

One Nation Under God - Walk Across America

Possessing the land by prayer-walking is done by walking, praying, sharing one's faith and seeking God's face. It can be done during the day or night, in the rain, snow, sunshine or wind. It can cross a continent or it can be just a walk around a home. Why are people called to prayer-walk and what is its basis in scripture?

In Genesis 13:17, God tells Abram to possess Canaan, *"Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it: for I will give it unto thee."* In Joshua Chapter 1, God tells Joshua to repossess the same land, *"Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses."* The most unusual case of walking to possess the land in the bible occurs in I Kings 23. Ahab, the evil king of Israel, is told by his wife, Jezebel, *"Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth, the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money, for Naboth is not alive, but dead."* While Ahab may have worn the crown of Israel, Jezebel apparently had worn the pants of the family. When Naboth refused to sell his land because it was an inheritance of his father to Ahab, Jezebel had two men bear false witness against Naboth and had him stoned. While Ahab is walking the vineyard, he is met by Elijah. To learn the faith of Ahab and his family, please read I Kings 21 and 2 Kings 9 and 10.

Are there any evil people taking possession of our lands today by walking? If we look at our cities, we see street gangs, drug dealers, and pimps. They are easy to spot. But there are also well dressed men and women, who sit in school boards and at township meetings, who deny there is a God. They are not as easy to recognize. In our government, there are men, who think gambling is the way to alleviate a state's problems, but not the way of the cross. Our youth admire entertainers, who may wear a cross, but lifestyles are anything but Christian-like. There are developers, who steal people's inheritance by using eminent domain. Christians need to come out of confines of their homes and churches by serving God and taking back what belongs to God by going into neighborhoods.

On November 5th and 6th, the walk continued through Tucker County, West Virginia, with Steve Herrell joining my wife, Nadine, and myself. We skipped a nine mile stretch of trail that crosses and then descends Canaan Mountain. This portion of the trail will be walked next year. Steve and I walked northward on Route 72 along the Dry Fork branch of the Cheat River. Flowing swiftly by a heavy rain, the Dry Fork was anything but dry. At the town of Hendricks, Nadine joined us as we left the macadam of the road to walk the macadam of the Allegheny Highlands Rail Trail. Throughout America, abandoned railways are being converted into hiking and biking trails. This section of trail was just completed in 2003 by the West Virginia Division of Highway. At one time coal was king in this area and the trains serviced the mines. From 1910 to 1990, the population of Tucker County has dropped 60%. Tourism is now king in the Blackwater Falls/Canaan Valley area; but towns like Hendricks and Parsons are not as fortunate and are counting on the American Discovery Trail and the Allegheny Highlands Rail Trail to bring an influx of tourists to the area. After a rail line abandons a rail corridor, a local, state or

federal government agency can assume possession by buying the corridor. The state took control of the land. Along a portion of the trail, a new wood fence was built to keep cyclists from falling into the river. Steve said that the lumber from the fence could have built three houses. What is the right thing to do, build three houses for the poor or build a fence for the rail trail in hope people will come? The “build it and they will come” approach may work for a season or two, or it may not work at all. I do not have the answer.



We finished walking at the Tucker County Courthouse in Parsons. On the way back to Steve’s house, we stopped at the Wal-Mart at Keyser. There we met Karen from Calvary Assembly of God in Fort Ashby, the lady for whom we were praying in our last newsletter (divine appointment?). After a brief talk with Karen, I know that God is still in the business of answering prayers. Praise God!

While returning to our car, Nadine noticed that cars were going into the adjacent parking lot, the parking lot of Keyser Assembly of God. Since Steve attends Keyser A/G, he told us that they now have a Friday evening praise and prayer service. So we spent the next hour in church, mostly praising God. After the service, Amy, the pastor’s wife, asked if their church could walk with us again the next time we return to West Virginia. She also told me that the One Nation Under God-Walk Across America may have affected the outcome of our nation’s presidential election. I do not know if the walk did affect the election, but I do know that those words from Amy encouraged me to keep walking and praying.

Next Steve, who is always hungry, treated Nadine and me for ice cream at a Dairy Queen. While we were enjoying the ice cream, about ten members from Keyser A/G including Pastor Eric and Amy strolled into the room (divine appointment again?). While fellowshiping with them, we started to make arrangements to pray-walk with them in Keyser next spring. Wow!

Next morning, after eating breakfast with Steve and Jeannie Herrell at their home, Nadine and I headed back to Parsons. Deciding to walk from west to east this time, we drove through Parsons to where the America Discovery Trail joined Route 38 near Brushy Fork Church. For about two miles, the trail followed a dirt road uphill. Then the road became macadam and followed a stream gently downhill. On this road I met a man, who gave me two pears for my journey. As the sun slowly sank in the west, I realized that I was behind schedule to met Nadine in Parsons. The trail turned right onto Mt. Zion Road and quickly became a steep uphill climb. As my pace slowed to almost a crawl, I thought about a children’s story, *The Little Engine that Could*. “I think I can. I think I can. I think....” I replaced the words with, “the Lord is my strength. The Lord is my strength....” Slowly my pace accelerated. After reaching the top of the long grade and the start of the downgrade, I began to say, “Thank you, Lord. Thank your Lord....” Soon I was

reunited with Nadine, who walked two miles of the trail and walked back to get our car, then drove back and met me. The walk was over for the day.

On the way home, we followed Route 219 north. Shortly after entering Maryland, Nadine spotted a large military plane flying very low. As the plane crossed almost overhead, to the west four parachutists were silhouetted against the twilight's last gleaming. They were training for war by doing a very dangerous low level night drop. One of the Marines mottos is 'pray for peace and train for wa r.' These brave soldiers were training how to take possession of the land by force if necessary. Christians should also pray for peace: peace for Jerusalem, peace for Israel, peace for America and peace for the world. We should also train for war by praying and taking possession of the land, but not by force. Our weapons are not guns nor planes.

'the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds' (2 Corinthians 10:4)

To learn more about the One Nation Under God –Walk Across America, go to our new web site, www.geocities.com/walk_across_america.

God bless,
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Total miles walked of the American Discovery Trail	- 440 miles
Number of walkers	- 43 walkers
Number of people praying for America	- 21,933 prayer warriors