

Fostering Community Through Virtual Prayer

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FOSTERING COMMUNITY THROUGH VIRTUAL PRAYER

I've recently acquired my very own copy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, *Life Together*, a must-read for every Christian who desires to do life in a thriving Christian community, in my humble opinion.

I am thankful to belong to such a community at Arlington Woods, which some feared would have been weakened through the physical distancing in this time of pandemic. I am happy to report that the opposite is true; I see a community strengthened through the nightly practice of meeting for prayer as well as intentionally finding ways to connect. I believe the same is true for many church communities around the world; for what the enemy meant for evil, God has used for good and his glory. ([Ref: Gen 50:20](#))

While not every member of our church gathers each night for prayer, the ones who do are interceding on behalf of the entire church. I believe that the earnest prayers offered up for every person who attends Arlington Woods Church, or those who visit from time to time, will have lasting impact in their lives. Because at the heart of every prayer is a desire to see the church community grow closer to God & each other and be more effective in its outreach to the wider community.

But how has it impacted me?

I can think of at least three specific ways these nightly gatherings have impacted me during this time of isolation:

1. **Enriched Prayer Life** - Listening to the variety of prayers by everyone has helped to enrich my own prayer time as I learn from some of the seasoned prayer warriors of our church community.
2. **Enhanced Faith** - To say that my faith has been stirred would be a huge understatement! As we spend time recounting God's goodness and experience the answers to prayers each night, it bolsters our faith and deepens our trust in God.
3. **Encouragement to Persevere** - I have been challenged to listen, to be comfortable in the silence, to wait and trust God's timing and to keep running the race even when life gets hard knowing that others are praying on my behalf.

So let me invite you to drop in to one of these nightly prayer Zoom meetings; you don't have to say anything or even show your face, but I promise, you will be richly blessed by the prayers of God's people over you as they stand in the gap against this pandemic. (If you are a part of the AWC community, send an email to Alanna for the info to sign in at info@arlingtonwoods.ca)

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