



On Your Mark!

Connecting in prayer at the AVC

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

July 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)

Sundays (once a month) – Mary
Hower's prayer for Central Asia
with Adam & Mary Hoyt (Norcross);
call for next date / time–770-265-
1597

Fri, July 16th, 7:30pm – Unveiled
(Auditorium)

Fri, August 6th, 7:30pm – Unveiled
(Auditorium)

Practicing the Presence of God: The Prayer Lifestyle *By Lou Richey (prayer ministry lead team, LouRichey@aol.com)*

"There is no mode of life in the world more pleasing and more full of delight than continual conversation with God."

Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection

I remember when I first discovered Brother Lawrence, a largely obscure 16th Century Carmelite lay brother (who was so humble that he never took the vows of priesthood). I still recall my first reading of the little collection of surviving Brother Lawrence letters, and his eulogy by his bishop that have become *The Practice of the Presence of God*. In it, I recognized immediately an unsophisticated man who had found a way to talk with God and to hear from Him all the time. Brother Lawrence said just "...make a firm and holy resolution never to be willfully separated from Him and to live the rest of your days in His sacred presence...."; and establish yourself in the presence of God by continually talking to Him.

Now, that is prayer - continual and unceasing conversation with the "person" who loves me (and everyone else too) more than any person we know in this world, and with the wisest "person" from whom to seek advice and counsel about life. But more, prayer for Brother Lawrence was not merely the saying of prayers, but the living of a "prayerful life" - organizing every thought, word and deed in his life to and for the glory of God. "Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord my strength and my redeemer" (Psalms 19:14). We are to have the "mind of Christ", one focused entirely on God's Will.

My lawyer's analytical mind said Brother Lawrence was telling me that God gave me 24 hours daily of "time". Lawrence reminded me that the Lord is entitled to all my time, and with it every thought, word and deed in my day. Therefore, my "simple" task was to make Him the center of all 24 hours - by staying close to Him all day (and night) long every day; and to leave nothing (no matter how seemingly insignificant) outside an intimate relationship with Him, or to be distracted from Him by worldly concerns (no matter how seemingly important the concerns based upon my "worldly" senses). Our Lord isn't looking for "quality" time; He wants it all. Here was a goal worthy of a lifetime of seeking!

Walk in the light

"Blessed are those who have
learned to acclaim you, who walk
in the light of your presence, O
LORD." Psalm 89:15

So where am I? I have found the "simple" task here is more difficult to do than it is to say, but it involves an act of your will and not your skill. Anyone can do it that has a heart and passion for Him. At the Vineyard we frequently sing a song that suggests, "one day in His courts is better than a thousand elsewhere". I've found that the briefest moment really in His presence is worth a thousand elsewhere; so "establishing yourself in His presence" is worth any price. Conversations do become two-way, and He loves to talk with us when we truly make him the "center" of our life. Once I learned to express my unconditional love to Him by my praise, listening to Him (and obeying) became an increasingly important reflect of my love for Him. But, prayer (conversation) is never a duty; just a natural part of an increasingly close day-to-day "relationship" with our living Lord through the Holy Spirit that brings peace and joy indescribable.

Website

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

"Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear my voice and open the door the door, I will come in to him and commune with him and he with me." (Revelation 4:20) What's stopping you?

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

Prayer groups

You're welcome to join in any of our regular prayer groups. Call for times and locations!

Sundays – Prayer for Central Asia; Mary Hower with Adam & Mary Hoyt (770-265-1597)

Tuesdays – Father's Heart men's prayer group; Johnny Crist (770-274-1010)

Thursdays – Prayer; Frank & Sandra Teixeira (678-957-1519)

A Little Inspiration . . .

“All great prayer, all liberating worship,
all lasting encounters with God,
begin with praise and rejoicing.”

Lloyd Ogilvie
Let God Love You

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: Joel Balin, 770-274-1010, joel.balin@atlantavineyard.com

PLOW team

If God has called you to pray for the AVC for at least one hour per week, please join the PLOW team! You can commit to pray throughout the week or on one day—your choice. PLOW: Pray, Listen, Overcome, Watch. The acronym speaks for itself—praying, overcoming in prayer, & listening to & watching what the Father is saying & doing. To plow is to prepare soil for seeds to be sown.

PLOW team members receive a special weekly email newsletter, Set!, covering prayer requests from AVC pastors & general prayer requests. Just as Aaron and Hur held up Moses' arms in Exodus 17, the PLOW team will “hold up the arms” of our pastors in prayer. PLOW team members will be invited to special prayer ministry events (e.g. prayer breakfasts).

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