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## Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

### For the week of February 2, 2014

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This series is 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](http://www.evbapt.org/docs/steppingOut.pdf) )

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### **God's Watchful Attention**

I am praying to you because I know you will answer, O God. Bend down and listen as I pray. Show me your unfailing love in wonderful ways. You save with your strength those who seek refuge from their enemies. Guard me as the apple of your eye. Hide me in the shadow of your wings.

*Psalm 17:6-8*

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#### **Prayer for the Week**

Lord, you are the God who cares for us watchfully and attunes your ears to our prayers, simply because we are your children. I ask that you show me your unfailing love today in whatever unexpected, wonderful ways you choose. I draw near to you and seek refuge from my enemies. Thank you for hiding me in the shadow of your wings. You guard me and give me life because I am the apple of your eye. Thank you for your tender, fatherly love.

#### **Notable Quote**

Entrust yourself to God, as a child would entrust himself to his father. You will find that even in the darkest hour he will not let you fall.

*Mother Basilea Schlink (1904-2001)*

#### **Reflection**

In this prayer psalm David uses two vivid word pictures to invoke God's help for the danger that was pressing on him. "Guard me as the apple of your eye," he says. He is asking the Lord to keep his eye on him, to show his love by guarding David with his watchful attention. David's request "Hide me in the shadow of your wings" compares God's protection to the way a mother bird cares for and shields her own babies from danger in gathering them under her spread wings to hide them from predators.

David rested his petitions on the fact that God's very nature is to be loving, watchful, and protective. As you read these verses aloud, picture yourself as that little bird safe under God's wings. When we rest in his presence and protection, we can trust in God's care and infinite, unconditional love for us this day as well as in the days to come.

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### **PRAYER PROMPTS**

- Continue to remember one family from your circle of influence for intercession. They could be a neighbor, coworker or relative. Pray for their struggles to be resolved, their health improved and their relationships strengthened. Ask the Lord to bring them to a fuller, closer relationship with Himself in faith and obedience.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to invite people to our services. Ask the Lord to open doors of conversation, connection or compassion with others to enable an offer of attendance.
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday's worship service, the music, Scripture, and Pastor Dave's last message from John 1\*, "Son of God, Sovereign of Israel, Stairway to Heaven" (John 1:43-51). Pray for opportunities to apply these lessons throughout the week, particularly Jesus' encouragement for us to serve.
- 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 persistently that God will bring a great harvest 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.*

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*Touch Points* is e-mailed every Friday and normally posted on the website ([www.evbapt.org](http://www.evbapt.org)) by Saturday.

Printed copies are available in the lobby on Sunday.