

August Prayer Update for Northern Cities Prayer Walk

Sept 8, 2021

GREETINGS,

Calvin and I had another very full and eventful two weeks in August. Each month God fills these times with divine appointments with very impressive and passionate Christians as well memorable interactions with people we intersect with on the street. We started this month driving two days to Madison, Wisconsin. There we connected with another YWAM base director (again, thanks to Loretta in Detroit) in the north end of the city. We travelled to La Crosse, WI prayer walking this lovely border town for two days before crossing the Mississippi river into Minnesota spending our last several days in Minneapolis, St Paul area. Here we met and interacted with several folks that encouraged us, prayed with us and joined us in prayer walking. Again, I took a lot of pictures and added another 25 pages of journaling notes trying to capture all the amazing events and divine appointments we made.

KEY POINTS IN AUGUST (just SOME of them!)

Madison, WI:

- Our first day we went to the YWAM base and connected with Wayne who invites us into his office and shares his spiritual journey that brought him and his eight children to this city. Seeing this man carries God's heart for this city we present him with the staff for Madison as his phone alarm goes off at 10:02. He explains that this is his reminder from Luke 10:02 to pray to the "Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest field". How appropriate! He then spends the rest of the morning driving us around Madison sharing insights and perspectives about this very spiritually oppressed city. He also provides meals and opportunities to interact with several of his staff over the next two days. One resource he presented us was a book published in 2005 providing the results of a two-year project of dozens of Christians prayer walking every street in Madison. They compiled spiritual feedback, insights, and prayer suggestions for this whole metropolitan area. Amazing resource to have documented the impressive efforts of dozens of fellow believers who have a passion for their location. Also, it's a reminder that what Calvin and I are doing simply builds on what many others have already done.
- Wed AM just before leaving for La Crosse we meet again with Wayne who is meeting a person named Darnell coming from Milwaukee. He has not met this man before so is curious as to why he is coming. It turns out

Darnell is a passionate intercessor leading a prayer movement in Milwaukee. He also "just happened" to be the youth pastor at Parklawn Assembly of God which is where Calvin and I handed off the Milwaukee staff the previous month. How appropriate that the 10:02 alarm goes off when praying for him.

La Crosse, WI

- I had a strong sense of the Spirit's presence as I walked along the Mississippi waterfront on the second day. In some way I sense this city is a spiritual gateway heading westward. That same day Calvin found himself singing as he walked. He does this when he is aware of a breakthrough. My impression is this had a connection with the prayers of intercession in Harrisburg a few weeks earlier that ended with collective awareness that things had been unlocked in the spiritual realm.

Minneapolis/St Paul, Minn

- On Monday while Calvin and I were waiting for a pastor to show up at a downtown church we made an unexpected connection with another person arriving at his office for the first time in four months. It turns out Paul has a passionate heart for advancing God's kingdom into a virtually unreached group of 100,000 Somalians (east African country; largest concentration in the US) living in Minneapolis. He shared that Christian efforts have not made much headway into this largely Muslim community and yet God has provided at least one creative inroad for he and his wife. They do foster care and they have been blessed with three foster Somali children who are now living with them. He is not aware of any other family in Minnesota getting Somali children through the foster care system because the Somali community typically takes care of their own. The first Somali child they were given was a girl just a few months old with a severe heart condition and not expected to live. She is now four years old and still with them. Amazing story! When he and his family walk through Somali areas now, they (he and his wife who are Caucasian) are addressed as "family" because of their children. He walked us around the nearby Somali neighborhoods and Calvin made plans to give him a staff. I sensed that God used our arrival as prophetic picture for him. I sensed that God would send him unexpected resources to bring encouragement and support to him when he needs it. That was primarily why he came to his office when he did. He and his wife were praying about challenges they were facing the previous night and he came to his office that morning to pray. And there we were.....
- That same afternoon we went to the George Floyd memorial a few miles away that was erected at the location where he died May of 2020 which touched off demonstrations and riots across the country. There we met Eliza, who identified herself as the "gatekeeper" of this memorial location. She has been daily presence at this memorial site ever since Floyd was

killed the previous year. She then introduced us to George Floyd's auntie, Angela, who happened to be across the street. We talked with both of them for several minutes and prayed with them. During our interaction with them we witnessed an extremely agitated, angry black man wielding two long knives coming out of the store next to us shouting and cursing people around him out in the street. Then we watched as several of the "agape force" surround and gradually defuse this very dangerous incident. Angela was describing this as it took place. These agape force men, mostly black and many former gang members, take on role of helping to keep things under control. Sure enough, they surrounded this man and helped settle him down. As Calvin and I left we both sensed they should get these two ladies the staff for Minneapolis. We returned two days later and handed the shepherd's staff to Eliza (the gatekeeper) and said it was for Angela as well (she would be there later that day). She received it with tears and seemed to genuinely "get it" as Calvin explained its meaning and purpose to her. As I was reflecting on the handing off of this staff to these ladies I had an image of a throng of black people. The ones on the outside edge were filled with hate and anger. These were the ones that typically made the news headlines. The much larger group in the center was filled with people with genuine hurts and concern for true justice. These were people with good hearts. I believe God wanted to insert His authority into this flock of "sheep without a shepherd" who are often being dominated by the wolves.

- On Thursday afternoon I found a puzzle piece on the ground (which is rare for me). Sensed a map of the entire US and God showing us that we were inserting one puzzle piece in a much larger puzzle that God was putting together. The next morning, I found another puzzle piece.

September Trip

I am not going with Calvin this month. He and his wife, Stephanie, will be travelling together largely due to this month's journey ending in Big Sky, Montana where their son, Nielson, is living. They begin by flying back to Minneapolis Wednesday 8th to pick up their car and then head west to Fargo, North Dakota. Please pray for safe travel as they will be covering over 1000 miles this month. The remaining schedule for this month is as follows:

Sept 9-11- prayer walk Fargo, N Dakota

Sept 12-13- prayer walk Bismarck, N Dakota

Sept 14- prayer walk Forsyth, Montana

Sept 15-17- prayer walk Billings, Montana

Sept 18-21- prayer walk Big, Sky, Montana and spend time with their son, Nielsen

Sept 22- Fly home from Bozeman, Mt

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Continued covering and protection for Calvin, myself, and our families. I sense increasing pressure as we continue across the country.
- That we would accomplish all God has for us to do in each city.
- Travel mercies for us between and within cities.
- Divine connections and interactions with all those we meet.

CONTRIBUTING FINANCIALLY

Beyond giving to cover our expenses, our heart is to have funds to give away as God directs.

- Online: <https://www.theministrycenteronline.org> (see “Contributions”)
- Mail: Make checks out to “The Ministry Center” and send to: The Ministry Center, PO Box 62, Manheim, PA 17545. It is a 501 C3 tax deductible ministry.

I welcome any thoughts or feedback you would have for our prayer walk. Also let us know about contacts you think might be helpful for the cities we will visit (see schedule in first email or I can resend).

Again, thank you so much for your prayers and support.

Blessings,

David