

## Prayer Walking to Reach the Campus

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Prayer walking plays a vital role in reaching communities for Christ. The practice of engaging a community with intentional prayer can be applied to college campuses, neighborhoods, or any local mission field. As a college campus missionary myself, a plethora of outreach tools and methods have been made available to me. So why is prayer walking one of the primary methods I utilize?

For many years, reaching lost students for Christ felt as if I was beating my head against the wall. No amount of methods, vision casting, or persuasion seemed to make a difference. I was discouraged to say the least. **Out of desperation, I researched ministries who had effectively reached their communities with the gospel. Regardless of the denomination, church, or ministry, all of them shared a common priority: prayer.** Not only did they pray, but they sent volunteers into the local mission field to intentionally pray as they walked the area.

As we began to implement prayer walking in our ministry, we not only noticed more students coming to Christ, but a renewed passion from everyone to reach the campus. Prayer not only changes the lives of those we pray for, it transforms us as well.

Perhaps prayer walking is foreign to you. That's ok. Here, I will briefly explain what it is and how to get started.

Prayer walking is the practice of intentional prayer while using your five senses. Instead of imagining the places and people to pray for from your church or home, prayer walking immerses

you in the community. My heart tends to break more for the isolated college student when I see their dingy dorms and busy lifestyle in-person.

**There is no special power in simply walking. Prayer walking is powerful because your prayers become more real and intentional. If you want to try this, here's how.**

**First, invite a few members from your church to join you.** While we can pray alone, we ought to take Jesus seriously when he says, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them."

**Second, identify at least 3 points of interest you would like to specifically pray over.** You can pray as you are walking around these spaces, but having a few important places to pause and pray for helps the group remain intentional. For my context, I always make it a priority to pray over college dormitories, as many students experience their brokenness the most in these spaces.

**Finally, make an effort to spontaneously pray for people and places you see as you walk.** This can be done in your own thoughts or with your group. This does not mean you need to mouth off words the entire time you walk. In fact, I also use prayer walking in discipleship meetings so we can talk as we pray.

Prayer walking is a great way for your church to engage in the mission fields around you.

Ultimately, the best kind of prayer is the one you do, so do not get caught up in doing it perfectly.

Simply get started and wait for God to work.