***Prayer walking or Prayer driving!***

Perhaps the activities of prayer walking and prayer driving are new to you. Both activities can be defined as "praying on-site with insight." On-site praying is simply praying in the very places where you expect your prayers to be answered. It is a deliberate and planned time of focused prayer. Be prepared to join God in the way he is working around you to "open your eyes spiritually" to let you see his plans through His eyes.

Prayer driving will allow you to prayerfully cover a larger area of your community. So, if you prefer to drive rather than walk, prayer driving is the answer for you! Whichever activity you select, walking or driving (or even skating or biking!), your call to pray for your community will likely result in a new awareness and sensitivity to the people around you.

Prayer walking and prayer driving are simple activities that do not require you to approach your neighbors or co-workers or to even know their specific needs. In fact, prayer walkers and prayer drivers are those who are "on the scene without making one." Through God's inspiration, you will discern certain areas that need your concentrated prayer. You will see new potential in your friends, family members, neighbors, fellow church members, and co-workers.

**HOW DO I GET STARTED?**

To prepare for your prayerwalk or prayerdrive, take these two easy steps:

* Choose one, two, or three friends to share this adventure with you. If that is not possible, don't let it stop you from enjoying your own time of praying for your community while walking or driving.
* Decide on a block of time that you will "hit the streets" – plan for at least a half hour.
* Be alert as you walk or drive. Remember: Safety first!
* Feel free to pray either silently or aloud. And, don't let moments of silence make you or your prayer partner(s) feel uncomfortable.
* Be aware of how the Holy Spirit may be leading. He may, for example, prompt you to speak to someone along the way. If he does, enjoy the opportunity to be his gentle voice of encouragement. You might be the only smile that person gets all day!
* Make this a family event! Talk about it in advance and plan a short, easy route for small children. Encourage your older children to pray while they ride their bike, roller blade, or skateboard around the neighborhood.
* If anyone asks what you are doing, be prepared to respond. “We are praying God’s blessing on this neighborhood. Is there any way we can pray for you ?”
* Be ready to share your experience with others. Not only will your own faith be strengthened, but you will also be a source of encouragement to others.
* Don't stop after just one walk or drive! Watch God continue his work around you as you make praying for your community a regular and consistent part of your life. The blessings will be yours!

**HOW DO YOU PRAY? (here are some pointers)**

* *Pray for discernment* – Try to see the neighborhood through Christ's "lens" and discern what God is already doing there. Ask God to show you how you can pray with greater insight for the people, events, and places in the neighborhood.
* *Pray for opportunities for the Gospel* – Pray that the Good News be communicated clearly and powerfully to each person who has not yet taken the step of trusting Jesus Christ as his or her savior.
* *Pray for blessing* – Pray over every person, home, and business you encounter; for God's intervention in each life; and for God's will to be done in the neighborhood "as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10).
* *Pray with empathy* - See and feel what residents live with every day; offer intercession for those things that express brokenness and grieve God's spirit, and give thanks to God for the blessings and gifts that exist in the neighborhood.
* *Pray from Scripture* - Prayers based directly on God's Word can be especially powerful. You may want to bring a Bible with key passages highlighted or copy verses onto note cards. Here are a few suggestions: Psalm 25:4-11, Jeremiah 29:11-14, Colossians 1:9:14, I Timothy 2:1-6, Ephesians 1:16-21
* *Pray in God's power* - Allow times of silence for the Spirit to speak to you or through you (Romans 8:26). Pray with trust and eager anticipation, while expecting God to answer your prayers!

## *As you pray for specific homes or work sites in view, you'll find that hope for those people begins to grow. You'll begin to see people as God might view them. You'll likely find yourself becoming more interested in the welfare of the people you are praying for. Watch for the ways God impresses upon you to display His love in practical acts of kindness*

**AFTER YOUR TIME OF PRAYER**

Take time as a group to compare notes and reflect on your observations. Discuss the following:

* What are some signs that show God is already at work in the neighborhood?
* What needs and concerns are evident?
* What do you see that might detract from people's quality of life?
* What challenges are people likely to face as they go about their daily lives?
* How might the neighborhood residents view you? Would you be perceived as allies, foreigners, friends, helpers, annoyances, or simply irrelevant?
* How is the Good News of salvation through Christ relevant here?

