

## Praying With Our Feet

As a new member of the Witness and Proclamation Team, I asked myself, “What is the purpose of this team?” Yes, it is to witness and proclaim Jesus to our communities; however, I feel it is more about actively being the hands and feet of Jesus. I stress this to my congregation every Sunday. We are to “walk the walk”, not just “talk the talk.”

I recently read the book *This Is Ohio: The Overdose Crisis and the Front Lines of a New America*, (Shuler, 2020) a recommendation by the Heartland Conference. This book is a good example of people attempting to be the hands and feet of Jesus in their community of Norwalk, Ohio. The inner cover of the book states, “Tainted drug supplies, inadequate civic responses and prevailing negative opinions about people who use drugs, the poor and those struggling with mental health issues lead to thousands of preventable deaths each year while politicians are slow to adopt effective policies. Putting themselves at great personal risk (and often breaking the law too), the brave men and women profiled in *This Is Ohio* are mounting a grassroots effort to combat ineffective and often incorrect ideas about addiction and instead focus on saving lives through commonsense harmful reduction policies.”

I strongly feel these people are being the hands and feet of Jesus in their community. Reading this book makes it clear that our social problems are not one. People just do not have an addiction in and of itself. Addiction brings forth other social problems. Our communities can best be the hands and feet of Jesus when we realize that our social problems are interconnected, one leading to another.

I like what Lindsey Krinks writes in her book *Praying with Our Feet* (Krinks, 2021) that praying with our feet can change our religion and spirituality, but most importantly can change lives and communities. Krinks is not talking about literally praying with our feet. What she is saying is our theology is meant to be lived out on the streets of our communities, not contained inside the walls of the brick and mortar of our church buildings.

Friends in Christ, this is what Witness and Proclamation is about.

Grace and peace,  
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