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## Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

### For the week of February 16, 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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### Promised Help

The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right; his ears are open to their cries for help. . . . The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those who are crushed in spirit. *Psalm 34: 15, 17-18*

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#### Prayer for the Week

Lord, it is such a comfort to know that your eyes watch over me and that your ears hear my cries for help. Thank you for hearing my cries, for rescuing me when I am crushed in spirit. You are always close to the brokenhearted, to those who are in dire straits. I praise you for the hope and courage your promises give me when I am face-to-face with the most difficult of circumstances!

#### Notable Quote

God puts his ear so closely down to your lips that he can hear your faintest whisper. It is not God away off up yonder; it is God away down here, close up—so close up that when you pray to him, it is not more a whisper than a kiss.

*Thomas De Witt Talmage (1832-1902)*

#### Reflection

Someone once said that when we sail through life without a trial or a sorrow, we may slide by without knowing Jesus, but in our suffering we discover true fellowship with him. God never promised us a problem-free Christian life, but this psalm gives us several assurances about how God responds to us when troubles come. He promises his watch care, his attentiveness to our cries for help, his closeness, and his deliverance. Even the fact that we are counted among "those who do right," or "the righteous," and are thus eligible to receive this promised assurance is a result of the finished work of Christ on the cross. No matter what we are going through today, these are powerful reasons for praise. So speak to God, for he hears you. And remember, when your heart is breaking, he is most close to and he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

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### PRAYER PROMPTS

- Who do you know who is in "dire straits" or is "crushed in spirit"? Pray through this week's thoughts with that person specifically in mind. Ask the Lord for an opportunity to share these thoughts, give a word of encouragement, and offer to pray for or with the person as appropriate.
- 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 message from his new series on Exodus, "Let My People Go: I Have Plans for Them" (Exodus 1:1-14)\*. Pray for opportunities to apply these lessons throughout the week.
- 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.