

## *Community Walking Exercise*

1. Convene as a group to “see” the neighborhood/community through walking, observing, and conversing. Provide maps of the area to be covered and spend some time in prayer.
  
2. Send out “walking teams” of 2-3 members. It may be helpful to initially send them in different directions (again dependent on area size and “environmental” situation).
  
3. Suggest that each person carry a small note pad or journal (rather than clip boards or legal pads). Encourage them to pay attention to the following things:
  - *structures* (building types, styles, materials, condition, etc.)
  - *scraps of life* (artifacts, activities, relational dynamics, “values”)
  - *signage* (advertising focus/approach, target audience, language)
  - *space* (land, features, boundaries, fences, parking, yards, private/public)
  - *sounds and smells* (music, food, conversations, “groupings”)
  - *signs of hope* (evidences of life/energy/passion, resource people, future partners, the presence of other community organizations)
  
4. As appropriate (particularly in a residential area), have team members get feedback from a “community person” by asking one or all of the following questions:
  - What do you most appreciate about our community?
  - What are some of your dreams for our community?
  - What are your concerns about life in our community?
  
5. Reconvene the teams at a designated time to debrief the different experiences. Use a flip chart and record general impressions, team member thoughts/feelings, individual encounters/observations, and responses to asked questions. Conclude with group prayer.

### **Suggested Schedule:**

- **Convene for initial instructions and prayer (15 minutes)**
- **Walk the community (90 minutes)**
- **Debriefing session/Group prayer (45 minutes)**

*Note: This tool is utilized within a coaching/consulting relationship. It is not intended to be a “stand alone” resource for analyzing data.*