



On Your Mark!

Connecting in prayer at the AVC

"Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Hebrews 12:1)

April 2005

Connect

Every Sunday, 9:30am & 5:30pm — Pre-service prayer (Wedge Room)

3rd Sunday of each month, 9:15–10:15am—Pray for Central Asia (upstairs classroom)

Every Monday, 1:00pm — Prayer for the Atlanta Vineyard (Wedge Room)

Every Tuesday, 7:00am — Father's Heart men's prayer (Café)

Every Tuesday, 6:00–8:00pm — Prayer Ministry Team at Norcross Co-op, 2275 Mitchell Rd, Norcross

Every Wednesday, 9:00pm — Pray with Frank & Sandra, 678-957-1519 (Duluth)

3rd Wednesday of each month, 8:00-10:00pm — Pray at IHOP-Atlanta, 750 Indian Trail Rd, Lilburn

1st & 3rd Friday of each month, 7:30pm — Unveiled (Auditorium)

Every Saturday, 10:00am–12:00pm — Prayer Ministry Team at Norcross Co-op, 2275 Mitchell Rd, Norcross

He's always interceding

"Therefore [Jesus] is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them." (Hebrews 7:25)

Website

Visit us on the web at www.atlantavineyard.com/prayer

I'm Praying for You

By Jill Carattini (Ravi Zacharias International Ministries)

Researchers have stumbled onto a subject that has long been tested, though perhaps never before quite so clinically. Over the last decade, millions of dollars have been spent on testing the effects of prayer in the field of medicine. The studies, which have targeted an assortment of medical conditions and religious traditions, have attracted criticism from all over the place. Some argue that science has no place exploring matters of religion; others argue that the experiments at the outset have a faulty understanding of both God and prayer. As one scientist insists the studies are meant to answer practical questions and not religious ones, another thanks God in the official report of his findings. Nearly all involved agree that such studies are difficult, but that the subject is one worth testing, however little we understand it.

That our prayers are with the sick, troubled, or grieving is a promise often uttered. It is a phrase heard both in and out of Christian circles: "Our prayers are with you." It is a promise that could perhaps be met with cynicism; the well-meaning words are undoubtedly uttered from time to time without much follow through, or intention for that matter. But more often the thought is received as it is intended: It is encouraging to know that someone is thinking of you, that her thoughts and prayers are with you, crying out with your own. The assurance reminds the one struggling that they are not standing entirely alone in the darkness. And certainly that is a powerful thought in the midst of pain and uncertainty, as many scientists and psychologists have found.

But what about the times when someone has told you that they are praying for you, and you know that they are doing just that: crying out to God on your behalf. Have you ever heard anyone say that they could feel the prayers of believers moving them through a difficult situation? It seems the power of prayer moves beyond encouragement.

When uttered on sincere lips, "I'm praying for you" can be as frightening a thought as it is encouraging. Someone is standing at the throne of God with your name on their heart. It introduces an entirely new set of concerns: Are they praying for me the way I'm praying for myself? Are they asking God for the answer I'm longing for? When my dad was diagnosed with terminal cancer, I was livid when someone told me they were praying that God would take him home quickly, even though in between our cries for healing, we were praying that God's will would be done. As someone once noted, prayer requires more of the heart than of the tongue. Knowing that someone is standing before God on your behalf is powerful not because they are standing with you, but because they are standing with God.

The apostle Paul often voiced in his letters gratitude for the prayers of believers on his behalf. In and out of jail, in abundance and in lack, he saw them participate in bringing about God's purposes in his life through their prayers for him. To the Philippian church he wrote, "*Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance*" (Philippians 1:19). He did not thank them for praying that what had happened to him would be altogether reversed, but that the purposes of God would be accomplished in all things. Paul saw the power in prayers which hoped and expected with all boldness that Christ would be exalted whether by life or by death.

As one has said, "Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, but laying hold of his willingness." Perhaps the best studies in prayer are in the lives of those who see that its power lies wholly in the one in whom we pray.

"*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting*" (Psalm 139:23,24).

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Global Day of Prayer

This is a 3-part worldwide prayer event that 200,000,000 people from 175 nations are expected to participate in! The purpose is to ask God to reveal His glory and bless the nations of the earth.

Part 1 — 10 days of prayer, May 5th-14th, leading up to Pentecost Sunday. Prayer guides will be available in the lobby April 24th & May 1st.

Part 2 — Gather at Phillips Arena for a time of prayer for the world (3:00-6:00pm). Free tickets will be available in the lobby April 24th & May 1st. [Order yours now!](#)

Part 3 — 90 days of blessing. Our church will join with many others in serving the community we have been praying for!

Contact: [Karen Sculley](#), 770-279-9379, karen.sculley@atlantavineyard.com

Father's Heart

Every Tuesday, 7:00am, Café Vineyard

The Father's Heart men's prayer group meets every Tuesday morning to lift up prayer needs of the AVC. Johnny Crist leads the men in a group prayer time for others. All men are welcome!

Contact: [Johnny Crist](#), 770-274-1010, johnny.crist@atlantavineyard.com

Unveiled

1st & 3rd Fridays, 7:30pm, Auditorium

Unveiled is the centerpiece of prayer ministry at the AVC. It's a time when we gather to worship and pray together. We desire to touch the heart of the Father, seek the face of Jesus, and hear the voice of the Spirit.

The name "Unveiled" comes from 2 Corinthians 3:18—"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." The "Message" translation puts it this way—"nothing between us and God"!

Everyone is welcome! Childcare is provided.

Contact: [Karen Sculley](#), 770-279-9379, karen.sculley@atlantavineyard.com

Announcing:

Prophetic Community Roundtable

If you want to grow in the prophetic, come join us on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 8:30 to 10:00am in the youth room! [April 10th, May 8th, . . .]

A Little Inspiration . . .

"The man is perfect in faith who can come to God in the utter dearth of his feelings and desires, without a glow or an inspiration, with the weight of low thoughts, failures, neglects, and wandering forgetfulness, and say to Him, 'Thou art my refuge.'"

George MacDonald
Unspoken Sermons

