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By James Curtis

Comfort Zone Visitation Workshop (At-a-Glance)



Grow Your Church From
Inside Your Comfort Zone!



Visual Connection

Rooms to Roads

- 7 HARVEST Huddle - Sharing Blessings
- 6 OUTSIDE Walking - Visual Prayer Anchors
- 5 OUTSIDE Driving - Handicapped, and bad weather
- 4 INSIDE Walking - Good for starters, etc
- 3 INSIDE Track - Teaming
- 2 INSIDE ME - Why am I doing this? Value of a Soul
- 1 IN SIGHT - Seeing with heart eyes



Verbal Connection

Pews to Porches

- 13 HARVEST Hands
- 12 PORCH Prospecting
- 11 PARTNER Prospecting
- 10 A BOARD With a Knob - Correct focus, relationships
- 9 PEW Prospecting
- 8 POSTER Prospecting - Advertizing, enthusiasm

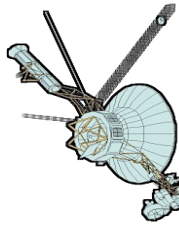


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Introduction

Rocketing 35,000 miles per hour, since 1977, the little Voyager-1 Deep Space Probe continues to take measurements of its 'neighborhood' and provide 2-way communication with planet Earth and the scientists who designed and launched it. At 10 BILLION miles from the sun, it's the farthest object of mankind that listens and talks to its creators.

2... Back here on earth doctors place a special electronic probe against the skin and have 2-way communication with the life saving artificial pacemaker just beneath the skin, near the left shoulder.

3... Easily the most prominent electronic communication today is the cell phone; the smart phone. While walking down the street we maintain 2-way conversations with others, and also billions of web pages, blogs, texts, emails, videos, and music.

4... Why then are churches AFRAID to knock on neighborhood doors, meet new folks and invite them to your church events, or simply share your faith with them in a compassionate 2-way conversation?

It really has to do with 2-way communication on a more personal level.

1... Too often we read scripture each day (or maybe not) with as much intensity as scanning a catalog. There's no 2-way about it. It really should be scripture feeding. Scripture FEEDING is one of our basic needs that feeds a personal 2-way relationship between each of us and our Creator/Savior.

2... And when we pray it so often becomes no more than an audible order form filled for our perceived needs. No 2-way communication. There's no praising God for all His goodness and then listening to Him feed our hearts in a way no man made pacemaker can.

I enjoy reminding myself and others, the smallest chapter in scripture is also the center one. (Ps 117) It commands us to praise God on 2 levels. Can you find them?

This workshop describes a joyful expectant journey to that neighbor's front porch and beyond.

- Our workshop centers on prospective 1st time visitors of every age to your church or fellowship. That is, those beyond your home bound, nursing home, hospital, and sick visitation.
- The workshop consists of two modules: Prayer Walking and Prospecting. Each module has its 'training tips and techniques' in steps.
- Each step is a progression from the one before.
- While the Comfort Zone Visitation Workshop has us continually look OUTWARD toward the souls to reach, they also have us search INSIDE at our own spirituality. We're left with the reminder that God can only bless and lead our efforts if we continually work on being that fit vessel that best represents Him.
- A comfortable way to begin visiting prospect's homes.

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Our Comfort Zone

Because of the progressive steps we can confidently expand our comfort zone. We can 'take our comfort zone along with us'. It is so crucial though, to walk hand-in-hand with faith and trust while we keep strong focus on our soul harvesting goal.

The Visual Connection - Prayer Walking

Rooms to Roads..... I love Prayer Walking!

I really do.

Nothing connects me; nothing gets me more excited to GO than seeing the harvest fields; now more than ready to reap. Especially because they are souls in need of a Savior just like I was.

God's Word shows my marching orders in Matthew 28, while the drum beats of my heart begin the cadence and reminder that time is running out, is more than the world's cry.

So many church folks have that deep down burning voice that says they should share the Good News of Calvary through the Blood. But exactly what to do next and how, is something they'd rather ponder a few weeks more or better yet, let the preacher or deacons do it.

The honest truth is that Satan continually bombards us with his outright lies and shoots his half truths into us, most of every day. We allow our minds to drift into fields of sin and don't want to open our eyes to where we are really at and the erosion of time.

Accountability would be a topic to discuss here, but we're on to major missions.

IN SIGHT

In this step we want to fine-tune our Great Commission vision, allowing the Holy Spirit to sharpen our focus on the nearby harvest of souls we've been entrusted with.

What do you see? The answer to this depends on many things:

- Where/when you're looking
- How long you look
- How good your eyes are
- What tools you're using: contacts/glasses, magnifying glasses, binoculars, satellites, telescopes, microscopes, periscopes, and many other ...scopes.

Let's try an experiment. (3 homes) well-to-do, middle class , and trailer place.



With Comfort Zone Prospecting visitation in mind, what do you see?

1. (looking at the large expensive home). "Oh boy. If we can get that family in our church, we'll be able to afford that new sound equipment we've been looking at.
2. (looking at the middle class home). "Well this family is just what our church can really grow on. See the toys in the yard? Before you know it, we'll have to start training new teachers for the children.

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3. (looking at the little trailer home.) “Skip these guys. Let's spend our efforts with some family that looks like they'll not bring in more problems than our church needs. Living in a trailer, they'll be gone in a week... they'll not be around long to help our church.”

All three of these observations are very very wrong. And much worse, they are most often our own observations as we begin most all faith-based visitation.

While our eyes are prized far above all our other senses, there are terribly important; guarded territories no man-made tools that can help us see into – namely the blessings and burdens in the heart of another person. But thankfully this is where our all-powerful loving merciful God does much of His best work; more-so, each day.

See with your heart.

That's how you tap into the heart beats of others; piercing the temporary; the tangibles; the toys of this life. Seeing with the heart taps the life blood of that soul. You can then see a person's rudder that directs their path and their sails that power them along.

Seeing with your heart allows you to:

- respond because of who you are, rather than how you think they'll react.
- It allows you to set person to person goals out there rather than just the present.
- It's Christ-like
- It's how we want others to look at us.

Our Great Commission directive is listed in Matthew 28:18-20:

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

The verses say we are to search out souls, befriend them, evangelize them and then disciple them. With great spirit and burden we are to use all of our senses to 'go to the whole world'.

1. EXPECT God to bless your best prospecting efforts.
2. SLOW DOWN! Too often we are in just too much of a hurry to be our best for God. Fast food. Fast moving. Fast communicating... I like the little word used many times in the book of Psalms and elsewhere... 'selah'. Selah is applied in a few different uses, one of which is a pause... pause and re-taste... pause and reflect. This process is extremely important in prospecting for God's harvest.
3. FOLLOW UP. Even after you've left the scene, ask God to help you to compassionately see the needs of those before you. He's extra good at that!

INSIDE ME

Church record keeping is very important for many reasons. But it makes easy work for Satan to derail our appreciation for the souls behind those numbers. In subtle ways we begin to go after

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quotas totals etc; even the salvation decisions. Gradually we lose the understanding; the value; the joy of salvation. No longer do we fathom Heaven's joy described in Luke 15:7,10; paid for, in full at Calvary.

Effective Prayer Walking and Prospecting require your heart visualizing Calvary and what it means for salvation. As you read Isaiah 52:14 – 53:12, can you see the cat 'o nine tails tearing the body to buy salvation for whosoever? And the long spikes. Also those needle sharp thorns in His crown.

Do you see Heaven to be so wonderful and hell so terrible that God saw each soul so cherished with no other hope, He'd suffered just for one soul? I do, and maybe you do too, believe that 'whosoever' says that Jesus went to Calvary for EACH and every one to be saved. And what about that one soul being yours?

This all helps you and I to know the value of just one soul saved; that value was SET by Heaven's ransom that was paid on the Cross. Secondly, that value is MADE PERSONAL when we accept that value; that ransom price, as it paid for our own eternal salvation. What's the value of a soul saved? Look to the Cross and then look into your own heart.

Your personal burden and actions in your Prayer Walking and Prospecting:

- reflects your value of one soul saved;
- it reflects the value of your own salvation;
- it reflects your conviction of the Lord's soon return; and
- it tells you what kind of people you are going to go prospecting for.
- (read that last one again)

Now if you really want to fill your pews, and super fast, go down to your local clothing store and get a bunch of dummies (manikins) and seat them in your pews. As silly as it sounds, there are some real advantages. They'll never miss a service, you'll get no complaints out of them, and a score of other reasons. I wouldn't spread this too far but I think some churches have attendees that contribute not much more than dummies in the pews would.

But you know what? I somehow picture a street person walking in the back of my church during service and seeing all the dummies(manikins) filling the pews and leaving because there was no room for him. A little compassion, a home cooked meal, and some chatting would have revealed the street person had all the management skills of a store manager (probably a clothing store) but had lost his job, family, and hope in God's whosoever love.

Others will be waiting for you to lead the charge, so don't let them down before they get a chance to join up.

INSIDE TRACKING

This is one of those crucial steps that so often falls into the cracks. The Inside Track step focuses on the Prayer Walking team members that stay inside; they stay put. Because of mobility and other issues, they become the heart; the pump of prayers toward those doing the more visible tasks of Comfort Zone Visitation Walking and Prospecting.

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For our harvest of souls efforts to be most effective, we must provide opportunity for every sector of our fellowship to be involved in meaningful ways... that's what family fellowship is. As the actual 'walkers' will be given maps etc., so should the tracking team also. They need the names of each of the walkers and about where they'll be. Maps today even provide aerial photos of your neighborhood and streets. These are wonderful tracker tools. Because 'at risk' moments have a habit of cropping up when least imagined, even cell phone numbers should be shared.

Before anyone begins their assignments, there MUST be a bond between all members they share in the harvest that God promises. This will be emphasized in the later step Harvest Huddle.

Go / Lo

We are so quick to emphasize the “Go” of the Great Commission. But seldom do we also include the powerful guarantee of the process. “Lo”, I am with you always. “Lo” is a little word that tells us, “Hey! Include what's coming too!” And what's coming is the guarantee of a Partner like no other.

We all crave helpers and fellowship; we're wired that way. Well how about the One Who sticks closer than a brother and promises to be with us always? It's never, “I'm going prospecting”... it's always “we're going prospecting.” Pro. 18:24; Mat. 28:20.

Guarantees in Abundance

Possibly in every step of this workshop, two wonderful guarantees should be restated. They give us the assurance; the taste of reliance we need, to make holy scripture our backbone of joyful victorious Christian living. This is certainly needed in each of Comfort Zone Visitation's steps

As clear and simple as the word 'all', we read these guarantees in 2nd Timothy 3:16, 17.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine [rules], for reproof [testing], for correction [discipline], for instruction [training] in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect [complete, not error free], thoroughly furnished unto all good works. [my notes added]

It's important to notice the 'alls. The first one tells us we have the absolute best handbook cover to cover. The second 'all' tells us we are to have it be our guide in all that we do. That includes Prayer Walking and Prospecting, doesn't it?

INSIDE WALKING

FLEXIBILITY and FOCUS.

Those are two important key words in Prayer Walking. Obeying our Great Commission in Matthew 28, in any form, requires we adapt our methods (not message) while keeping our eyes squarely in focus on our message and mission. Each day of our lives gives us personal evidence how deeply our sight of the goal and its challenges prepare us for victory.

-1 From Sign to Shed

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Prayer Walking can be adapted to your local needs in many ways. Though Prayer Walking is most often in street and sidewalk locations, it can also be very effective inside homes and churches. The following you'll soon see is referred to as our "inside/outside" prayer walk.

I'm still trying to fathom the precious unique time we had prayer walking not long ago in Greenfield. 'Course God promises to bless us like that, doesn't He?

Two of the many key points of prayer walking I've learned are:

1. You have to get out of your comfort zone. Now, your comfort zone might be walls or ritual, but God will lovingly show you if you ask.
2. We pray far more effectively for things we can see and touch. In Greenfield it's often dysfunctional families and the deep growl of a child's empty belly. (Yes, even in nearby Greenfield).

This week our minister led us to prayer walk inside and outside our church. Little did we realize a depth to this Prayer Walking, of which we had no inkling of, a month ago.

Our little Greenfield church worships in a building with a past that is far short of the gleaming beacon of God's truth, compassion, and unity that we'd be proud of. House cleaning, in God's spiritual house, doesn't only mean dusting and running the vacuum. It takes soul-cleaning in a way that sometimes only prayer walking can do.

During our wrap-up time that never-to-be-forgotten Sunday, one person said they felt called of God to really help at Greenfield. A couple others began talking about regular chili suppers served up with lots of love and listening. I think the title was "Chili, Chips, 'n Chat".

Another said they felt God was giving us just one more chance to live truly "Christ-Like".

If I may, I want to share with you what happened in that room-by-room prayer walk by each of us, that has changed my heart (and my own selfish plans) so that I can be one of God's tools to brighten our neighborhood's Soul's Safe Harbor.

-2 Files, Fragments, 'n Foyer

"What'll happen next? This Prayer Walking is new to me, but it's fun," I silently told myself. We began our church inside/outside prayer walk that never-to-be-forgotten Sunday.

Our small Greenfield group crowded into the church office with the gas furnace in the corner faithfully cycled on and off as needed. We each in turn spoke to God with our whole hearts about our desire to learn how to help Him make our precious church grow into a bright lighthouse of His power and peace.

Touching the file cabinet containing records of long-ago members and visitors, we got a sense they were calling out to us. See, that's what Prayer Walking does to you. When you see and touch a harvest of souls the Lord puts before you, a prayer connection is created that reaches farther in your own soul, like never before.

It's times like this I'm reminded of the Lord's unusual questions in Mark 8:19+. He kept asking about the leftover fragments. There in that small seldom-used Greenfield church office my heart asked about the leftover souls this church has cast away over the years. Can we find them? Will the Lord on judgment day set their faces before us and ask, "I loved them with my life. Why didn't you?" Wow. Some parts of this Prayer Walking sure takes me out of my comfort zone.

We walk out into the church foyer being very careful not to talk and break our focus. Now is no time for idle verbiage.

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Each of our prayer walkers visualized hoped-for visitors coming through the church front door; maybe stressed, frightened, hungry, with needs that would stagger our minds. Out loud, in turn each of us reverently asked God for a spirit that would joyfully answer the visitor's heart question, "Will you love and listen to me, 'Just as I Am'? Whether my shoes are muddy and missing laces or my hair messy, will you still count my soul worth the harvest?"

Prayer Walking reminds our hearts that just passing out bulletins with a handshake hardly scratches the surface of a Godly church welcome. All throughout the service a part of our thoughts should be prayer for that soul that has just honored us by walking into our foyer.

If you're not sure what God's plan is for you, start with His leftovers...

-3 One Size Fits All

And then it happened! No sooner had our little group entered our beloved Greenfield sanctuary on our inside/outside prayer walk than one of us said, "I'm gonna walk while I pray." It turned out that several of us did just that. With my eyes closed I could hear the audible prayer sounds circling the pews like God's people circling Jericho just before God's promised victory.

It certainly wasn't within my comfort zone. Mom taught me that when someone is praying you stand still out of respect. With my cane resting against my knee, I tested the padding in the front pew, till it was my turn. Several times I heard petitions for God to bind the evil spirits in and around this place; those brought in by past attendees with disgruntled attitudes wanting harm and discord to this Greenfield lighthouse of God's peace and provision. There were certainly lingerings of Satan's influences and ugly accusations.

Whatever our thoughts about those sanctuary moments that special Sunday, it was crystal clear we meant business for God in 'cleaning house' by the power of Calvary's Blood. Want to know how to send Satan packin' pronto? The Greenfield Prayer Walkers will show you.

I was about to ask myself, what I would give up to have even just one unsaved soul sitting beside me really learning about Heaven's love in no nonsense terms. What would I give up see that troubled heart go forward grab pastor and not let go till the sin account was settled in their heart forever?

As I rose to pray (and walk a little) I spied something very small and plain. It stretched from one wall to the other, except for a couple steps. While the altar in your church may be padded and fancy, ours is about as plain as you can get. It's just the right height that a small child can pray and be prayed with, possibly about a home place always full of bickering and a refrigerator about as empty as his belly.

You could probably call our altar a 'one-size-fits-all' in that it's a perfect height for me to kneel and commit my energy and goals to Him, beginning with bone-deep prayer walking. See, I'm learning that Prayer Walking works only with a full consistent commitment.

-4 Pie-anner 'n Pulpit

We got one! Bet you don't! Actually you can learn about them by Prayer Walking, maybe on a rainy or cold day, or handy-capped folks that join in the 'joy parade'.

Our pie-anner looks a lot like some old pianos and keyboards. You know, with a seat full of spirit liftin' songs that make you tap your toes. In a prayer walk you can touch that pie-anner bench praying for it to be used to its fullest before the soon return of our Lord.

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I envision on our pie-anner bench a little girl sitting next to a silver-haired person with fingers moving like lightning that angels would have trouble keeping up with. My prayer walk shows the little girl turning the pages with as much conviction as those lightning fingers. The pie-anner player reminds all who are watching, we are to be discipling in all things... NOW THAT's a page turner!

Boy! I love this Prayer Walking; whether it's 'inside/outside' or 'daytime down the street'!

I find it interesting our Greenfield church pulpit is only inches from the altar rail. That's good for several reasons. With your prayer walking team, touch the church pulpit asking God to always purify the words spoke at its center. Inside/Outside Prayer Walking is directed toward visitors and their spiritual growth in these troubled times. But Greenfield (and probably you to) see the pastor's courage, leadership, spirituality (can I say fire?), and downright burden. A burden for those that God allows him to speak to, is for-certain bedrock to the growth of our congregation.

It's important that we see ourselves united; consistently holding up the pastor's arms in the terrible war he certainly has with Satan. Satan works hard on you and I. With little girl logic we can certainly assume that Satan works double hard on our pastor.

Now a question. How healthy will my congregation be, if my pastor is no more dedicated than I often am?

I was about to explode till I could tell others about our Prayer Walking and Pi-anner bench. Again I'm reminded of the two keys to power Prayer Walking; (1) stay focused as you walk, and (2) be flexible as God shows you how to best implement your PW harvest field journey.

-5 War an' Peas

Wars can be settled by Prayer Walking... really! At least some of them in my life; maybe even in your life too.

For years I've had a war between verses in my heart. One verse argues, "If you don't work, you don't eat." Living and worshiping in low income neighborhoods I've grown a strong distaste for people that repeatedly want free food almost with cold expectation. If you think you'll get a sincere thank you in word or deed, you're dreaming.

My mind easily went to ugly food pantry experiences in other churches, which were not managed with fervent prayer for God's leading.

Our small Greenfield Prayer Walking team quietly entered the dining/activity room. We touched and stared at the tables, sink, and stove asking God to show us how to use these things with the food in the cupboard for His Kingdom.

The Inside/Outside Prayer Walking on that never-forgotten Sunday gave me a deeper attitude for Paul's quotation of the Old Testament guideline for our enemy. It simply says, "Feed him." We're not to just feed the children, or feed a hungry neighbor. My prayer walking that day reminded me the food on our shelves and table are more of God's gifts to us; those peas 'n potatoes are actually His property, not mine.

The guideline goes on to explain the result of me feeding my enemy with God's food. It will heap coals of fire upon his head. (I'm not sure, but I think this refers to a ritual of a repentant person carrying a tray of hot coals on his head.)

As our economy worsens and unemployment increases, our church will be faced even more so with growing hunger for food and thirst for answers to prayers of "Why me God?"

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How will I share God's gifts He has handed to me... potatoes, peas, and prayer walking? It really fascinates me; this prayer walking process. We're enabled to better pray for our harvest field we see before us, as we walk. But I wind up seeing a whole lot of searching and meditating to be done within myself.

(Verses to be referenced: 2nd Thes. 3:10, Prov. 25:21, Rom 12:20.)

-6 Our Missionary Garden

It's out of the ordinary, for sure; this Prayer Walking. Maybe that's what adds to getting my blood pumping to a faster drummer; you don't know exactly how the Lord is going to lead and bless your efforts, or even his timetable.

The first day job mankind had was tending a garden. It makes you feel important to know you've planted a seed and then watch as God makes it grow, getting stronger each day. As you learn first hand the joy of Prayer Walking, take the path through a garden; a missionary garden.

We at Greenfield have what some might call a missionary garden. We plant the seeds with prayer to grow missionaries in each of the rooms. Missionary gardens go far beyond the usual carrots, onions, potatoes and tomatoes. Our garden harvest is composed of Squirmers, Primaries, Juniors, Tweens, and Teens.

What an awesome responsibility to prayer walk through each garden patch with walls, and visualize the children studying the verses and pictures on the walls. We touch the teacher's chair and ask God to keep the teacher strong and true to his/her call. So crucial is our prayer walking through each patch, I ask myself why I can't get to church a bit earlier and prayer walk each patch with walls every Sunday; Heaven knows it'll pay rich dividends in our harvest.

One of Missionary Garden patches is quite unique; the Squirmers. Their every waking moment is filled with arms and legs waving and squirming with energy that wants to get used to grow bigger and stronger. I challenge my prayer walking moments to put inside me the Great Commission energy that's just itching to get out and share without fear, the news of all of God's goodness even just for me.

One of the prayer walking things you're allowed to do at Greenfield is to sing unto the Lord. I think my gruff voice sounds better in one of the garden patches. But a caution is in order here. You may find others of your prayer walking team will start singing along with you. 'Course, singing among missionary seeds have a way of drawing Heaven's sunshine, even in the hearts of little ones who'll start missionary gardens everywhere there are hearts who hunger for God's goodness.

-7 Ain't Got No Horns!

Before we get to the parade, we need to stop in the shed. Prayer Walking at Greenfield includes all the rooms 'n sheds... well, almost all.

Our prayer team walked around our shed which is actually a finished two car garage, with microwave sitting beside the barbecue, and lots of tables and chairs. Now maybe your church shed isn't very important in the Great Commission to you. But see, here in Greenfield we know of folks that wouldn't be caught dead in church; any church. Well, for folks and families that aren't fancy

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we've got just the place. We're so thankful for God's provisions. Our altar rail is one-size-fits-all and so is our church and shed.

Boy, I sure told God I'm hankering to get some youth in that shed with some old junk computers to tear apart while putting together God's peace plan that exactly fits young troubled hearts. WOW! This on-site (on sight) praying is really revvin' my gospel motor! Give it a try... you'll never be the same; opening your heart to God sitting on a lawnmower.

Now for this, you almost need to visualize with one eye closed.

Our Inside/Outside Prayer Walking that never-to-be-forgotten Sunday ended with a parade of sorts. Picture a 'meaning-business' prayer team outside walking around a church building in broad daylight. A couple were singing softly while others were praying. Me? I walked and prayed just like I was following Joshua and God's Treasure Chest (ark). My fingers dragged along every foot of the block wall like a child tracing a passing fence. Isn't it interesting that God gives us times to obey, to be quiet and watch Him grant blessings, and other times to blow a jubilee horn praising Him?

I'm sure that parade of God's people didn't know what God was going to do to those Jericho walls, but they were outside their comfort zone armed with a victory promise and Heaven's guarantee to seal the deal.

We had no horns for our parade and yes we were outside our comfort zone, at Greenfield. Oh how I'd have loved to be looking over the shoulder of the next door neighbors as they wondered what our little church was doing.

Go like you believe Jesus is returning tomorrow...

I'll leave you with two Prayer Walking guarantees straight from the breath of God:

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. Ps 126:5,6.

OUTSIDE DRIVING

- 1... Remember the two really important tips with any form of Prayer Walking: Flexibility and Focus. Driving with the same focus and burden is even more of a challenge than outside sidewalk efforts.
- 2... Don't stop in front of anyone's house. Someone may call the police.
- 3... Use flexibility with commuting and frequent trips to the grocery, taking children to school, and gas station.
- 4... This is a perfect time to include handicapped and vision impaired folks burdened for the lost.

OUTSIDE WALKING

- 1... The most difficult task is to maintain focus, both personally and with other team members.
- 2... Stop at corners and vacant lots not by any mailboxes or vehicles.
- 3... Keep teams small, casually dressed, hygiene considerations.

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- 4... Carry index cards and tracts and not clipboards and monster bibles.
- 5... Tracts should clearly list church address, service times, ministries, simple map, email and website address. They should not read like a thesis.
- 6... Be observant to any (at home) business vehicles in drive way, children's toys in yard (clues to ages and gender of children).
- 7... Don't get near any vehicles, especially with open windows or pickups with cargo...
- 8... Stop in laundromat (etc) copy data off bulletin board.

- 9... Online there are many prayer walking resources beyond the scope of this workshop.

HARVEST HUDDLE

While this step title may sound rather unimportant, it is most important, even in its simplest implementation The gathering in one place (if possible), to begin by:

- 1... compare notes; area covered, what did/didn't work, contacts made, recording details
- 2... thank God for His watch-care, and allowing us to represent Him in this community
- 3... it's crucial that every person know his/her participation is crucial with victories shared by the whole team
- 4... resupply printed resources
- 5... keep tabs on weather etc for next planned prayer walking times.

But this just scratches the surface of the Harvest Huddle responsibilities.

One or two participants of your fellowship's team should have moderate computer Internet/email skills. You see, on the other side of that keyboard are other prayer walking groups, in your association or across the sea, waiting to learn what new techniques you've discovered, and victories won. They want so much to email you a reply that says they've been praying for your ministry and they can praise God for their prayers answered.

Bulletin board and blog sites can be created and maintained at no cost, no special computer programs, and meager computer skills. They can be edited and updated 24/7. Take a photo of your team and put it on a website or blog. It'll even be a boost to your team.

But this works in reverse also. There are quite a bit of on line free resources, tips, and guidelines to share with your team as part of its Harvest Huddle. You want to 'team' your team with lots of others teams across the land.

The Verbal Connection - Prospecting

Prayer Walk Prospecting

Prospecting covers the actions and attitudes that follow the praying and walking you and I have already been blessed in. Prayer Walk Prospecting is the actual searching and finding the cherished ones so filled with all the sad helpless confused living which we were rescued from. Remember those times?

In the preceding module Prayer Walking we learned to:

- Shun away from terms and concepts that might bring to mind disturbing feelings that Satan certainly uses to derail us from our all important cheerful obedience to God's Great Commission for us.
- Our personal value of the salvation of each soul saved. This is paramount to our dedication and preparation to Prospecting. The depth of that value is touched upon in the two verses of guaranteed harvest. Ps 126:5, 6.

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

- We see the joy across Heaven we participate in, when leading a person to his/her personal salvation through His Blood.
- We see the prospecting; our soul winning, by whatever name, is not only obedience to our 'job 1' but it's also a very strong measure of our own heart's 'thank you Lord' for what He's done and doing for each of us. Said another way, if we as individuals or a church, have no burning desire to reach the lost, in action and attitude, a serious heart condition exists that can destroy a church.

Here in Prayer Walk Prospecting we'll learn:

- Poster Prospecting
- Pew Prospecting
- A Board With a Knob
- Partner Prospecting
- Porch Prospecting
- Harvest Hands

POSTER PROSPECTING

Your church says and does a lot of prospecting, even before any first words are spoken. I remember the concept so well, taught by 'no one ever gets a second chance at creating a good first impression'. And our mind captures and maintains colorful simple images far better than any other information method.

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Church walls, not just classrooms and foyers, should have brightly colored posters and pictures that tell the prospect your church cares about them and their eternal destiny. Want to light a fire? Instead of buying ‘fancy store bought’ posters, have the children create some. Change them. (The posters, I mean.) Rotate them. They could even be scanned for the church’s website, or sent to missionaries. If your prospecting for souls isn’t fun and friendly, you’re doing something wrong.

It’s important to have bright posters that promote your fellowship’s burden for prospecting, soul winning, and encouraging Christians.

A good poster is a lot like a good prospector. They both need to stand up, stand firm, and stand out. Put them up. Put them up securely. Make them attractive and eye catching.

I remember one church had bible verse posters on the inside of restroom stall doors.

PEW PROSPECTING

Any kind of prospecting training or visitation begins in church; actually in the pews; specifically, in your pew. One of the biggest turnoffs by first time visitors is they are segregated by default. They sit alone, feel alone, and will forever leave your church alone. Worst of all, they’ll tell their friends about your cold church.

Thanks be to our Precious Lord Who didn’t ostracize we Gentiles from all His goodness. We should thank God each day because He didn’t withhold His love and protection from me in all my unrighteousness.

God has given you and me braggin’ bones. We love to brag; now be honest, we do. But we need to only brag about ourselves when we’ve run out of things to brag about our Precious loving Lord and what He did on Calvary. We need to brag about our church and how important it is to our daily walk with the Lord.

On a piece of paper, begin a list of things in your church that get you excited, make your mouth water, or your eyes do the same. Add to your list church coming events that are sure to bless. Sunday morning stick the list in your Bible.

Now the next step is really fun. Pick out someone sitting by themselves that you’ve never met. This is Pew Prospecting. Ask if you can sit with them, or they come sit with you. Share your Bible and hymnal with them. And then, at an appropriate time, share one item of your list with them.

Stretch out by talking about things a bit more individual... don’t hide behind weather, health, and sports topics. Ask questions that tell you what THEY like to talk about. Maybe a next step would be to briefly visit them in their home.

Church leaders can help with this by encouraging folks to sit together, preferably toward the front.

There was a song in the 50’s that said something like, “Ack-centuate the Positive, Eee-eliminate the Negative, and don’t mess with Mr. Inbetween.” Now don’t get me wrong. We should have some plan “B’s” and maybe even “C’s”, for when things don’t go exactly as we’d hoped. But don’t forget, prospecting is a faith-based effort. You do your job and give God lots of room to do His.

The problem though, is that Satan derails us hiding behind all the ‘what-if’s and ‘when all else fails...’ lists. It’s crucial to FOCUS on the task at hand and its true importance and leave all the rest to people that just want to discuss etc. OJT is a proven REQUIRED method for training workers and athletes alike.

A BOARD WITH A KNOB

Neighborhood Prospecting is just little more than pew prospecting because it includes a board with a knob. In the very same way, it's crucial we FOCUS on the individual. They, not the door, are hungry for hope, for lasting truth, for someone that will truly love them as they are. They are starving to know why God has seemingly mistreated them so. They want to know why Christians get so worked up over some person dying on a hill thousands of years ago.

It's very important to learn that doors (boards with knobs) don't bite. This is simply proven. Invite a fellow prospector to use a classroom door in an experiment. With your pew prospecting list in hand, go through the same speaking and actions you would in pew prospecting, only knock on the door first. See? Didn't bite did it? Didn't break a fingernail or anything else that Satan would try to use to prevent you from going neighborhood Prayer Walk Prospecting.

PARTNER PROSPECTING

Partners are always worth their weight in gold in some ways that only God can bring to light. Scripture gives good evidence to the right kind of partnership. God also gives to everyone in your church or fellowship, a talent that can magnify all the others. But some times those talents haven't quite surfaced yet. They need to be sought out; prospected for. Often those skills are meant to magnify; to encourage others to be faithful to God's call to prospect for those that are lost and in need of the eternal gift that only Christ can give.

This is a good example of prospecting with open expectation of God providing those things we didn't know we had or needed. As you get to know each of your church fellowship and their talents, you'll be surprised at all the strengths and talents you have around you.

The joyful journey is allowing God to show you how those talents and strengths can be partnered in the larger prospecting privilege of finding fresh souls on the porches in your neighborhood. This important step draws undivided attention to our need to launch out finding fresh new friends that are a part of your harvest, with all the resources God has meant for us to have. As you consider this step, make a list of things the second person could do while prospecting at one's porch or parlor. Compare your list with that of others.

God doesn't expect you to row a boat with just one oar, nor does He want you to partake in the greatest service in our obedience to Heaven; a service the angels can't do.

Go / Lo. (repeated)

We are so quick to emphasize the "Go" of the Great Commission. But seldom do we also include the powerful guarantee of the process. "Lo", I am with you always. "Lo" is a little word that tells us, "Hey! Include what's coming too!" And what's coming is the guarantee of a partner like no other.

We all crave helpers and fellowship; we're wired that way. Well how about the One Who sticks closer than a brother and promises to be with us always? It's never, "I'm going prospecting"... it's always "we're going prospecting." Pro. 18:24; Mat. 28:20.

PORCH PROSPECTING

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Talk To Yourself. This isn't hard for any of us to do. We do it all the time. It's one of the many things that are a part of Prospecting we do and are comfortable with.

Whether practicing at a classroom door or actual neighborhood prospecting, visualize yourself on the other side of the door. In a sense, you're talking to yourself. Caution: We need to be super serious here...

Visualize yourself on the OTHER side of this board with a knob. See in your mind yourself before you were saved, standing on the other side of that door. Ask yourself if you'd want the one knocking on your door (actually you) to be so burdened with their Gospel news, they'd not rush away before I get a chance to accept.

That prospect is probably already wanting to tell you, **“Yes. I'd love to come to your Chili, Chips, 'n Chat on Tuesday nights. I'll likely need a ride though. My kids love chili too. They have a lot of energy, but could they come also?”**

Nowhere are we told to defend the Bible, quote 3 chapters at someone's front door, or explain some Bible term we can't even pronounce. We are to only be witnesses and advertisers.

In obedience to God's Great Commission, we are to simply joyfully tell others what Jesus did on Calvary, what it means to our future, and what it can mean to the future of the prospect. It's so important that we not judge or decide who is worthy of our time and efforts in prospecting. Good reasoning tells us that at one time every great preacher, missionary, or faithful parent has had ripped clothes, a runny nose, and dirty fingernails.

When you look at others, can you mix what you see with the love and compassion that someone had for you as you learned of Christ's love and leading?

HARVEST HANDS

Our first module, Prayer Walking HARVEST Huddle stressed the coming together and making it clear that all participants in the program were very important with definable roles. All shared in the victories won and lessons learned.

In this second and final module of Comfort Zone Visitation, we'll see some of those similarities but to a greater depth. Whether looking at a Harvest Huddle or Harvest Hands, we must always begin with Christ; His sacrifice, His plan for man, and His sovereignty.

Our style of this workshop has been emphasizing being faithful to God's plan in the Great Commission in a joyful trusting 'comfort zone' setting. We must, however, declare this is possible only to a point. Creating a sentence that includes both “Christ's Sacrifice” and “Comfort Zone” appears to be a dichotomy of the first order. To this we address “Harvest Hands”.

Harvest Hands that Purchased

In Heaven Jesus Christ will be recognized in more ways than one. To each of us with a deep gratitude to our Heavenly Sacrifice, we'll hunger to see those nail-scarred hands, made bloody by man's evil heart at Calvary. I include my own soul to be part of the harvest of sinners purchased and fully paid for by the innocent blood of those hands, according to prophecy.

Harvest Hands that Procrastinated

“Blood on our hands” is a phrase not unknown to most of us. It quickly presents a graphically bold edict of responsibility that suggests no debate for denial. Even to the non-Christian, the word 'blood' puts our thinking at the 'life and death' level of attention. But Christ and His

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followers bring 'life and death' issues to an almost indescribable level when we consider the eternal destiny of the unsaved person; one who has never recognized he/she is a sinner according to God's definition. Further, they have never accepted Christ's atoning sacrifice of Himself on the Cross for their sins and invited Him in to be the Lord and Master of their life.

This workshop has been composed and freely published as an important tool to aid all Christians that see clearly their responsibility to share that salvation sacrifice message with all those they come in contact with.

According to scripture, Christ will make two Heavenly final judgments, The Judgment Seat of Christ at which all the Born Again Believers will stand before, individually. The second is the Great White Throne at which Christ will individually judge all the unsaved and without exception commit them to the Lake of Fire (Hell) for eternity.

The following is my opinion and is not universally shared by all 'Born-Again By the Blood' Christians.

While the unsaved are in front of Christ being judged and condemned, we Christians will be behind Christ and see the faces of those we had contact with on Earth but chose not to share the salvation message with them. I personally believe there will be a time in Heaven I will be deeply sorrowful having just looked into the eyes of someone just condemned to an eternity of torment with whom I willfully made the decision when I had the chance, not to share the simple salvation message. For those, I will view my hands as bloodied by my procrastination and prejudice.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. John 3:16-18

With the same conviction we stepped out to ask Jesus Christ to come into our heart to be saved, we should, with haste, move into the fields of the unsaved and downtrodden with the life giving eternal message we were put here to do.

This resource and many others are downloadable at
wsprog.com/pwp/

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