
Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of March 2, 2014

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)

Praying Specifically

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked. "Teacher," the blind man said, "I want to see!"
And Jesus said to him, "Go your way. Your faith has healed you." And instantly the blind man could see!
Mark 10:51-52

Prayer for the Week

Lord, help me to follow as your precious Spirit leads me to pray about the deep longings of my heart . . . for your glory. Thank you for caring about every detail of my heart and my life. I long to please you, Lord, in every request I make before your throne of grace.

Notable Quote

God sees to it that when the whole man prays, in turn the whole man shall be blessed.

E. M. Bounds (1835-1913)

Reflection

When the blind beggar Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was nearby, he cried out for mercy and compassion. But as soon as Bartimaeus came to Jesus, Christ led him to be even more specific in his request by asking, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man, in only a few words, prayed the most heartfelt prayer: "Teacher, I want to see!" In complete faith he asked for God's healing because the Lord had led him to ask. Jesus prompted the man's request by asking him to speak his heart's desire.

Christ asks you the same question: *What do you, [your name], want me to do for you?* When we approach God in prayer, he wants us to come with as much wholehearted desire and longing as Bartimaeus had and to trust him for the answer. As his Spirit leads us in praying more specifically and honestly, we will begin to see and be awed by his grace, goodness, and glory. The faith that it takes to voice sincere, deeply felt, and earnest prayers places us in a position to experience great and mighty things from a great and mighty God.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- As we approach our Day of Prayer on Wednesday, use this week's thoughts as a reminder of the need to be as specific as possible in intercession...and to make your praise for answered prayer just as specific. Too often we pray in broad generalities, so strive for "the faith that it takes to voice sincere, deeply felt, [very specific], and earnest prayers."
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday's worship service, the music, Scripture, and Nimrod Tica's message "Renewing Our Passion for God.* Pray for opportunities to apply these lessons throughout the week, within your own circle of influence and beyond.
- 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.
- 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 and any other related materials will be posted on the website 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.