



On Your Mark!

Connecting in prayer at the AVC

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

December 2005

Connect

1st & 3rd *Sundays*, 6:00–7:30pm—
Unveiled (Auditorium)

2nd *Sundays*, 8:30–10:00am—
Prophetic Roundtable (youth room)

Every *Sunday*, 9:30–10:15am—Pre-
service prayer (Prayer Room)

Every *Monday*, 9:00am–2:00pm,
Tuesday, 12:00–5:00pm, and
Thursday, 3:00–8:00pm—Pray w/
patients at Good Samaritan Health
Center (Duluth) 404-512-4340

Every *Monday*, 1:00–2:00pm—
Prayer for the Atlanta Vineyard
(Prayer Room) 770-925-8823

Every *Tuesday*, 7:00–8:00am—
Father's Heart prayer (Café)

1st *Tuesdays*, 6:00–8:00pm— Pray
with clients at Norcross Co-op (2275
Mitchell Rd, Norcross), 770-274-
1010 ext. 23

Every *Wednesday*, 6:30–6:50pm—
Bless the Building (Café)

Every *Wednesday*, 9:00pm—Pray
with Frank & Sandra (Duluth), 770-
935-8098

Every *Thursday*, 7:00–7:30pm—
Prayer for re:vision (Prayer Room)
404-275-0927

Hold fast to Him

"I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him." (Deuteronomy 30:19–20)

Incite Hope

By Patti Benjamin

(caffemocha61@hotmail.com)

I was driving down the road the other day and saw a bumper sticker that read, "Incite Hope". The Louisiana tags made me wonder if the driver was from New Orleans. Webster's defines "Incite" as "to urge to action; rouse", and "Hope" as "A feeling that what is wanted will happen; A person or thing on which one may base some hope; To want and expect." "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life." (Prov. 13:12) Strong's Exhaustive Concordance describes "hope" in this particular verse as expectation, to wait, or to be patient. So what happens when our expectations are not met? What happens when we have to wait longer than we thought we were going to have to wait? What happens when things end up being prolonged? Hope made to wait is hard to bear. We begin to doubt that which we have put our hope in. We begin to lose patience. We begin to become heart sick for the very thing we had our hope in.

So then how do we Incite Hope? Some say, "Man, life is just hopeless, I've lost everything and now I have nothing so why not just give up?!" How do we rouse hope when one is hopeless? To be without hope is horrible. People without hope tend to kill themselves. They become despondent and lonely. They no longer see any point in hope. Hope has abandoned them along with everyone else. There is a song about a young man who killed himself and the question is, "How did he get so lonely and nobody knew?" No one Incited Hope in him! If you live long enough in this life you're going to find out that rotten, horrible, no good things happen and sometimes there is little to hope in. Ah, but, there is a greater hope beyond this life! Beyond what is here and now there is a hope that goes on forever.

We must reach out and Incite this Hope into people's lives! The hope that this certainly is NOT all that there is to this life. When hope is fulfilled life is planted anew. Seeds of hope produce new life. I think of Johnny Appleseed, who sowed abundant apple seeds everywhere he went. Hope is like an apple seed that we plant in the ground, we water it and weed it and wait for it to grow. We don't expect to get apples the very first season. We must wait. But then when we do get a harvest we make pie! Encourage people to wait for the pie!

Power of Spoken Words

By Annette Brackin

(annettebrackin@yahoo.com)

"Sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me". As a child when someone would say something mean to me, I would rally back to them this little saying with all the confidence I could muster and then promptly depart their company. Leaving them in the wake of defeat, I could just picture them standing there with their mouths hung open and that astonished look on their face because I was determined not to let them know that what they said had hurt me. However, words, I believe, can inflict even more pain and hurt than any stick or stone could ever do. Words are very powerful.

If what we say isn't so important then why did God say, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue?" (Prov. 18:21). In Genesis 1 it says that "In the beginning . . . God said, "Let there be light." "God said," He spoke, His words went forth and it was established. What the Bible doesn't say is He thought about it or He wrote it down in his journal for further consideration. He simply spoke and that is one way we can know that we have the power behind our words when we pray and speak His words.

Praying God's Word, out loud, is a very effective way for us to bring forth His power. If we have the power of death and life in what we say, how much more powerful are His words when we speak them? Jesus gave us a perfect example when Satan was tempting him in the desert. He said three times, "It is written." Note he "said," out loud, "It is written." He was speaking God's word aloud to defeat the enemy. A practice I fall short of most of the time. We can not afford in this day and time to forget that we don't war against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness. Our little measly sticks and stones will not harm them, but God's words can bring about their defeat and His victory. There is much power in what we choose to say. Let's choose life over death.

Good Samaritan Health Center

Mondays, 9:00am - 2:00pm; Tuesdays, 12:00 - 5:00pm; Thursdays, 3:00 - 8:00pm

The Good Samaritan Health Center of Gwinnett was formed to fulfill that which Jesus taught His disciples: to demonstrate their faith by caring for the less fortunate, the sick, the naked, the hungry, the homeless, the imprisoned, and the destitute. They also provide complementary services that minister to the indigent, homeless and working poor of Gwinnett County in body, soul and spirit. We have an opportunity to pray with patients!

They are located at 3700 Club Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30044. For more information, check out their website at www.goodsamgwinnett.org

Contact: Kim Fleek, (404) 512-4340, kfleek@joimail.com

The body of Christ needs you!

Regardless of your:

- Gifts
- Talents
- Schedule
- Experience

there is a place for you to serve in the prayer & prophetic ministries of the Atlanta Vineyard.

Let me know if you're interested!

Contact: Karen Sculley, 770-279-9379, karen.sculley@atlantavineyard.com

Pre-service prayer

Every Sunday, 9:30 - 10:15am, Prayer Room

Pre-service prayer is a crucial part of each Sunday service at the AVC. The focus of our pre-service prayer meetings is prayer for Sunday services [in the auditorium, preschool, kids' church, Crossover, Nexus]. When our prayers are focused, they are more effective. We also like to lay hands on those who will be leading services. Everyone is welcome!

Contact: Karen Sculley, 770-279-9379, karen.sculley@atlantavineyard.com

If you "eagerly desire to prophesy," come join us at the Prophetic Roundtable on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 8:30 to 10:00am in the youth room!

[December 11th, January 8th, . . .]

Please go to the prayer section of the AVC website (www.atlantavineyard.com) to submit prophetic words, dreams, visions, pictures, or Scriptures that you believe are for the Atlanta Vineyard.

A Little Inspiration . . .

"Our hands are so tiny
and the world's needs so vast
That we are forced back upon God
who alone is sufficient."

Arthur Gossip
In the Secret Place of the Most High

