

# Listening Prayer Triads

**Greetings in the spirit of Christ: God's gift of love and hope.**

**My name is Tom Bandy. For over twenty years I have consulted with churches of all sizes, cultures, theologies, and traditions ... in North American and around the world. My website is [www.ThrivingChurch.com](http://www.ThrivingChurch.com).**

**Whether you are planting a church or renewing a church, God calls you to be "externally focused". Church grow spiritually and missionally, and then they grow in membership and resources.**

**The "Listening-Prayer Triad" is a wonderful way to connect the needs of people around us with the hope of God's grace. It also helps test and fine-tune the insights we gain from demographic and lifestyle segment research using search engines like [www.MissionInsite.com](http://www.MissionInsite.com).**

**It works like this:**

**Three people covenant to meet once a week for three weeks. Take turns hosting the group. Meet whenever it is convenient.**

**First, gather at home for refreshments. Read Acts 10. Pray for guidance.**

**Second, go out to any public place in your local mission field ... any place where people gather ... a different place each week. This could be a mall, a food court, a restaurant or coffee shop or pub, a retail outlet or sports arena.**

**Exercise the one spiritual gift God gives all Christians, which I call the "Gift of Lurking". Don't speak or do anything. Just observe people. Watch what they do. Overhear what they talk about.**

**Third, return to the home where you started. De-brief. Read between the lines. Interpret what you have seen. Talk about the issues, stresses, anxieties, and questions that are patterns among the people.**

**Finally, pray aloud for complete strangers. Pray that their issues might be resolved; their stress might be eased; their anxiety might turn to hope; and their questions answered.**

**Repeat the process for three weeks (or more if you wish). What better time to lurk and listen than at this time of year?**

**Keep a journal of your insights.**

- 1. What are the questions about life, faith, and future?**
- 2. What are the issues that challenge daily living?**
- 3. What are the opportunities for outreach?**
- 4. For whom does your heart burst?**

**Share these insights with the pastor, board, and worship leaders so that they can be used for strategic planning and intercessory prayers.**

**Thank you! And thank God for your commitment to bless the world and renew the church. God bless all here!**