
Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of January 5, 2014

In the new year we continue the series started in April of last year—aimed to support our “Stepping Out in Faith—for the Sake of the Gospel” initiative. It is based on *The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible* by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale House, 2003). We will focus on specific topics that relate to faith, witness, prayer and outreach. “The driving force behind this proposal is to increase our evangelistic witness and the impact on our neighborhood and community.” (From the overview document, available at www.evbapt.org/docs/steppingOut.pdf)

Safe in Him—A Promise for the New Year

You can be sure of this: The Lord has set apart the godly for himself. The Lord will answer when I call to him. . . . Many people say, “Who will show us better times?” Let the smile of your face shine on us, Lord. You have given me greater joy than those who have abundant harvests of grain and wine. I will lie down in peace and sleep, for you alone, O Lord, will keep me safe.

Psalm 4:3, 6-8

Prayer for the Week

Lord, thank you for setting apart each of us to know you and for answering when I call to you. Let the smile of your countenance shine on me this day. Grant me joy in Christ and peace in your presence, even before a turnaround or harvest comes. And when the night falls, grant me to “lie down in peace and sleep,” for you alone keep me safe.

Notable Quote

Talk to Him in prayer of all your wants, your troubles, even of the weariness you feel in serving Him. You cannot speak too freely, too trustfully to Him.

François Fénelon (1651-1715)

Reflection

In this psalm David proclaimed his faith in God’s ability to answer him when he was pursued and slandered by his enemies. David’s experiences with God had taught him that he did not have to wait to praise God until he was enjoying “better times.” Though David was weary and may have been spending the night in a cave as he fled his enemies and didn’t know the outcome of the danger he was in, his trust produced joy that was greater than the joy experienced by those celebrating a great harvest. And he could then lie down in peace and sleep because he knew God alone would keep him safe. What situation or problem could steal your sleep and your peace and joy? Call on the living God, who will answer when you call to him. And remember that you can close your eyes and rest because God’s eyes never close. The One who never sleeps cares for you personally and watches over you.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Thank God for the assurance of the safety you find in him. Praise him for specific instances in the past year that reflect that truth and lay before him situations you are facing in 2014 (or will face as the year unfolds) for which this promise will allow you to “lie down in peace and sleep.”
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s worship service, the music, Scripture, and Pastor Dave’s message*, “We Saw His Glory” (John 1:14) as he continues this study of John begun during Advent. Pray for opportunities to apply these lessons throughout the week, especially among those with whom the Lord could use you to nudge them one step closer to faith in Christ.
- Continue to pray for our “Stepping Out in Faith” initiative: for the identification of a church planter, for unity and commitment as we seek to bring success to this evangelistic effort by growing ourselves. Pray for Mark Albrecht of Converge Mid-America as he seeks the Lord’s direction to find the best person for the Wheaton area—and for the contact Pastor Dave had with one potential planter in the area. In the meantime, renew your dedication to meet Bill France’s challenge to pray that God will lead 25 adults and 50 children to Evangel—a seemingly impossible task! But not impossible for God! Pray that he will both keep Evangel safe *and* bring a great harvest of new people in 2014!

**A podcast of the sermon, plus pdf documents of the sermon outline and PowerPoint notes are posted on the website, normally by Monday.*

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday and normally posted on the website (www.evbapt.org) by Saturday.

Printed copies are available in the lobby on Sunday.