

PRAYER WALK

PRAYING FOR EVERY HOME IN SALINAS

By Pastor Ron Shires

One of the fascinations of life is attempting to notice how God speaks and works. It's not like we can figure it out and make a formula for it, but there are patterns, I think. It is a relationship – not a contractual or commercial arrangement. It is about agreement, cooperation and loyalty.

God has recently been reminding me of the central focus he wants me to maintain in being salt and light. He has brought me through that focus reminder several times. I understand that to mean I am supposed to live a life that will testify to the love and power of God and give witness with my words about God's work in my life so that others will think well of God. Jesus mentioned that in His mountain sermon.

When God gets after me about something, I preach about it to the congregation I serve. I don't want to be the only one that has to shape my life by the promptings of God. I like to pass it on. So I did.

In my recent devotions I have been going to the book of Joshua's life of leadership. There are several admonitions to be strong and courageous. Joshua passed that on to Israel – those who were previously slaves and now being given the responsibility to become a nation. It all sounded very good to them and they said okay. There was work to do, however. There were competing interests that had to be abolished. Other tribal groups had cultures that were very offensive to God, and they would be a hindrance to Israel becoming the source of God's blessing to the world.

They had lots of wars and won all but one of them – and that loss was early on in their conquest. They had rest on every side. But – they did not complete the task of driving out the competing, tempting, corrupting cultures. They won the battles but they failed in their purpose for the battles. And, sure enough, Israel adopted parts of those cultures.

God began to birth in me the idea of praying blessing (the will of God) over every home in Salinas as I walked by them one by one. That is quite a lot of prayer walking. I have prayer walked school campuses, neighborhoods, malls, civic centers, media buildings and businesses on Main Street – but the whole city? Drive by prayer would be a lot quicker – I have done a lot of that. I think He was saying “where the soles of my feet trod.”

As God has purposed for Israel so He has purposed for His church. He wants us to be salt and light. Judging from the looks of our society the church has become more like the world, then the world becoming more like the church. We have repeated Israel's story a few thousand years later. We need to salt the earth once again.

In a prayer group this morning we prayed over a map of Salinas – asking for His Kingdom to come. Some discussion after prayer led to a “what next?” moment. I mentioned this burden that has been growing in me. It seemed to fit the mood of the meeting. Then someone asked if I would be willing to organize the project. I don't have a strong gifting for that. I said yes anyway. In another prayer meeting later in the day, it seemed to fit the mood there also. You think God might be stirring us up for something?

Pray for me. I think God may want to do something bigger than me...or any of us...or all of us.

Just what might the Creator of all things do if those who are called by His name would humble themselves and pray, and seek His face, and turn from our reluctant obedience?

Why- He just might hear us up there in Heaven and forgive us when we repent, and heal our land. And we would be salt and light like He said we are supposed to be.

Wouldn't that be something? Do you feel stirred? Mark January 30 on your calendar and stay tuned.

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