
Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of May 18, 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)

This week's Touch Points is dedicated to Yvanna Tica, who will express her faith in Christ
"in front of all the people" through baptism.

In Front of All the People

I will thank you, Lord, in front of all the people. I will sing your praises among the nations. For your unfailing love is higher than the heavens. Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens. May your glory shine over all the earth.

Psalm 108:3-5

Prayer for the Week

Thank you, Father, for your unfailing love. I praise you for your faithfulness. Be exalted above the highest heavens. May your glory shine over all the earth. Strengthen me so that I am secure in your love and faithfulness. Help me to thank you and praise you in front of all people and among the nations so that your name will be glorified.

Notable Quote

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Thomas Ken (1637-1711)

Reflection

Identifying with Jesus "in front of all the people" is sometimes quite difficult and often unpopular. Singing praises in church or Sunday school is one thing, but singing his praises among the nations is another issue altogether. The psalmist's declarations of praise can cause each one of us to think about our love for the Lord and the extent to which we will go to identify ourselves with him. God's love is absolutely and completely unfailing, and his faithfulness is so great that if we could measure it, it would reach to the clouds. Do you exalt God above the highest heavens? We serve a wonderful, loving, faithful, glorious God. Let us be like the writer of the psalm—unashamed to thank him in front of all the people and to sing his praises everywhere. May we not be embarrassed to lift up the Lord in every situation and at any time and to do whatever we can to cause his glory to shine over all the earth.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Praise God for Yvanna's desire to express her faith through baptism. Pray that the Lord will lead her as she matures to become a vibrant women of faith, following in the footsteps of Christ-following family and friends. Pray, too, that this will be a reminder to all us of our need to be prepared to sing His praises "in front of all the people." (Which is related to this week's sermon).
- Reflect on this week's worship service, the music, Scriptures, and Pastor Dave's sermon "Let My People Go...I Will Work Through You" (Exodus 4:10-17). * Pray for direction in the application of truths and practical lessons.
- 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, along with PDF files of the sermon outline and PowerPoint 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.