

“For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,”
Colossians 1:9 NIV

Dear Carleton Family in Christ,

I still remember the time when I was able to see my ministries from a different angle. It was a cold afternoon after the Sunday worship service. The church members at Detroit Korean UMC celebrated their pastor’s six-year-long ministry with mixed feelings of gratitude and sorrow at the fellowship hall. Laughter and tears interrupted the order of celebration pleasantly. All confirmed God’s grace with them.

After the farewell, one of the church members followed me and said, “Pastor, since you came to our church, I have prayed for you every morning. I remember all of my pastors in my prayers every single day.” She had been involved in the ministries caring for the elderly members of the church for a long time. She was always reserved and quiet, but she spoke through her compassionate actions. She was well respected and loved by many.

However, I didn’t know that she had prayed for me for the past six years. It was my God-moment that helped me overcome my myopic perspective on ministries and open my heart toward the unseen and unrecognized grace of God in my life and ministry.

After another farewell party at Midland First UMC this year, a church member came to me and said, “Pastor Yum, you have been in my prayers every morning.” She has been battling blood cancer, yet she never loses her smile. She is also a very compassionate lady, always trying to be available to those in need at the church.

That is why John Wesley said in his sermon, *A Plain Account of Christian Perfection* (1725-1777), “[God does nothing but in answer to prayer; and even they who have been converted to God, without praying for it themselves \(which is exceeding rare\), were not without the prayers of others. Every new victory which a soul gains is the effect of a new prayer.](#)”

Prayer is like farming. Prayer is a spiritual action of planting new seeds in the field of our lives. Unless we plant, we harvest no crops. Unless we manage our prayers, our harvest will be fruitless or meager. The good thing about our prayer is this: we can plant seeds for others, too.

Whom are you praying for now? What kinds of spiritual seeds are you planting through your prayers at this time?

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