
Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of May 25, 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)

A reminder on this Memorial Day weekend to reflect on those who have given their lives to preserve our freedom and peace, while recognizing that true peace comes only through Jesus Christ.

A Gift of Peace

[Jesus said,] "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give you isn't like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid.

John 14:27

Prayer for the Week

Jesus, thank you for the peace of mind and heart that you provide for me. In the midst of my circumstances, I want to receive peace for my life. I love you for overcoming the world through your work on the cross. Help me to keep my eyes fixed firmly on you and to enter into your peace.

Notable Quote

A great many people are trying to make peace, but that has already been done. God has not left it for us to do; all we have to do is enter into it.

D. L. Moody (1837-1899)

Reflection

Jesus knew that as long as we live on planet Earth, there will be things that can disturb our peace and cause us to be troubled or afraid. All we have to do is turn on the news or open a newspaper to see countless reasons for us to be troubled. Remember the scares related to Y2K, and UFOs, and mad-cow disease? Violence, terrorism, and the threat of biochemical warfare? The hormones doctors thought would protect women's hearts have been shown not to do so. Food is tainted with pesticides. It's easy to see that this world and its circumstances won't give us the peace our hearts long for. But we don't have to live in a state of despair. Jesus has left us with a great gift—peace of mind and heart right in the middle of this troubled world. It doesn't come from positive thinking or repeating affirming mantras but from the person of Jesus Christ, who said, "Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). We can enter into his peace because he has already provided a way through the Cross.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- On this Memorial Day weekend, pray especially for the families of those who have lost their lives serving in the recent conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan and other trouble spots around the world. Pray that there will be opportunities to bless them with the gift of peace found in Jesus Christ through chaplains and Christ-followers among service personnel and their families.
- Reflect on this week's worship service, the music, Scriptures, and Pastor Dave's sermon "Let My People Go...Israel is My Son" (Exodus 4:18-23). * 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.