

# Joshua Walks



I could not sleep after hearing Dave Haskell's story... It all began his second year at the University of Oregon in 1979. He and his buddy Jim were eating hamburgers at McDonald's, discussing what impossible thing they could believe God for. Dave suggested, "...that every student on campus hears the Gospel this year." There were 17,000 students and they only knew of 65 Christians on campus. "Now THAT would be impossible!" exclaimed Jim.

They divided a university map into seven parts and spent 20-30 minutes a day walking around the designated territory for that day, asking God to do what He had promised Joshua, "I will give you every place where you set your foot." Even in the pouring rain they walked, carrying umbrellas.

For everyone to hear the Gospel, he had to be exposed to a believer, thought Dave and Jim. So as they walked around dormitories and fraternities, they asked God to place a Christian on every floor. There were 149 floors. Walking around the English Department, the Engineering Department and every other department, they prayed for a believer in each place.

Then Josh McDowell came to speak on campus at the invitation of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Thousands heard him. Jesus became the big topic of conversation on campus. Afterwards, there were over 149 new Christians. Although they were not evenly spread out on every floor of every dormitory and fraternity, all the students had heard the Gospel.

Several years later, the University of Oregon was the most fruitful university ministry of The Navigators in the northwest. A few years before these prayer walks began, Campus Crusade, InterVarsity and The Navigators had all considered terminating their ministries for lack of results.

Later that year Dave transferred to Wheaton College. A bulletin board of this famous Christian college listed graduates who became missionaries. Between 1947 and 1950, the average number of missionaries per class was 88. But for 1972-1975 the average was 20.

Dave made a decision to trust God to change this trend. He divided the campus map into four quadrants. Unable to find anyone to join him, he prayed and trudged through the snow alone four times a week. He asked God to raise up a student with a vision for missions on each floor of every dormitory and in every student organization. By the end of the year seven students were going out in two's and three's on "Joshua Walks," as they called them.

Nine years later, 500 students, over 20% of the student body, were attending the weekly meetings of the missions club. It's no wonder... the Joshua Walks are still going on.

Upon graduation, Dave went to war-torn Beirut, Lebanon as a missionary. He told five single men leading disciplemaking ministries about the impact of the Joshua Walks in Oregon and Wheaton. They drew four routes on the map of Muslim West Beirut. In pairs they spent at least 30 minutes walking around each route in the course of a week.

Later, when they wondered if God was doing ANYTHING in response to their prayers, Dave exhorted them, "Prayer is the work of the ministry." A few quit. Some continued only occasionally. After six months they stopped because it became too dangerous to walk the roads. Then in June 1982, the Israelis bombed West Beirut. The buildings just within the routes where the six men had walked remained standing. But the buildings outside the areas encircled by the praying men were demolished. Stunned, Dave exclaimed, "If this is what happened in the physical realm, what happened in the spiritual realm?"

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## Ways To Pray As You Do A Joshua Walk

1. WORSHIP God. Focus your heart on Him alone.
2. ASK God for the impossible things that only He can do.  
Matt 19:26, Luke 1:37
3. BELIEVE that God wants to give you the (spiritual) land everywhere you place your foot. Claim the land for the Kingdom of God! Josh 1:3
4. CALL on God to set the captives free! Col 1:13, Isa 61:1
5. CALL on God to tell you great and mighty things that
6. Pray for every building that you pass... for the administration, for the frats and sororities, for the dorms, for the classrooms, for the students and professors contained in each one.