

## Walk 4 Jesus Edmonton

### *Why in the Month of June and not August?*

When we were asked to do this event on August 12 last year, 2023, we were given the impression it was a one-time request to accommodate the schedule of the guest speaker. And understanding that having this done twice in a year will further division in the Edmonton and area church given the experience of what another person did the previous year, we postponed the event from June to August.

Described below are six very important reasons why we believe we have to continue having this event done in the month of June as was done in the past seven years:

- 1. The Walk 4 Jesus Edmonton has a 3-step purpose** which was impacted last year and will be jeopardized if not done in June: (Step 1) Launch believers out to publicly identify with their faith in Christ, worship and proclaim Him as their Lord and Savior. The believers are strengthened, encouraged and emboldened to first identify as Christians in an increasingly hostile culture. In essence, the Walk 4 Jesus is like a military parade where believers perform some drilling exercise for the actual war, which is the work of evangelism. During the event, they are reminded of their God-ordained responsibility to share the Gospel of God's Kingdom and Jesus Christ the way to it with people, leading us to step 2. 15,000 (hope to increase to 30, 000) copies of a gospel business card labelled "The Best Gift" are printed before the event and some given out to the participants as tools for evangelism. (Step 2), Actions are taken to point these participants at the walk 4 Jesus and their church leaders to immediately mobilize to be deployed to the harvest field in Edmonton. Edmonton's harvest field is widely open with the summer events that occur between the months of July and early August. They include July 1<sup>st</sup> Canada Independence Day, Taste of Edmonton, Fringe Festival, and most importantly, the Heritage Festival which always occurs in the first week of August with over 480,000 participants in the three-day event. Step 3, after step 2, it is expected the participants would make witnessing Jesus to others everywhere they are as a lifestyle. If the Walk 4 Jesus is done in August, which is the last month of summer, almost all the summer events are over and the harvest field is closed up. Participants would not have available to them, the immediate and big opportunities the summer months present for them to do what we are awakening or mobilizing them for through the event. The ultimate purpose for the event outlined with steps 2 and 3 are not realized. As the strategic purpose of the Holy Spirit must take pre-eminence over our sense of self, we believe it is important to continue doing the event in the month of June as before.
- 2. From the standpoint of church participation**, August is a big vacation month. Many pastors told us that more than half of their church members are away for summer vacation or just travels. This reduces participation for the event. That is the reason why we have had to put in a huge amount for radio advertisement and three times the effort we would usually put in for organizing the event when it was done in August last year 2023.
- 3. Results not measured by what happened on event day, but what happens after the day.** As can be expected, most participants are believers. We make efforts to invite non-believers and having sufficient resources to promote the event would go a long way for this. Usually, a few people surrender to Jesus at the event and some confirm they were healed on getting to the parade ground. However, results may be considered through the lens of unquantifiable strategic impact to the church of Jesus in Edmonton and area and of course to Canada. For example, given the rate at which churches are receding into apostasy, results may be seen in how some believers are encouraged to identify with Christ outside of the church walls in an increasingly hostile culture, having seen fellow believers publicly identifying with Jesus at the Walk; it may be seen in how through the walk, some churches refuse to compromise into apostasy, but hold on to the faith which was once and for all delivered unto the saints; in what the participants do after the event day by going out to the Edmonton summer events described above to share the gospel; in how someone walks into a local church to try out faith in Jesus again or for the first time, simply because they saw people proclaim Jesus at the Walk 4 Jesus event, or through the activities of street preachers, many of whom are motivated by the Walk event to keep the church outside of the church walls. More importantly, success or results may be considered by what we don't see or even care to see. But we are more concerned of the extent of our obedience to the leading of Holy Spirit who instructs us even up to the choice of the list of worship songs used at the Walk

event and who we believe is using all these activities led by Him over the years as His seeding mission for a great harvest of souls at His appointed time.

4. **In terms of planning**, the event is a significant undertaking, especially with the road traffic use and public safety consideration. Hence, it requires a lot of mental commitment, prayer investment and planning, making it difficult for the planning team to respond well or give needed attention to other kingdom assignments in the course of the year. Similarly, the planning team's attention and time are so focused on organising this event to the point that no sufficient time to plan for smaller outreaches to actually go and meet people one on one to witness Christ at the other summer events in Edmonton if it is done in August. In other words, the other kingdom or ministry assignments we are unable to give needed time to, will then be the opportunity cost for having the Walk 4 Jesus event done in August, which is the last month of summer.
5. **Inadvertent Enabling of Christian Censorship**. When we moved this annual event from July to June for the purposes and logistical reasons described above, especially so that participants will be able to go to summer events that happen between July and early August to share Jesus with people one on one, it was revealed to us that a community group was opposed to us doing the event in June because they believed that the month of June was sacrosanct to them, hence believers should not be allowed to do any Christian activities in the public sphere in the month of June. This knowledge reinforced the need for us to continue doing this event in June as we should not allow the devil to dictate to us when and when not to worship and serve God. We would be yielding to the devil's demand if the event is moved from June. We are not inclined to sacrifice the purpose of God in order to satisfy self in any shape or form it presents itself.
6. **Logistical Nightmare**: since it appears the only reason why this event was proposed for August last year was so that the guest speaker could fit it into his scheduled revival meetings in August, there is potential for logistical nightmare. Like other international evangelists, he is booked for meetings in different places outside of the Cities. When we give a weekend date to the City of Edmonton for an event especially involving some form of road rolling closure by the police, it is always subject to other logistical considerations before approval. The City would consider whether any other major event is happening the same day even if not the same location, from their workload perspective. They would consider if there are enough off-duty police officers available for the date we are proposing; if any road construction is scheduled for the proposed location. In many cases, the date originally proposed to them is not what is approved. So, there will be some back and forth with the very tight schedule of any international guest speaker with a fixed schedule before things get done logistically, if they get done.

Thank you for your understanding.

Joshua Adetunji  
RUWEMI Ministries  
5879873390

[www.ruwemi.org](http://www.ruwemi.org)

*Advancing the Kingdom Together in Unity!*

*Read why we call it "Walk" for Jesus as opposed to "March" and why we do not believe it should be done twice a year as was suggested to us last year. Click to read.*