



On Your Mark!

Connecting in prayer at the AVC

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

October 2005

Connect

Sundays, Oct 23rd, Oct 30th, Nov 6th, 8:30–10:00am—Introductory Ministry Team training (series of 3 classes) (upstairs)

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

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

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

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

1st **Tuesdays**, 6:00–8:00pm—Prayer Ministry Team at Norcross Co-op, 2275 Mitchell Rd, Norcross

Every **Wednesday**, 7:30pm—Prayer for re:vision (Norcross) 404-275-0927

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

1st & 3rd **Fridays**, 7:30–9:00pm—Unveiled worship & prayer (Auditorium)

The hour has come

"The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here." (Romans 13:11–12)

There's no DMZ in the Kingdom

By Karen Sculley

(karen.sculley@atlantavineyard.com)

I'm not much of a war movie fan. The few I've seen leave images permanently imprinted on my mind. There's one scene in particular that lingers, not because of the graphic nature of the harshness of war, but because of its portrayal of something I hadn't really known existed. I'd read about it, and heard about it, but something about it just didn't seem to sit right.

Recently I heard a believer comment that they were taking some time off from spiritual warfare, in the same tone of voice you might use when talking about changing jobs or picking up a new hobby. Into my mind popped that movie scene. It was set in the narrow strip of land between North and South Korea known as the DMZ. In military terms, a DMZ (demilitarized zone) is "an area, usually the frontier or boundary between two or more groups, where military activity is not permitted, usually by treaty or other agreement." I suddenly had the feeling that, consciously or subconsciously, this is how many of us perceive spiritual warfare . . . when we're tired of fighting, we can just pop over to the DMZ and hang out there—no fighting allowed, no sneaky stuff, no sniper fire. Kind of like a day at the spa! Well, that would be really nice except there is no DMZ in the Kingdom! 1 Peter 5:8 tells us that our "enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." The Message says that the devil is "poised to pounce, and would like nothing better than to catch you napping." Spiritual warfare is not something we can opt out of; we are in the midst of it from the first moment we come to Christ. We either stay awake and be the victors Jesus enabled us to be, or live like victims, risking being taken as prisoners of war or worse. Let's examine each of Peter's warnings either side of that verse:

be self-controlled—Self-control is "the act of denying yourself; controlling your impulses". Like Paul, we know what we should be doing, but just can't quite seem to do it ourselves. Being self-controlled is really allowing the Spirit to control us, not trying to do it on our own—"You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you." (Romans 8:9)

be alert—Remember the wise and foolish virgins? Well, the bridegroom was a long time in coming, and "they all became drowsy and fell asleep." Yep, every one of them. It didn't happen all at once—first came the droopy eyelids, then some head nodding, they probably lay down, then eventually fell asleep. We must keep watch and stay alert, not allowing drowsiness to overtake us. We do this by prayer and repentance, not allowing the devil a foothold in our lives. We keep ourselves alert by practicing the spiritual disciplines (see Richard Foster's book), which help prepare us spiritually for whatever comes.

resist the devil—James 4 speaks of resisting the devil in the context of submitting to God, coming near to Him, purifying our hearts, repenting, and humbling ourselves before Him. Worship Jesus, stay in the Word, no compromises. If we yield to temptation, the enemy will harass us constantly, but if we put on the whole armor of God and use it, he will be gone from us. Focusing on the Lord is key.

stand firm in the faith—Never give up. Remember who God is and who He says you are. "Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!" (Romans 13:14, The Message) Jesus Christ is the best clothing for us to adorn ourselves with, to arm ourselves with. How do we do that? By putting on his righteousness, living in holiness, and believing the truth (His word).

all believers are plunged into these hard times—We must remember to "always keep on praying for all the saints." (Ephesians 6:18) Let us not forget one another, or our brothers and sisters in our city, nation, and around the world. Especially those who are weak, struggling, or suffering persecution, that they would not grow weary and lose heart. What a great example Peter is of this—Jesus prayed for him that after he turned back, he would strengthen his brothers. He asks no less of us.

And the result of all this? God doesn't promise us time out in any imagined DMZ, but because of His amazing grace, and the fact that He has called us to eternal glory in Christ, He does promise us suffering for "a little while", and then His awesome, personal work of restoration, making us "strong, firm, and steadfast." (1 Peter 5:10) Let it be so, Lord!

Father's Heart *** now open to men and women ***

Every Tuesday, 7:00am, Café Vineyard

The Father's Heart prayer group meets every Tuesday morning to lift up prayer needs of the AVC. Johnny Crist leads prayer for the Atlanta Vineyard and the city of Atlanta. Everyone is welcome!

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

The POWER Orb needs you!

Regardless of your:

- Gifts
- Talents
- Schedule
- Experience

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

Let me know if you're interested!

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

Prayer for re:vision

Every Wednesday, 7:30 - 9:00pm, Norcross

The focus of this prayer gathering is to pray for the young adult ministry ("re:vision"), their leaders, those they have yet to reach, and anything to do with young adults. Everyone is welcome!

Contact: Leah Snyder, 404-275-0927,
leah.snyder@gmail.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!
[October 9th, November 13th, . . .]*

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 . . .

"We always have
God's full attention.
Our part is
to give Him ours."

Eugenia Price
Leave Yourself Alone

