

PrayKids!

ADVENTURES WITH JESUS IN PRAYER

The Word on...

"Prayerwalking"

One of the ways God is helping people learn to pray for people all around them is called **prayerwalking**. **Prayerwalking** is praying in the places where we expect God to answer our prayers. Of course, God can hear us from anywhere. But when we walk, sit, or stand near someone who needs our prayers, the words seem to come more easily—and we find ourselves more in tune with what really concerns God.

Steppin' Out with Jesus

Prayerwalking is one of the coolest ways to pray. It isn't just about walking around or praying outside. **Prayerwalking** is about *getting nearer to pray clearer*.

When families pray for their neighbors while taking a walk together, that's

prayer-

walking. When kids say a quiet prayer for their friends while they are at school, that's **prayerwalking**—even though they're not walking around or even praying out loud.

When we go **prayerwalking**, we usually walk along a street

on the sidewalk with friends or family members. We pray for the people in the homes, schools, and businesses we pass by. We might pray out loud, but not very loud. There's no reason to make a big scene. It's really just a way to be *on the scene*.

Prayerwalking is full of surprises. Often when we pray for people, we don't really know what their needs or problems are. But when we're **prayerwalking**, we can sometimes pray more clearly because we get closer to the people and places that we know God wants to change in wonderful ways.

by Steve Hawthorne

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For example, one group of kids in Houston **prayerwalked** near the houses

around their church during Sunday school.

Their teacher and some of their parents went with them.

They carried a card with a Bible verse on it, and they read the Bible verse and took turns praying that God would do the kind of things

they read about in the Bible verse. The Bible verse said, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me" (Psalm 23:4). They prayed for people who were sick or who might be afraid to die.

They prayed that God would show them that He wants to be with them like a shepherd is close to his sheep.

Their teacher also told them that only one out of every 10 houses in most neighborhoods have people who know Christ. So as the kids went along the street, they prayed in front of nine houses in a row that the people inside would meet Jesus. At the tenth house they prayed for the people to shine brightly for Jesus.

Then they started over with the next nine.

You don't

One STEP at a Time

▲ Pray out loud as you walk. You don't have to be too loud, but your partners should be able to hear you.

▲ When you pass the homes, work, or play places of people you don't know, pray about things you know God wants for people because of who He is.

▲ When you pass places where people you know live or work, pray for any specific needs that you know about.

▲ When you pass police stations, hospitals, fire stations, and city buildings, pray for those people as they help your community.

▲ Keep your eyes open. Ask God to help you see people and things as He sees them.

▲ Write a Bible verse on a small piece of paper and take it with you. It will help you think of the kinds of things God wants to do for the people and places you are passing.

▲ Thank God. If you can't think of something to ask God to do in a certain place, then praise or thank Him for what He has already been doing there.

have to know much about people to pray for them. Since you know God, you never have to wonder what kind of things He wants to do in people's lives. Read Scripture to find out all the best things God has in His heart for them. And keep **prayerwalking**—it's an awesome way to pray and watch for how God is working! ★

—Steve Hawthorne is the president of Waymakers, an organization that helps people learn to **prayerwalk**. Steve has **prayerwalked** all over the world. To learn more about Waymakers, go to www.waymakers.org.

Dear Readers,

I'm excited to think about the amazing things God will do as you start **prayerwalking** around your neighborhood and town. I know He will use you and your prayers to help change people's lives. I want you to be safe while you **prayerwalk**, however, so please remember to:

- follow all rules you've learned about strangers
- **prayerwalk** with your mom or dad or get their permission to go with one or two friends
- tell your parents what route you are taking and what time you will be home
- take walkie talkies with you in case of an emergency

Keep praying (and walking!) Nancy Sutton, editor of *PrayKids!*



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Mission Statement

The mission of *PrayKids!* is to teach, encourage, and equip children (ages 8-12) as they develop a deepening relationship with Christ through prayer, so that they might become more effective prayer warriors.

Ben and Thad's EXCELLENT ADVENTURE

A fiction story based on Luke 10:1-24.

Before His crucifixion, Jesus wanted to reach as many people as possible. Meeting with His followers, He picked 36 teams of two and sent them ahead to pray for the towns He planned to visit. This is a story about what one of these “dynamic duos” (we’ll call them Ben and Thad) might have experienced on their exciting mission for Jesus.

My friend Thad trembled as we approached a little town in Perea. “I’m afraid, Ben,” he admitted. “Jesus said we’d be like lambs thrown to the wolves.”

I pulled a pebble from my sandal. “We’ll have Jesus’ power,” I said, “because we’re on a mission for Him.”

Thad frowned. “What if nobody welcomes us? We have no money, no clothes—not even a bedroll! And what was that thing Jesus said about praying for workers in the harvest?”

I chuckled. I didn’t completely understand what we were doing either—but I was sure Jesus did. “Let’s pray,” I suggested. Leaning against a rock, we prayed again for the town we’d soon enter. “Thank You for this privilege, God,” I said.

“Please guide our steps, prepare the people to hear Jesus’ good news. And give us courage.”

By Joyce K. Ellis

Thad fidgeted.

“Just keep thinking about how we’re preparing the way for Jesus, and you’ll be fine,” I reminded him as we walked on.

On the edge of town a man with white hair stood beside a large house. “Peace to this home,” I called.

“Go away!” The old man hurled a rock at us, grazing Thad’s arm.

Thad grimaced, but we kept walking.

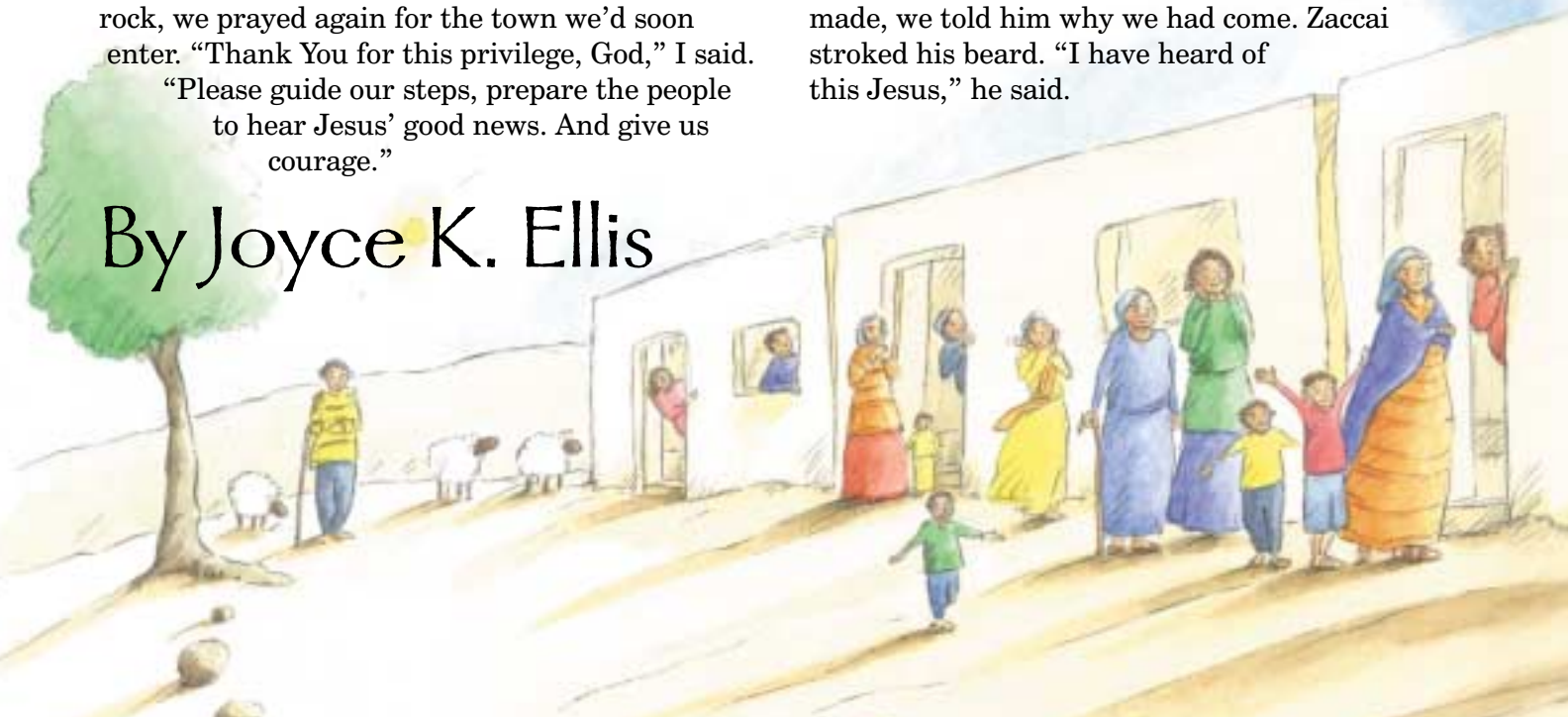
As it turned out, *nobody* in that whole town welcomed us. So, as Jesus instructed, I stood in the street and sadly called out, “The only thing we got from you is the dirt on our feet, and we’re giving it back” (Luke 10:10-11, *The Message*). We stomped our sandals, raising a cloud of dust.

I saw a tear trickling down Thad’s dust-covered cheek. “If only they could know Jesus,” he said.

Later we approached another town, praying for its people as we walked. At sunset we stood talking with a potter named Zaccai and his 12-year-old son, Jonathan. They greeted us warmly.

As Zaccai showed us the pottery dishes he’d made, we told him why we had come. Zaccai stroked his beard. “I have heard of this Jesus,” he said.

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MAKE WAY FOR JESUS

“Remember, Jonathan? The miracle worker?”

Jonathan nodded. “Do you think Jesus could help Rachel?”

“My lovely daughter is 11.” Zaccai’s eyes misted over. “Terrible convulsions seize her, throwing her to the ground. She’s resting from one now.”

“May we see her?” I asked.

Inside, the curly haired child stirred on her mat. Suddenly her body stiffened. She began shaking violently.

“Not *another* attack!” Zaccai exclaimed.

Thad dropped to his knees. “God,” he prayed, “have mercy on this demon-possessed child.” He grasped her shoulders. “In Jesus’ name I command the demon to leave this precious one.”

Rachel’s body relaxed. Her eyelids fluttered. “Papa!” She jumped up and hugged him. “Something happened! I’m at peace!”

Thad clapped his hands. “Thank You, Jesus! Your power *is* with us!”

For days Zaccai kept thanking us. We stayed with his family and continued to walk around the city, praying for the people there and telling them that Jesus was coming. “You must

In the Bible passage this story comes from, Jesus sent 72 disciples “to every town and place **where he was about to go**” (Luke 10:1). These disciples were to pray for and minister to people, preparing the way for what Jesus would tell them and do when He came.

That’s what you’re doing when you **prayerwalk**. You are saying, “Jesus, I want you to come to these homes (or offices or buildings). Show these families who You are. Let them know Your love and power.”

If you feel an urge to begin **prayerwalking** somewhere, do it. Jesus is asking you to prepare the way for Him to arrive.

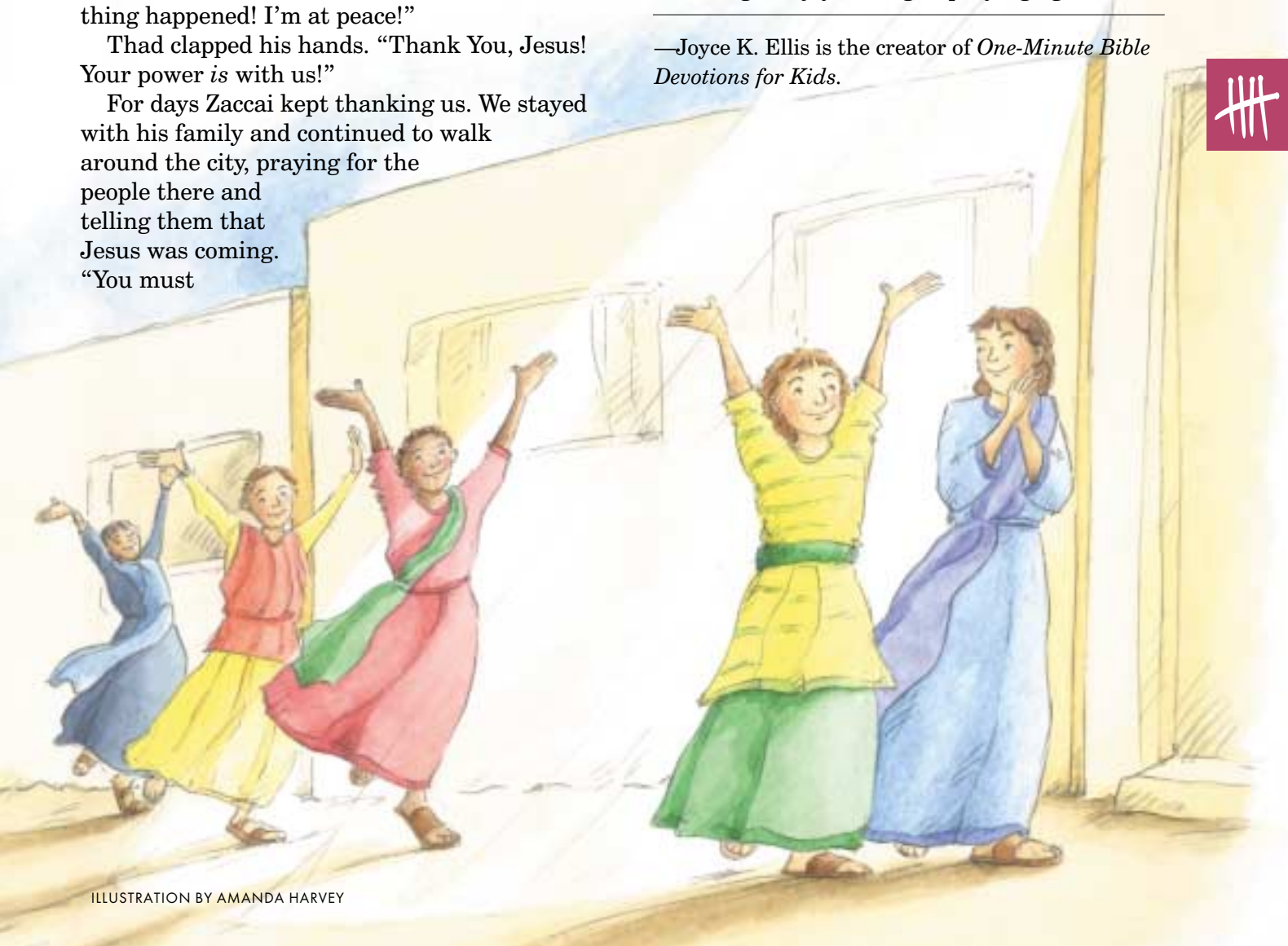
quit living for yourselves,” I warned them, “and follow everything Jesus says.”

While we were in that city, we saw God heal so many people that we lost count. “We need help,” I told Thad one night before bed. “There is much to be done!”

Thad’s eyes sparkled. “Maybe *that’s* what Jesus meant about praying for more harvesters. The more people we bring to Him, the more there will be to spread His good news.”

With great joy we began praying again. ★

—Joyce K. Ellis is the creator of *One-Minute Bible Devotions for Kids*.





Let's Pray for Buddhists

Long, long ago in a land far, far away . . . there lived a young prince named Siddhartha Gautama. (Actually, he lived 2,500 years ago in northern India.) Siddhartha lived a sheltered life, never leaving his palace. No one who was sick, in pain, or old was ever allowed to be near him.

One day when he was a young man, he left the palace for the first time. Outside of the palace walls, he saw—for the first time in his life—an old man, a sick child, a woman in pain, and a funeral procession. Shocked by what he saw, he wanted to know the cause and cure for all suffering. So he sat down under a tree and meditated until he thought he had an answer. He called his answer “The Four Noble Truths.” He taught that life is suffering, suffering is caused by our desires, through our own works we can stop our desire, and that enables us



to escape suffering. Siddhartha’s followers called him the “Buddha” (BOO-dah), which means “enlightened one.”

The Buddha didn’t believe in a Creator or a God who knows us, loves us, and has a plan for our lives. He believed in *karma*, which is the idea of “Do good, get good; do bad, get bad.” He believed that no matter what you do, you cannot avoid the consequences of your actions, or be forgiven for them.

Buddhists believe in reincarnation—that people have past lives, and when they die they will return as someone or something else. They believe that karma rules this life and future lives according to what you’ve done in past lives. Buddhists believe that no one can save them; that people can only achieve a higher level by being good or doing what is right. Since they believe that all life is suffering, Buddhists don’t want eternal life. They only want to break free of the cycle of life-death-life. Breaking free of this cycle of reincarnation is what Buddhists call *nirvana*, which is a state of nonexistence and nothingness. ★

—Jeri Kharas, Buddhist World Mobilization for OMF missions. For more info on Buddhists, go to www.onebillionwait.org.

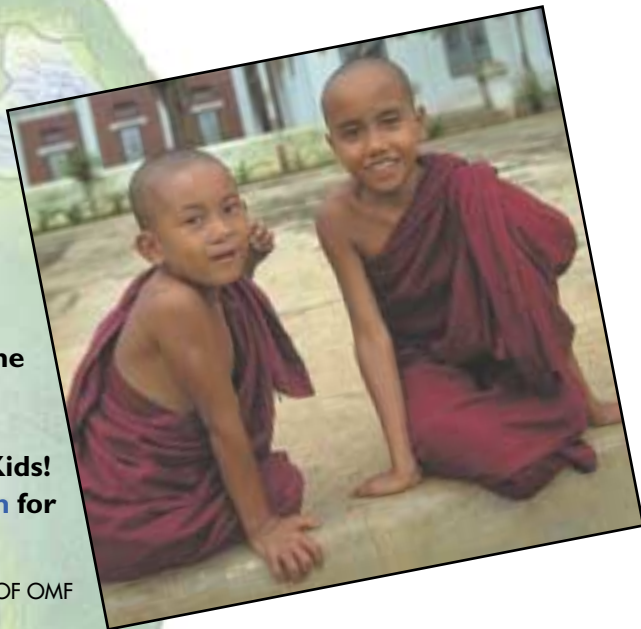
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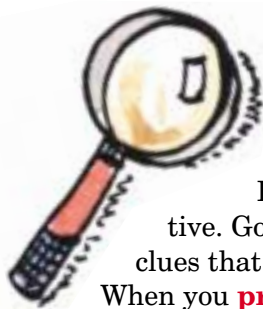
COVER THE GLOBE

How You Can Pray for Buddhists

1. Father, reveal Yourself, Your powers of creation, and Your mighty love to Buddhist children. Draw them to Yourself (Isaiah 65:1, Jeremiah 31:3).
2. Abba (means Daddy or Papa), show Buddhists that their lives are not just meaningless suffering, but that You have a purpose and a plan for every life (Jeremiah 29:11).
3. Lord, I pray that Buddhists will come to know Jesus as their Savior. Show them that no work they can ever do will achieve what You did for them on the cross (Ephesians 2:8-9).
4. Heavenly Father, open a door for Your message to reach the hearts of Buddhists wherever they live in the world (Ephesians 1:17-18).

For more suggestions on things to pray for Buddhists, PrayKids! has T.H.U.M.B. card prayer guides. Go to www.praymag.com for information on how to get them.





GET A CLUE

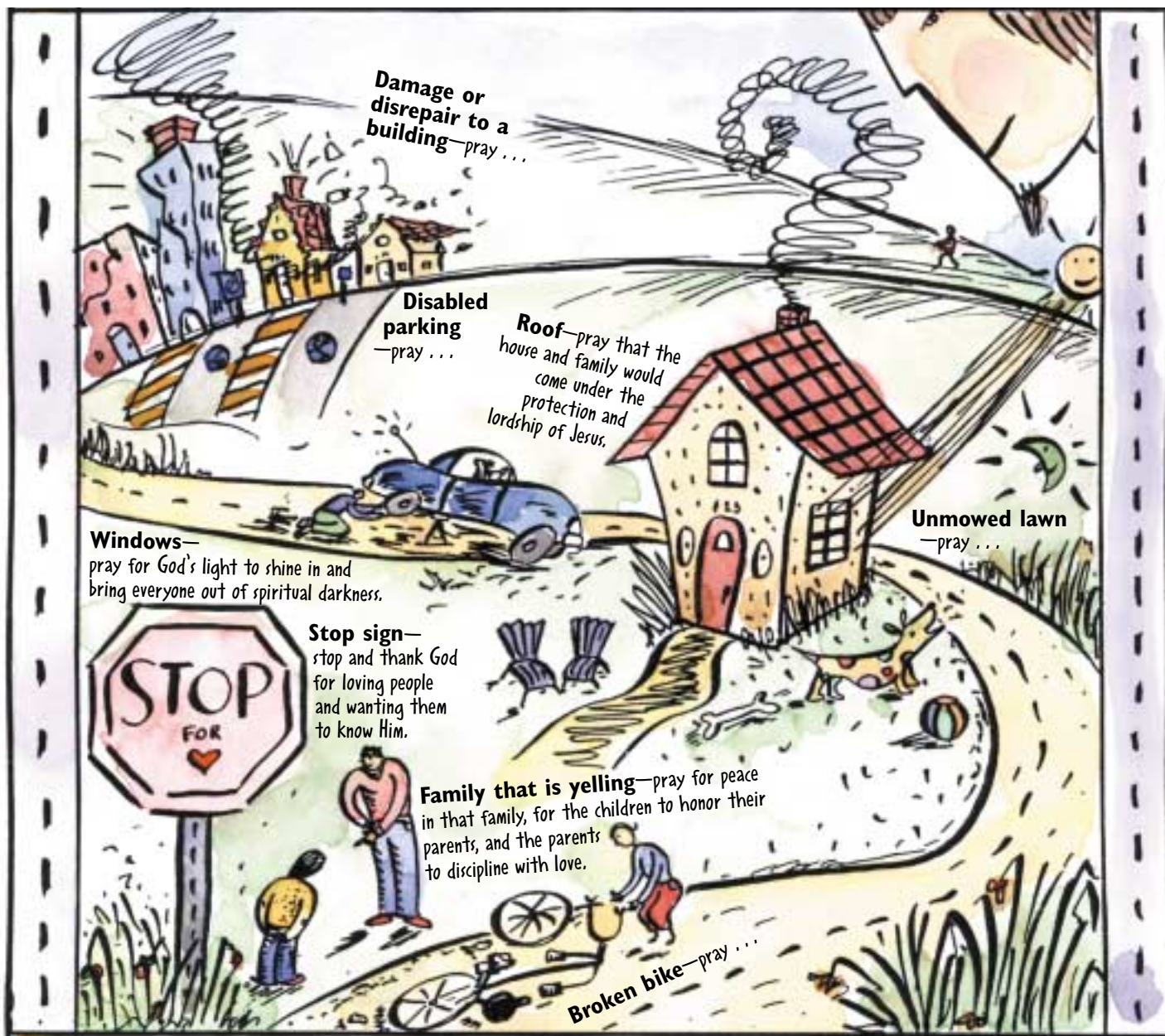
by Cheri Fuller

Here's your chance to be a detective. Good detectives look carefully for clues that will help them solve a mystery.

When you **prayerwalk**, you can look for clues to solve the mystery of what to pray for people.

You may hear or see things that will give you an idea of what to ask God for a certain person—or a special blessing to pray. You may find new and different clues each time you **prayerwalk**. So keep an eye out as you walk.

This picture is full of prayer clues. We've marked a few for you. Try to find others on your own.



Mapping It Out

Make a map of your neighborhood where you want to **prayerwalk**. It will help you record the “clues” you find on your journey. On a posterboard (or several large pieces of paper taped together) draw in the houses and other things that make good prayer clues. If you know the names of the people who live in the houses, put them on your map. Each time you **prayerwalk**, take a paper and pencil to write down more clues. When you get home, add them to your map. On days when you can't go out **prayerwalking**, you can use your map to pray.

On-site with Insight

You may be very familiar—and comfortable—with **prayerwalking**. Or, if you're like me, you may feel that you don't have a clue! Don't let that stop you from encouraging your children to do it—and learning right along with them.

The first time I did a **prayerwalk**, I felt uneasy, uncertain, and even childish. But looking back at the experience, that's exactly where God wanted me to be: humbled to the point where He could give me an unexpected gift.

About 18 months ago, the Moms In Touch group at our elementary school felt burdened for our local middle school and decided we should **prayerwalk** there. None of us had ever done it, and we didn't know where to begin. So we just started walking around the building and praying for God to do a great work at this dilapidated school with a reputation for violence.

Whatever we saw—trash on the ground, a kid sitting alone, a harried-looking teacher, broken windows,

even scriptures carved over the building's entrances—we prayed about it. The longer we walked, the more comfortable we became. God clearly was using the things we saw to prompt our prayers. We started out with no idea what to pray, and ended up thinking we could have gone on forever.

Less than a year from that first **prayerwalk**, the teacher turnover rate at the middle school was down by half, the building received funds for maintenance, a parent-teacher organization was started up, and a new Moms In Touch group began praying there. These were all vivid answers to the prayers of our humble, uncertain little group.

So let me encourage you: if you and your kids aren't sure how to **prayerwalk** or what to pray about, just get out there and do it. When you're on-site, God will give you the insight.

—Lani Hinkle is the associate editor of *Pray!*

Here, There, and Everywhere

Here are some suggestions to make **prayerwalking** an effective part of your family's life:

1. Get the whole family excited by planning a special family prayerwalking event. Discuss in advance where to go. Get a street map and highlight the route you will be taking. Pack a lunch or snack and be sure everyone has a bottle of water and a small notebook and pen to jot down notes about what he or she is prompted to pray. If a particular house or neighborhood really burdens someone's heart, make sure to pray for that situation throughout the week during family prayer times.

2. Turn some of your regular family outings into prayerwalks. If you're walking to a park, pray for the houses you pass along the way. If you're going to the library, pray for the people in the buildings you pass and for the people

checking out books, etc.

3. Brainstorm some prayerwalk "prompters." For instance, did you notice a house that looks neglected or a car that's speeding? Come up with a list of possibilities. Also, check out the book, *Prompts for Prayerwalking* by Steve Hawthorne, www.waymakers.org, (800) 264-5214.

4. Prayerwalk your children's school on a weekend. Pray for students, teachers, and school issues. Look up the names of teachers and administrators ahead of time in a yearbook or school directory so you can pray for them by name. Stop and pray in spots where your children say there has been a conflict, bad attitudes, one child treating another poorly, etc.

5. Check into the six-minute video *Prayerwalking for Kids*. To order, go to www.reignbridge.org and click on Resources.


FREE Leader's Guide for Teachers/Parents

We want you to be able to use *PrayKids!* with a group of kids. On our website you'll find **group discussion questions and activities for each article**. Download and copy the information from www.praykids.com.

WHERE TO GO FOR MORE HELP ON TEACHING YOUR KIDS TO PRAY:

www.praykids.com • www.cherifuller.com • www.harvestprayer.com
childrensprayernet.org • www.cgpm.org

Back issues of *PrayKids!* are available in packs of 10 for \$6.99. To order, call (800) 366-7788 or (719) 548-9222. Code #6258



Encourage Your Kids

If your child has a story of an answered prayer, how his/her life was impacted by prayer, or how his/her class prayed and something special happened, please send it to:

PrayKids!
P. O. Box 35004
Colorado Springs, CO
80935-3504
E-mail:
praykids@navpress.com

While we cannot publish everything that is sent in, we will put some additional stories up on our website: www.praykids.com.

Is This Seat Saved?

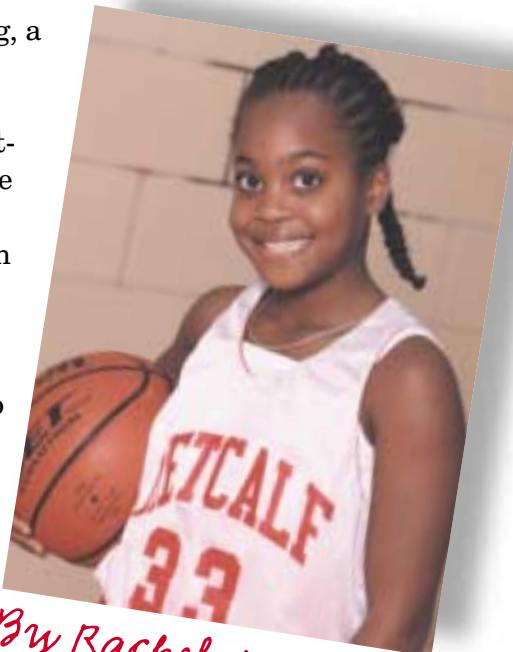


Our prayer club had been praying for a preacher to come and preach to our whole city at a special service (sometimes called a crusade). We were very excited to see how many people would become Christians at this event.

On the day of the crusade our prayer group decided to do a **prayerwalk**. The event was going to be held at a basketball arena, so we met there to pray. We walked onto the stage and prayed for the people who would be speaking, singing, or preaching there that night. Then we walked to the counseling area where the gospel was to be explained more clearly and the people could pray to ask Jesus into their hearts. After that we prayed over the seats and for the people who would sit in them.

When I was praying, God told me that the person sitting in one of the chairs would be a nonbeliever. So I prayed that this person would believe in Jesus. Then we went up to the upper section of seats to pray. We had only prayed over one area when the director told us this section would be closed that evening. So we stopped praying there. It turned out we had prayed for almost two hours on our **prayerwalk**.

That night at the meeting, a lady sat in the chair I had prayed for. Also, when we looked up, we saw people sitting in the one section of the upper bowl we had prayed over. Someone had forgotten to close off that section! At the end of the program, I saw the lady I had prayed for get up and go forward to see a counselor. And some of the people in the upper bowl started down the stairs to see counselors as well. I felt so happy and joyful. I knew God had heard and answered our prayers! ★



*By Rachel Johnson,
age 11*

The Perfect GIFT

Isn't it fun to get gifts? Especially when someone goes to the trouble to pick out just the right thing for you! One of the most wonderful gifts we can give others is to pray God's blessing on them. When you bless someone, you are picking out just the right gift for that person. You are speaking words that match what God wants for them.

In a part of the Bible called the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10), Jesus listed qualities that are important to God—and how He blesses people who have those qualities. You can turn Jesus' words into prayers and blessings as you **prayerwalk**.

Here are some examples of Beatitude prayers and blessings:

Matthew 5:3—"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." **Prayer:** "Lord, show these people the things that come between You and them; help them love the things of Your kingdom." **Blessing:** "Bless these people with heaven's best treasures: freedom, joy, and peace with You as King!"

Matthew 5:4—"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." **Prayer:** "Father, put Your arms around them; let them know how much You love them!" **Blessing:** "God, pour gladness into the sadness in this house."

Now you try it. Read the rest of the Beatitudes and use them to pray and bless those around you. ★
—Adapted from *Prompts for Prayerwalkers* by Steve Hawthorne.