

no. **4**

in the series

Spiritual growth needs to be nurtured through regular spiritual practices. May this practice help you grow deeper in Christ and further in mission.



grow

deeper
in Christ

Praying Your Community...

PRAYING YOUR COMMUNITY is a practice that will allow you to bring your community (the people, organizations, businesses, and government) before the Lord through prayer and intercession. As disciples of Jesus Christ we are called to be in the world, but not of the world (John 17:16-18). We do not live in isolation, but rather in neighborhoods and communities that are in need of God's transforming power.

Prayer is one of the avenues through which God works to bring about transformation.

1 Timothy 2:1 tells us to pray and intercede for everyone. By praying for our community, we are affirming our solidarity with our neighbors, while asking God to bring about transformation and change.

Praying your community can be

done in a variety of ways:

1) Make a list of your neighbors, the institutions (including schools, social agencies, and governmental offices), the people in positions of power and authority.

2) Ask yourself the following questions:

- What specific needs am I aware of in the lives of my neighbors and in the community at large?
- How does my community need to experience the transforming power of God?
- What social injustices are present in my community?
- What are the social problems that are facing my community?
- How can I engage my community and become an agent of change?

The Evangelical Covenant Church

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3) Pray for the people, institutions, and organizations that you have listed. Pray for specific needs. Use the answers to the previous questions to guide you in your prayer.

It might also be helpful to take a community newspaper and read through it as you prayerfully ask God to reveal the areas and ways that he is at work, or the areas that need to be touched by his transforming power. As you read what is happening in your community, pray for discernment and for God to reveal the ways in which you can be salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16).

4) Finally, get out and walk around your neighborhood, or drive through your community, praying for the

places and people you encounter. Use this time to intercede on behalf of your community.

Stop in front of the local schools, parks, and any social service agencies. Take time to pray for the children. Pray for others in your community who may not have a voice.

Pray for the government officials as you stop in front of the government offices.

Again, ask God to give you discernment as you walk or drive through your community. Where is God at work? Where does transformation and change need to happen? How can it happen?

What is your role? How does God want to use you?