



On Your Mark!

Connecting in prayer at the AVC

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

February 2004

Connect

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

Every Tuesday, 7:00am – Father’s
Heart men’s prayer (Café)

Every Thursday, 9:00pm – Frank &
Sandra’s weekly prayer (Duluth)

Sun, Feb 8th, 7:00pm – Mary
Hower’s prayer for Central Asia
with Adam & Mary Hoyt (Norcross)

Wed, Feb 11th, 7:00pm– Patrick &
Angel’s prayer evangelism (Wedge
Room)

Fri, Feb 20th, 7:30pm – Unveiled
(Great Room)

Wed, Mar 3rd, 7:00pm – Phil &
Lu’s missions prayer (Lithia
Springs)

Fri, Mar 5th, 7:30pm – Unveiled
(Great Room)

Fri, Mar 12th, 8:00-11:00pm –
Night of Prayer (Auditorium)

Any time—Adopt-a-youth, just for
kids (see page 2)

We’re in this together for good!

“They agreed that they were in
this for good, completely together
in prayer” (Acts 1:14, The
Message)

Website

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

Compassion

As our Mission Bridge team prepares for Brazil on Feb 17th, I am struck by the lessons found in Mark 6.

v. 1-6: States that in Jesus’ home town of Nazareth He was not able to do any miracles except heal a few sick people. He was amazed at their lack of faith and said, “Only in his own hometown, among his relatives and in his own house, is a prophet without any honor.” This verse causes me to rejoice over the fact that God has called us to GO on this outreach and that He will grant us favor in the going. He will open the hearts of people to His word.

v. 7-12: So Jesus left from Nazareth and went to other villages. He also sent out His twelve disciples, two by two, giving them authority over evil (unclean) spirits. The disciples went out and preached repentance; they drove out many demons, anointed many sick people with oil, and healed them. I rejoice even more knowing that the authority Jesus had we have. We will see the kingdom of darkness flee as we take the light and authority of Christ.

v. 30-33: The disciples came back to Jesus and reported all they had done and taught. As they were speaking, people flocked around them, to the point that they could not even eat. Boy have I been there while on mission outreaches and so needed this next thing Jesus said, “Come away with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” Awww, that must have sounded perfect to the harried disciples! So they got into a boat and headed off to a solitary place. But the mob that surrounded them realized where they were going and ran ahead of them, getting to that wonderful little solitary place before the disciples boat could touch the shore!

v. 34: Scripture doesn’t tell us the disciples thoughts or responses, but it does tell us Jesus’ response. He was moved with compassion. He saw their need, their desperate searching. He saw them as sheep without a shepherd, which is a sad state indeed. Sheep desperately need the guidance of their shepherd or they do things like fall off cliffs as they nibble away on the grass, or graze in a lush pasture to the point of falling down, unable get up, left as defenseless prey for a wolf. Or maybe drown in a river, unknowingly stepping into its raging waters in search of a drink. This is how Jesus saw the crowd.

I wonder what the disciples saw? An interruption? Disappointment and frustration? Why couldn’t these people just leave them alone? But Jesus’ compassion moved Him to begin to teach the helpless crowd. Mark 6:34 states that He taught them many things. His compassion moved Him to action. To do something about their helpless state. So He taught them. And then He fed them. You know the story. The 5 loaves and the two fish. The disciples were over it. In v. 36 they had asked Jesus to send the crowd away to go get their own food. But Jesus saw not only the need of the crowd, He saw the hard hearts of the disciples. So He got them involved even more. Jesus required the disciples to find what food was available, to gather it, to bring it to Him, to have the 5,000+ crowd sit down (which could not have been an easy task!) to distribute the bread to the people, and then to gather back up 12 baskets full. I love what v. 42 says: “They all ate and were satisfied.” I believe not only their stomachs were satisfied but their very souls, their hearts. They were filled. The shalom of God had come upon them. They were no longer sheep without a shepherd. They had encountered the Shepherd of their souls and they were satisfied. And the disciples? Well, they almost missed one of the most amazing miracles ever told, as well having the hardness of their own hearts dealt with. They were thrust into ministry when they really didn’t want to be. But that’s how God is. When we are weak He is strong. If we will simply obey we will see miracles. And we will be satisfied as we follow after Him.

I am not saying rest is wrong or that we should go at a frantic pace all the time. Rest is from God and He calls us to it. But there are times when rest seems what we need most and He calls us to see the crowd with compassion. He calls us to feed them. To give the Bread of Life which they are hungry for. In Brazil we will see the crowds and we will have a choices to make. I pray we see with compassion and feed them. *(Editor’s note: please pray for the Mission Bridge team as they go: Feb 17th-Mar 2nd)*

by Luane Thomson (AVC missions director)
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Adopt-a-youth

Adopt-a-youth is about praying for the youth in our midst. If you feel a burden for youth, why not adopt a youth in prayer? You will be assigned a youth to pray for regularly for 1 month. This will be done anonymously, though you will be given their first names. You will be praying for, but not with, the youth you adopt (no personal contact).

You can begin any time. This is a simple way you can connect in prayer wherever you are. Our youth need our prayers!

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

Unveiled

1st & 3rd Fridays, 7:30pm, Great Room

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.

Everyone is welcome! Childcare is provided.

Contact: Kathy Smith, 770-274-1010, kathy.smith@atlantavineyard.com

Just for Kids

There's a new section on the prayer ministry website just for kids! Click on any of the links to read fabulous color articles on agreement, confession, fasting, forgiveness, hearing God, intercession, petition, praise, prayerwalking, seeking God, spiritual warfare, thankfulness, and time with Jesus. There's also a link to the Pray Kids! Website—they publish these as 8 page magazines.

I'm planning to add these tools to our family's devotional toolbox. Let me know how these work in your family or in the lives of kids you reach out to.

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

Night of Prayer

Friday, March 12th, 8:00–11:00pm, Auditorium

Come join your brothers and sisters in Christ to pray for the AVC, Norcross, Atlanta, the U.S.A., and the nations of the world. We will spend about 20 minutes on a specific area of focus, praying individually, in groups, corporately, and worshipping God.

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

The LORD will answer us . . .

"The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the LORD will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs . . . *so that people may see and know, may consider and understand, that the hand of the LORD has done this*, that the Holy One of Israel has created it." Isaiah 41: 17– 20

. . . and he has! To God be the glory!

A testimony from Jeanne Sandeck (jsandeck@juno.com)

A couple of weeks ago that I got glorious news—I did not need surgery for suspected ovarian cancer. Before Christmas my physician told me she was concerned about a cyst on one of my ovaries because it was growing larger & appeared to have some solid mass. I'd just had a biopsy for another suspicious area that thankfully turned out to be ok. Reality hit home when I went for lab work to detect if the ovarian mass was cancerous. I was so grateful I had the prayer support of so many lovers of Christ from the Vineyard & elsewhere. I was surrounded by people who had faith that God still heals today. I don't know why He heals some and not others but I knew that my role was to pray for healing and to have faith that He could. So I did ... and so did many others. He gave me that peace "that surpasses all understanding" while I waited out the next few weeks to find out whether I needed surgery. I laughed out loud a few weeks ago when the ultrasound tech told me that the mass was totally gone. Even she laughed, as did my physician later that day. The words "Thank You" feel so inadequate to express my gratitude that God seemed to have just slammed shut the door to a path of darkness that I might have gone down. Not only that, but my faith in prayer has moved to a new level through this experience. Matthew 9:29 reads, "According to your faith it will be done to you." May a lack of faith never keep God from what He wants to do in our lives!

A testimony from Kathy Carnahan (carnahan@careerlab.com)

We saw miracles happen in FL—My Dad's cancer that was 99.5% sure and told his wife he would die, that it was cancer; suddenly four days later was just a big mass, no cancer in his body. He did still have a colostomy that is reversible and he is healing now from that. Then after 40 years of turning his back on Jesus he asked me to read the Bible to him (he could not stand to listen to anything else). He only listened to Hymns (same—could not listen to anything else) & asked me to pray for him over & over, talk to him about Christianity, & the only show he could watch was Dr. Charles Stanley. Every nurse he had after we prayed were born again prayer warrior Christians and they told him so! It was remarkable. Thanks for all your prayers and the prayer chain—it was just unbelievable my faith was stretched to new places! Amazing!