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## Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of April 13, 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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### **Rocks Won't Take My Place!**

Some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, "Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!"

He replied, "If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!"

Luke 19:39-40

(These verses end Luke's description of the **Triumphal Entry**, which we celebrate today on **Palm Sunday**)

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

Jesus, no rock will ever take my place in worship! I thank you for your love for me. I praise you for faith that is real and deep. I praise you for your Holy Spirit and for the Word that teaches me. I will not be quiet and keep my love for you hidden. Just as the disciples called out your name, I will praise you, for I serve an amazing and wonderful Savior.

#### **Notable Quote**

Prepare the way! A God, a God appears!  
A God, a God! The vocal hills reply,  
The rocks proclaim th' approaching deity.  
Lo, earth receives him from the bending  
skies!

*Alexander Pope (1688-1744)*

#### **Reflection**

When Jesus, on the back of a colt, rode past the crowd, the disciples broke into enthusiastic shouts of praise. They believed their Messiah deserved a crown, but the crown of thrones that lay ahead was not what they envisioned. Perhaps the disciples did not fully understand the majesty of Jesus, but their unabashed love for him was a balm as he prepared for the events ahead. The Pharisees were embarrassed by this loud display of affection and attempted to quiet the disciples. But Christ rebuked the Pharisees and pointed to the stones on the ground. He announced that even they would burst into cheers if his followers failed to praise him. Can you imagine a rock breaking out in a hymn or song? What if the towering mountains and deep caverns shouted his praises? What if the gravel on the road danced before him? Rocks are versatile, but there is one thing that rocks should never do: they should not take our place in worship, for it is we who were created to praise! Will a rock take your place? Determine today to do your part to worship almighty God!

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#### **PRAYER PROMPTS**

- Has your worship ever been stifled or so subdued that a rock would be more expressive than you? Reflect on the words of this week's Touch Points and the lessons of Holy Week as we consider the reason for our worship. We should be so awestruck by the work of God through Christ—and our resulting salvation—that we cannot keep quiet!
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday's worship service, the music, Scripture, and Nimrod Tica's message "Through it All"\*. Pray for opportunities to apply these lessons throughout the week, within your own circle of influence and beyond. Pray for Pastor Dave and Pastor Edward as they prepare for our joint Easter celebration with First Russian Baptist Church, especially as both divide time between church and family (Pastor Dave caring for Jennie as she recovers from knee surgery, Pastor Edward caring his father following heart surgery).
- 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: pray especially this week for follow-up to last week's Assessment Center and the one person who is a potential candidate to be the church planter we seek. Continue to pray for new people to join us—and praise the Lord for the evidence of that, with new women in Coffeebreak, recent visitors on Sunday, and the Lord's work among the growing number who make use of our facilities: our own Saturday morning basketball ministry; First Russian Baptist Church; EDGE; DCFS training (on hiatus for the time being); and the potential connection with Karen Church, a congregation of people from Myamar (Burma).

\*A podcast of the sermon and any sermon notes will be 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.