



RISE UP AND BUILD PRAYER WALK QUARTERLY INITIATIVE

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

“First of all, I ask you to pray for everyone. Ask God to help and bless them all, and tell God how thankful you are for each of them...for God wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”

– 1 Timothy 2:1,4

“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare”

– Jeremiah 29:7

Why a Prayer Walk?

A prayer walk is an opportunity to engage the neighborhood around your ecclesial hall and offer prayers on their behalf.

A prayer walk is a non-intrusive way to interact with your community. The objective is not to knock and talk but to pray and walk. As part of Jesus’ great commission to his disciples, he instructed them, “Go ye into all the world” (Mark 16:15). This is hard to do if we remain isolated in our ecclesial halls, expecting people to come to us. Rather than ‘Come and see,’ this is ‘Go and tell.’ *The disciples started in Jerusalem and then carried the Gospel to all the world* (Luke 24:47). They shared with others, who in turn shared with others. This pattern requires us to engage our local community and bring the blessings of the Gospel into our neighborhood. During the pandemic, door-knocking waned due to social distancing and safety issues. Now people are home less. Some are reluctant to answer the door. A prayer walk is a non-intrusive way to interact with your community. The objective is not to knock and talk but to pray and walk.

An inwardly-focused ecclesia can become self-focused. This project is not a quick fix for inertia. Still, it is a vehicle to help change the culture from a ‘what has the ecclesia done for me lately’ mentality to a ‘how can I serve others’ mindset. Praying on behalf of others will also strengthen our personal and ecclesial prayer life. Paul wrote, “Pray without ceasing [...] for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thess. 5:15,16). God honors the faithfulness of those who pray for others, and this project is a powerful statement to our local community. It also helps us to get into a mode of constant prayer.

The Model

The premise is to walk through the neighborhoods where we worship, offer a short, silent prayer for each household, and leave a signed door hanger indicating that we have prayed for the home.



The door hanger, described below, will include the physical address of the hall, a brief statement of who we are, and an invitation to forward specific prayer requests to a designated email address. Here are some recommended do's and don'ts:

- Do walk on sidewalks and driveways. Don't walk through yards.
- Do record your route. Mark down the house numbers so you can chart a prayer map. Make maps of the neighborhood. Have teams mark off homes visited.
- Do pray. Through repeated and brief, your prayers will be impactful. You can pray, "Father, please bless this home and open doors so that they might understand the hope we have in Jesus, through whom we pray, Amen."
- Do follow local laws. Honor 'no trespassing' and 'no solicitation' signs. Still, pray for the home, but don't leave a hanger.
- Do have fun. Enjoy this tremendous opportunity. Let joy fill your heart as you go. We have the best gift to offer!
- Don't put the hanger in a mailbox.
- Don't knock or ring a doorbell. The purpose is not to contact the household directly but to pray on their behalf.
- Don't talk. The idea is not to spend time talking, but at the same time, don't be rude. If you engage with someone, tell them you are praying for the local community. Hand them a door hanger if they will accept it.
- Stay with others. Always walk in pairs or small groups.
- Don't go near kids or pets. If children or pets are visible, do not place the door hanger. Pray for the home but keep walking to the next house.
- Don't stop. Keep moving. Your prayer will be brief. Pray as you walk in front of the home and place the door hanger.

Your neighbors will take note that you made an effort to go to their home. Don't look for shortcuts. Going to each house is more important than worrying about a self-imposed quota. Sign your first name on the door hanger. Signing your name provides tangible confirmation that you were there. Plan to walk for 45 to 60 minutes, or whatever amount of time is manageable for your ecclesial members, and then reconvene at your ecclesial hall.

Participation

This program is easy to do, minimally invasive, and scalable to any size Ecclesia. It takes only a few committed participants. Only some people in the Ecclesia will join in. Still, responsibility can be shared to make the effort manageable for any member. The more participants, the better, but only a few walkers can cover many homes. This program combines the power of prayer with a simple application. It does not require any special skills. Participation is accessible to everyone who is sufficiently mobile. The simplicity of praying for others in no way detracts from its power.

This program is intentional. As Jesus said, "You will be my witnesses..." No suite of options was given. Instead of simply providing this lip service, we can give it foot service. This is a more significant commitment than simply placing Facebook ads. The focus should be outward and prayerful.

Appoint an Administrator

This person will oversee the project. They will assign each team's street(s) to cover, provide sufficient door hangers, and encourage the team to sign them. Remind teams to pause while praying momentarily, then place the door hanger.

Define your Neighborhood

Decide on the size of the community you wish to reach, perhaps a radius around your meeting place. It is helpful to define the physical boundaries of your neighborhood, which may include gated communities and non-solicitation neighborhoods. If this is the case, you can still pray for the housing collective and move on.

The Prayer

A simple but heartfelt silent prayer does not need to be a formulaic prayer. Ask for God's blessing upon the household and for future opportunities to share the hope of the Gospel with them. We don't know them or their circumstances, so our prayers will be more general. You could also thank God for this opportunity to witness; the household's health, safety, and protection; for peace and healthy relationships. Your prayer should be brief and offered while you walk from house to house. Consider offering a collective prayer before and after the walk, asking God to provide the increase.

Prayer Hanger

You can adapt the prayer hanger templates to fit your ecclesial circumstances. It should include the name and location of your Ecclesia (not a post office box), your ecclesial website if you host one, and a dedicated email address for specific prayer requests, such as prayers@, wepray@, or prayerrequests@. The hanger needs a brief note of explanation. An example would be, "I stopped and prayed for members of your home. Please let us know if we can pray for you in any other way in the future. You can contact us at..." Simplicity is key—the more words, the less likely it will be read. Because Christadelphians may be an unfamiliar group in the neighborhood, we suggest including a brief statement of who you are; however, brevity is critical. The door hanger is not a statement of faith nor a theological treatise.

Design your hanger with the recipient in mind, not how much information you can share. A clean, minimalist door hanger will get the best results. The Toronto North door hanger reads, "The Christadelphians are a body of believers whose faith is based wholly on the Bible. We await the return of Jesus to establish God's kingdom on the earth." Your signature serves as a reminder that someone personally cared and prayed for that home.

Some will toss it out; others will respond. Some may forget about it initially but reach for it later during a time of crisis. Some may ask for prayers, ask questions, or inquire about visiting. The door hanger is non-threatening, leaving the homeowner to take the initiative.

How to Customize Your Door Hanger

Fill out the application found on wcfoundation.org/quarterly-initiative with the details for your Ecclesia. The WCF team will personalize the door hanger design with details for your Ecclesia and send you the files to print!



Prayer Team

An individual or a team must monitor the email address regularly. This should be done daily, as some prayer requests may be urgent. The team must remain highly responsive so people know their request was received and prayed for. Someone must offer the prayer on behalf of the requester. This can be done when the email is received or passed on to another member for prayer. Senior members of the Ecclesia, who may be unable to go door to door, can make a significant contribution here. Track the prayer requests to ensure that prayers have been offered and replies sent. Follow up with every prayer request even if you can't meet it. Reply to sender requests beyond prayer, even if you don't have the resources to help. Use common sense and discretion. Be prepared for requests for money. You can provide contact information to an appropriate social service agency. Your Ecclesia may have a food pantry or may be able to provide canned goods or used clothing.

Continuity – Monitor Your Progress

The Prayer Walk does not have to be a one-time event. Consider placing a local community map in your ecclesial hall, creating a digital counterpart, and recording the homes you have covered. This will be a visual reminder of the prayer walk initiative and the homes prayed for. With an administratively-inclined person to update the map as subsequent walks are held, you may transform an inwardly-looking culture into an outwardly-focused, prayerful one.

Consider setting an ecclesial goal of covering all the homes in your neighborhood within a designated time frame, even as a multi-year project. Consider doing community prayer walks every quarter.

The prayer team should keep the operation simple and streamlined. The more complicated the process, the less it will be supported. The entire program should be one that people can understand easily, grasp quickly, and implement readily.

Sample Email Response to a Specific Prayer Request

Dear [Name],

Thank you for sending us your prayer request. Our prayer team is honored to pray for you. We would love for you to connect with our church. You can learn more about us at [website]. If we can answer any questions or help in any way, please feel free to contact us via email at [email address].

God Bless,

[Your name]

Pray before you go, as you go, and when you come back. Pray without ceasing. Pray, pray, pray.

Toronto North Pilot of the Prayer Walk

The Toronto North ecclesia piloted this program in early 2023. Here is a summary of their experience by a participant.

The Apostle Paul wrote, *“And pray for us too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity”* - Colossians 4:3-5.

It was fitting that Paul would refer to a ‘door’ as the conduit for his message! On a Sunday afternoon in early spring, four teams participated in a Prayer Walk in our local neighborhood after lunch at our hall. We distributed door hangers with our ecclesial contact information and an invitation for specific prayer requests. We followed the protocol of avoiding homes with pets and people out working in their yards, staying on sidewalks and driveways. We prayed for the local households on our walk of 45 minutes to a little over an hour, depending on one’s constitution. We have received no negative responses from the householders.

Two prayer walkers shared their reflections upon praying for the neighborhood.

“Lord, as we reach out in prayer to our neighbors, may we have the opportunity, according to Your Will, to share Your message of HOPE with those who may be seeking HOPE in this dying world.”

“It was a sunny but cold spring day. We encountered three adults out walking, but no one at the houses where we delivered the door hangers. The feeling that I had was that most people are busy just living life. They don’t overthink about conditions in the world or the reality of life, but we hope and pray that God is still calling out a people for His name.”

We had 500 hangers printed, but not all were distributed on our first walk. We plan to distribute these on a subsequent walk along different streets in our neighborhood later this year. We have not had any email requests so far. We realize our responsibility is to spread the seed, and our Heavenly Father will provide the increase. Indeed, spiritual benefits were gained by the brothers and sisters who participated, as they fulfilled the Great Commission practically and tangibly.