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## Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of March 30, 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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### Freedom from Fear

I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me, freeing me from all my fears. Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces.

Psalm 34:4-5

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#### Prayer for the Week

Lord, I give you all my fears and look to you for help. Do a deep work in my heart concerning those things that strike fear in me. I know that your perfect love will cast out all my fears. Thank you for your promise to answer me when I call to you, to free me from fear and shame, and to make me radiant with joy.

#### Notable Quote

Fear imprisons, faith liberates; fear paralyzes, faith encourages; fear sickens, faith heals; fear makes useless, faith makes serviceable—and, most of all, fear puts hopelessness at the heart of life, while faith rejoices in its God.

*Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969)*

#### Reflection

These verses tell us that although fear is a normal, human reaction to danger or crisis, God has an antidote for our fear. We may fear death, failure, or people. We may be frightened about taking a new step, fearful of suffering, or anxious about what may happen tomorrow. Whatever the circumstances, we don't have to be ashamed of being afraid or stuff our fears down inside and try to look brave. The very fear that plagues us can cause us to press into God's presence. He invites us to pray to him and lay down our fears instead of being paralyzed by them, to fear and revere him (David mentions this fifteen times in Psalm 34) instead of anything or anyone else. An amazing thing happens when we give God our fears; in return for our fears he infuses us with faith, hope, and love. As F. B. Meyer said, "God incarnate is the end of fear; and the heart that realizes that he is in the midst . . . will be quiet in the midst of alarm."

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#### PRAYER PROMPTS

- What fears do you need to turn over to God so that he can build your faith, hope, and love? Are there others you know who need to hear and heed this message. If so, pray for opportunities to share this message with them.
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday's worship service, the music, Scripture, and Pastor Dave's message from his series on Exodus, "Let My People Go: When My Servant Returns" (Exodus 2:13-22)\*. 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. Praise the Lord for ways he is meeting our requests, often in surprising ways. 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.