

Virtual Prayer-Walking Explained

The following definition is widely used. “Prayer-walking is intercession on location, with information, in cooperation, against opposition, for glorification.” Let’s take a look at each of these aspects.

Prayer-walking is **intercession**:

“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for everyone... (1 Timothy 2:1 NIV)”

Prayer-walking primarily deals with the needs of others (opposed to our own). This may seem obvious since you’ve taken the time to open this virtual prayer walk and probably desire to use this time to pray for Yueyang and not for yourself. But take care to not get distracted by thoughts about your own life, and keep looking into the needs of those living in this city.

Examine the needs of the people represented in the pictures. Keep in mind that there is a level much deeper than the physical and that their spiritual needs should be considered in our prayers as well.

Though praying for the needs of others is primary in prayer-walking, praising God and taking joy in the fact that He will be worshiped by the people of Yueyang should be present in our prayers as well. Feel free to sing praises to Him for creating such beautiful and diverse people and for giving them life.

Prayer-walking is intercession, **on location**:

One example of “on location” praying is found in [John 11:1-44](#) where Jesus travels to the tomb of Lazarus to raise him from the dead. He could have simply said the words to heal Lazarus (as he did for others), but He chose to come to the site of his burial.

“To pray while seeing, feeling, touching, and hearing is to pray with more intensity.”

This aspect may not seem to be as applicable in virtual prayer-walking since you won’t actually be visiting the sites. Obviously, many of the senses that would be tapped while actually being on location won’t be because it’s ‘virtual’ and it is taking place in front of your computer. However, the hope is that you might find a connection with the people while viewing the pictures.

Some suggestions to further “experience” what life is like for these people might include: eating Chinese food, watching movies based on life in China (listen to the sounds of the people and surroundings), or putting on some worship music (Chinese if available). These are only suggestions. Be creative and as you pray, ask the Spirit to give you insight into the thoughts and emotions the people of Yueyang might be experiencing.

Prayer-walking is intercession, on location, **with information**:

It’s not a new idea that information helps in praying more specifically. This is why we often ask

for prayer requests; so we know what needs to lift up.

In the *virtual* prayer-walks, each picture is accompanied with some information about the specific site or people represented. Usually, there are some suggestions given in how to pray. Please feel the freedom to go beyond what is mentioned, being sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings as you pray. As you flip through the pictures, it's hoped that you would begin seeing needs on your own, things not seen before, that they may be lifted up as well.

It is also recommended that you research the area you're praying for. The Yueyang Advocates web site is a great place to start, much research has already been done and presented on it's pages. The internet is also a great way to do this. Looking at websites or other forms of media for news on China may be helpful as well. What affects a nation also affects the smaller cities located in that nation. Researching the cultural or historical context can also be helpful.

Prayer-walking is intercession, on location, with information, ***in cooperation***:

There are two types of cooperation included in this. First, cooperation with God and His heart, and second, in cooperation with those you are praying with.

The Bible is full of verses dealing with God's plan and purpose in redeeming the nations and bringing them to Himself (e.g. [Psalms 46:10](#), [Psalms 96](#), [Jeremiah 16:19](#), [Habakkuk 2:14](#), [John 17:20-21](#), [Philippians 2:9-11](#), [Revelation 7:9-10](#)). As you pray, keep in mind His desires for the people to come to Him and the confidence we have that it will be so ([2 Peter 3:9](#)).

This virtual prayer-walk may not be as conducive to cooperative prayer as walking through streets in a team would be. Often we're so used to working at computers individually that using this tool in groups may not seem natural. Though it's obviously not required, please don't rule out the valuable option of praying through these "sites" with another person. It might be a great way to pass on your heart for the people of Yueyang to someone else. It's hoped that this tool would be used together by families, cell groups, and in discipleship relationships. Allow the prayers of others to broaden your insight into the pictures and agree together in the name of Jesus that He would have His way among the people of Yueyang ([Matthew 18:19-20](#)).

Prayer-walking is intercession, on location, with information, in cooperation, ***against opposition***:

"The very existence of Satan suggests opposition. The most common biblical name used for this enemy, *Satan*, means adversary or opposer. Not only is he an opposer, Satan gets extremely angry when you are involved in any activity, like intercessory prayer, that may eventually cause people to transfer their membership from his kingdom to the Kingdom of God."

"He has '[blinded the minds of the unbelieving](#)' ([2 Corinthians 4:4](#)) and does not appreciate your attempts to have them enlightened."

While preparing or participating in this virtual prayer-walk, you will likely face opposition. It may not be as evident or obvious as it would be if actually present in Yueyang. It might even take the form of "I'm not even there. How could anything I say while staring at my computer make a difference in a city I've never even visited?" For doubts like these, keep in mind [2 Corinthians](#)

10:3-4.

“You are not to command Satan, you are to resist him. Why would you want to talk to Satan, demanding that he refrain from some activity or remove himself from some place, when you have access to One infinitely more powerful and authoritative than Satan? So, don’t talk to Satan, talk to God about Satan...Don’t press the enemy, praise the victor.”

One good way to maintain focus on praising “the Victor” is to list His attributes. Find the thing at the “sites” that is contrary to the character of God and praise Him that He possesses that attribute and that, as He fills the place with His presence, that characteristic will also become present.

Prayer-walking is intercession, on location, with information, in cooperation, against opposition, **for glorification**:

“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and let your glory be over all the earth. (Psalm 108:5 NIV)”

Please keep in mind that the battle is already won! God will receive His glory. We can have confidence that He wants to receive glory in this age from those in Yueyang as well as in the next. Please pray to this end.

It may help to reflect, or pray through these verses on behalf of Yueyang: *Psalm 46:10, Isaiah 42:8, Isaiah 65:1, Jeremiah 16:19, and Habakkuk 1:5.*

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- Thank you, once again, for partnering with many in prayer for the lost of Yueyang. May God bless you for your involvement in a place that has much need and seen comparatively little attention. May the words of *Acts 19* be true of Yueyang as it was said of Ephesus, “*A solemn fear descended on the city, and the name of the Lord Jesus was greatly honored...So the message about the lord spread widely and had a powerful effect (vs 17 and 20 NLT.)*”

Notes: All quotes (except passages from Bible; already noted) are from Prayer Walk/Prayer Journey: An Orientation Guide by Dr. Dan R. Crawford. Other material is closely based on the same (with some adaptation)