spirits find refreshment. Broken lives are mended. Hurting hearts are healed.

Luke 19:1-10 - God things happen when good seed goes into receptive hearts.

#### **5. Begin to speak about the Kingdom**

*Mat 10:7* *And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'*  
*Luk 9:2* *And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.*

**Luk 10:8-9** "Whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat what is set before you; (9) and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

Interacting, blessing, and healing people helps build a platform from which we speak of the Kingdom. Speaking of the Kingdom isn't just giving the four points of salvation. It is both demonstrating and declaring God's reign in every area of life. Where He rules, restoration occurs and things get better. It is also bringing up the positive testimonies of how the rule of Jesus in our lives or the lives of others has brought life and change.

We also must look for ways to preach the gospel because it is the only way to the new birth and entry into His Kingdom. **Joh 3:3** Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

### Patterns based on Missional Acronyms

**BELLS:** *BLESS (Be generous); EAT (Hospitality); LISTEN (Spirit-led); LEARN (Christ like); SENT (Missionary)* I will see myself everyday as a sent missionary

**Be generous, hospitable, Spirit-led/filled, Christ-like, missionaries to the world around us.**

**Good Habit - I will bless three people this week—at least one of whom is not a member of our church.**

#### BLESS

**B- Begin with prayer.** We want you to ask, 'God how do you want me to bless the people in the places you've sent me to?'

**L- Listen.** Don't talk, but listen to people, their struggles, their pains, in the places God sent you.

**E- Eat.** You can't just check this off. It's not quick. You have to have a meal with people or a cup of coffee. It builds relationships.

**S- Serve.** If you listen with people and you eat with people, they will tell you how to love them and you'll know how to serve them. Pray for them and deliver God's blessings and power to them.

**S- Story.** When the time is right, now we talk and we share the story of how Jesus changed our life.

*Genesis 12:2-3 says, “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*

## An Important Idea for Mission in Your Neighborhood

**Many people have the wrong concept of evangelism that causes great anxiety seen in two erroneous ideas.**

- Walking up to complete strangers and push upon them the gospel pushing past their opposition (coercive evangelism).
- Be a nice person and people will automatically be evangelized.

**Neither of these ideas are accurate and neither will work.**

**An important key to anything we do in Jesus, we can do nothing by ourselves.**

- We can do nothing apart from Him (John 15:5)
- We can do all things through Jesus (Phil 4:13)
- Jesus only did what saw His Father doing and only said what His Father was saying (John 5:16-30, 8:26-32). He joined God in His work.

**We need to look for God already at work in our neighborhood.**

**One thing we can do to help us be sensitive to God and get us out in the neighborhood is prayer walking.** One way to say it is that if we pray onsite God will give us His insight. As we are prayer walking around our neighborhood we are also listening for Holy Spirit's promptings and direction (Rom 8:26). It is good to talk to God about your neighbors before talking to them about God.

Basically, it is simply taking a walk in my neighborhood, pray, and intentionally pay attention to what God was doing and saying. We then cooperate with him when I noticed something. We can all walk around and listen to God.

**There is always a call to pray.**

**1 Timothy 2:1-8 NASB** *First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, (2) for kings and all who are in authority,*

Prayer walking has been part of Christian heritage for many centuries. The British countryside has many long distance paths used by monks and other travelers from one cathedral city to another.

**The Bible links walking around a land and the inheriting of it**

**Genesis 13:17** "Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you."

**Joshua 1:3** "Every place on which the sole of your foot treads, I have given it to you, just as I spoke to Moses.

**Joshua 14:9** "So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land on which your foot has trodden shall be an inheritance to you and to your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God fully.'

**Joshua 18:8** Then the men arose and went, and Joshua commanded those who went to describe the land, saying, "Go and walk through the land and describe it, and return to me; then I will cast lots for you here before the LORD in Shiloh."

Developing the habit of prayer walking enables us to see our neighborhoods as Christ sees them and allows us to offer up prayers for things we see. When you get Onsight God will give you Spiritual insight.

**Expect encounters with** people on these walks that will lead to conversations. This happened to Jesus.

**Psalm 2:8** 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Thine inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Thy possession.'

**Matthew 9:20-22** And behold, a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years, came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak; 21 for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch His garment, I shall get well." 22 But Jesus turning and seeing her said, "Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well." And at once the woman was made well.

**Acts 16:16** NASB It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling

**We pray over the city that God's Kingdom and influence comes.**

**Proverbs 11:11** By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, But by the mouth of the wicked it is torn down.

**If your prayer walking with two you can pray the powerful prayer of agreement.**

**Mat 18:18-20** NASB... 19 "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. 20 "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

Jesus sent the twelve (Matthew 9-11), and the seventy (Luke 10) out two by two. I am sure part of it is for the multiplying effect of co-laboring (one can put a thousand, two ten thousand Dt 32:30), as well as prayers of agreement.

### **How can we do it in a wise way?**

- Be normal. It will just look like you're taking a walk.
- Pray quietly and listen.
- Be open to conversations, be friendly, and meet new people.
- Pray for God to bless the people and homes you see.
- Listen and look for any impressions God gives you: pictures, scriptures, etc.

### **What can we pray?**

- Ask God to show you what He is doing?
- Pray the Lord's prayer for His Kingdom (God's active rulership) to come.
- Ask God to reveal Himself to people you see.

Being effective on mission starts with paying attention. Prayer walking helps us see our neighbors through God's heart and eyes. It helps stimulate us in God's mission.

### **What about rejection?**

The Matthew 9-11, Luke 9-10 sending carried with it instructions about people not receiving their blessing.

**Luke 9:4-5** "Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that city. (5) "And as for those who do not receive you, as you go out from that city, shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them."

**Luke 10:10-11** "But whatever city you enter and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, (11) 'Even the dust of your city which clings to our feet we wipe off in protest against you; yet be sure of this, that the kingdom of God has come near.'

**Matthew 10:13-14** "If the house is worthy, give it your blessing of peace. But if it is not worthy, take back your blessing of peace. (14) "Whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet."

Shaking the dust off one's feet conveys the same idea as our modern phrase "I wash my hands of it." Shaking the dust off the feet is a symbolic indication that one has done all that can be done in a situation and therefore carries no further responsibility for it. In the scriptural examples, Jesus was telling His disciples that they were to preach the gospel to everyone. Where they were received with joy, they should stay and teach. But where their message was rejected, they had no further responsibility. They were free to walk away with a clear conscience, knowing they had done all they could do. Shaking the

dust off their feet was, in effect, saying that those who rejected God's truth would not be allowed to hinder the furtherance of the gospel.

"Shake the dust off your feet" appears only four times in the New Testament. In each case the command is spoken by Jesus to His disciples when He sent them out two by two (Mt 10:14, Lk 9:5, Mk 6:11, and Acts 13:49-51).

***Acts 13:49-51*** *And the word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region. (50) But the Jews incited the devout women of prominence and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. (51) But they shook off the dust of their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium.*

While there was a literal gesture in the New Testament that had cultural implications, however we apply it in our time it is simply a washing of the hands regarding those who reject the gospel. It isn't to be applied in a rude manner but simply a cleansing of the cup which has a hint of judgment in it towards those who rejected. We continue to pray for them as we are commanded by Jesus to even "love our enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Mt 5:44).

We never want people's rejection or judgment to affect us. They may throw mud at us but we never want to allow it to stick.