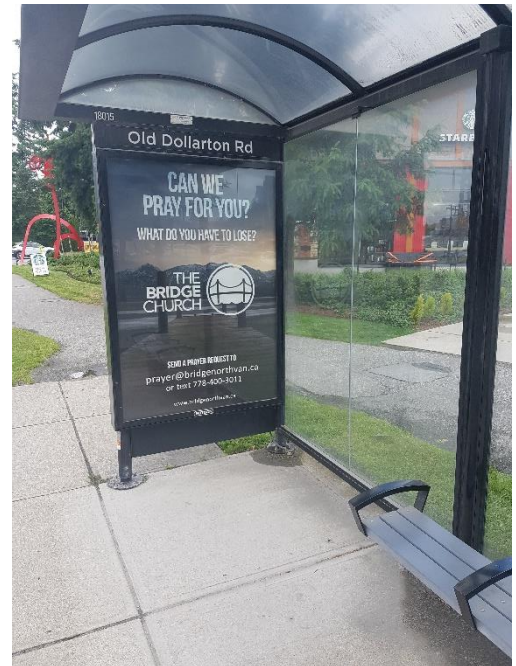


The Bridge Church

From June to July at The Bridge Church, we calibrated a number of elements of our church life to especially emphasize prayer. We held more frequent prayer meetings, taught on prayer in a sermon series, and did a week of 24/7 prayer, with people in our church community signing up for one hour slots around the clock. We also provided additional teaching material on some of the practical questions about prayer through a video series we called "Parallel" (you can watch them here: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLexm5mdO78fS6iCRuu19bq4K_q7gYm-65).

One aspect of our prayer month that required more resources, however, was a campaign to invite prayer requests from people in our wider community. We made it known that anyone who submitted a prayer request would have someone from our church praying for that request every day for the next month. We got the word out by encouraging our own people to share an ad on social media, we advertised ourselves through Facebook and Google, and we also purchased space on three strategic bus stops in our community. (We got a deal on these through a seasonal promotion and as a bonus, some of those ads remained up for months, despite us only paying for one month!) People were directed to our website, where they could fill out a digital "prayer card", to a special email we had set up for this purpose, or to a mobile number (a second number I, Craig, temporarily had on my phone). Over a one month period, we had 26 requests come in, 24 of those from people we had no previous connection with. We had people requesting prayers for addiction, custody battles, mental health struggles, terminal illnesses, bullying issues, friends and family going through difficult times, financial uncertainty, and so on. Some of them requested further follow-up, which meant that we had people in our church connecting with those individuals, praying with them over the phone and keeping in touch with them by text/email. It was amazing to see how God opened doors through this!



We are launching an online Alpha this week, and we've sent out invitations to the people who submitted prayer requests back in the summer to join us. While most haven't responded, a few of them have and said they'd like to participate and dig into who God is. We are excited to see people in our community taking another step towards the Gospel! We can also point to a mom in our neighbourhood who was a believer but disconnected from the church for years. She saw the ads and has since become an integral part of our church community. We praise God for what He's done through us in this way.

Pastor Craig Thiessen
The Bridge Community Church