

Prayer Walking Ministry
New Salem Baptist Church

- ❖ What is prayer walking? It is entering neighborhoods in no more than twos, praying silently or aloud for the people who live there, asking God to compel them to embrace the gospel and grow in faith. Prayer walking **does not** include knocking on doors or leaving anything there.
- ❖ Primary Goal: Seek God to move in the lives of our neighbors in a safe and meaningful way which we might not do otherwise: leave no household in our surrounding area without being ministered to.
- ❖ Other Benefits:
 - Get to know aspects of the community through observation: common needs, ways of life, etc.
 - Engage in conversations with neighbors that we would never have otherwise: if someone is outside and says hello, we may be able to minister to them in a more direct way.
 - See God work and bring people to Himself and to New Salem in ways beyond what we could ask or think.
 - Build the prayer lives of members in our church.
 - Build godly purpose into the weekly lives of members in our church.
 - Build relationships among members of our church.
- ❖ Planning/Execution
 - Basic Procedure: Meet at church first for a word of encouragement. Determine who will go to which neighborhood. Drive (do not walk from the church) to designated neighborhoods to park; pick an unobtrusive location to leave your vehicle. This is for our safety and so that we do not hinder anyone.
 - Consider Scriptures ahead of time that excite you, that have been especially formative in your journey of faith with Jesus. These will be a major part of what you pray for our neighbors so that they may be impacted and experience Jesus as you have.
 - Seek for God to give you “Holy Spirit eyes” for the people in the neighborhood. Pray for specifics. For example:
 - If you see a car is broken down, pray for the family’s provision.
 - If you see/hear fighting, pray for peace.
 - If you see children at the playground, pray for their future and salvation.
 - If you see someone running, pray for their safety and success in their fitness goals as well as committing to Christ in the same way.
 - Pray for other legitimate things such as this that you may see. If you do not see something specific, pray Scripture and for salvation.

- If someone is outside **and talks to you first**, engage the conversation and even introduce yourselves so long as what you do feels appropriate.
- ❖ Things to Avoid
 - Do not trespass on property in any way. We walk along streets and sidewalks.
 - Walk on the left side of the road if there is no sidewalk. Stay safe by opposing traffic and keeping an eye out (avoid closing eyes for this reason).
 - Do not initiate conversation or do anything remotely invasive. We are not seeking to make ourselves known, just to pray.
 - Do not stand still in one place for too long (we do not want to be seen as loitering). An easy stroll will do.
- ❖ Expectations to Have
 - God will answer your prayers.
 - God will allow us to actually connect with people, one way or another.
 - God will honor our giving of ourselves to His business and will draw people to Jesus.
 - God will show us stories that are forming in the lives of people around us and how our prayers contributed to those stories.
- ❖ Long-Term Vision: Go slow and Grow slow
 - Keep with the couple closest neighborhoods to New Salem for starters, and cover them with prayer for months before moving further.
 - Start with a few people and continue to invite more to join, primarily by individual invitation but also by announcement once it has gained some traction.
 - Start with each session being led by the Outreach Pastor. Build a team of leaders who may eventually own and lead sessions of prayer walking at different times of the week.
 - Never stop. Continue to expand it, and see God's Kingdom expand as well.