
Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of April 20, 2014 (Easter Sunday)

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)

I Have Good News!

All have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet now God in his gracious kindness declares us not guilty. He has done this through Jesus, who has freed us by taking away our sins.

Romans 3:23-24

Prayer for the Week

Savior, every day people who are hurting and lost surround me. Help me to share the good news that you are the Christ and that you have set us free! Lord, if there are those in my life who are crying out to you, open my spiritual eyes that I might see, and give me the courage to share the gospel message with them.

Notable Quote

Jesus Christ is God's everything for man's total need.

Richard Halverson (1916-1995)

Reflection

As the song "Amazing Grace" resounded in the sanctuary, a woman on the front pew wept with joy. It seemed only yesterday that she had sat in a prison cell, shaking as her body suffered from withdrawal. She remembered crying out to a God she didn't know, hoping that someone would hear her prayers. In that dark hour God sent women from a local church to tell her the good news that Christ could heal her and take away her sins. One year later she was not only free from the four walls of prison, but God had healed her of a ten-year addiction.

When the women entered the prison that first day, they felt shy, inadequate, and unsure in that environment but confident in God. And they were God's answer to the prisoner's prayers. Many times we feel inadequate to reach out to others. We make the gospel cumbersome or complicated and fear sharing it. Yet it is a simple message: God in his declared us not guilty. We are free from sin through Jesus Christ. We encounter many every day who are crying out to a God they do not know, hoping someone will hear their prayers. Let's share the Good News!

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Easter Sunday we celebrate the miracle of Christ's resurrection, which is the heart of the Good News. Pray for opportunities to share that Good News with someone this week.
- Thank the Lord for the opportunity to worship together with our friends from First Russian Baptist Church. Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from the Easter service, the music, Scripture, and Pastor Dave's message "He Arose"*. 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: 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 Myanmar (Burma).

*A podcast of the sermon and any sermon notes will be posted on the website, normally 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.