
Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of June 29, 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 God Who Rescues

Jehoahaz prayed for the Lord's help, and the Lord heard his prayer. The Lord could see how terribly the king of Aram was oppressing Israel. So the Lord raised up a deliverer to rescue the Israelites from the tyranny of the Arameans. Then Israel lived in safety again as they had in former days.

2 Kings 13:4-5

Prayer for the Week

Lord, I thank you that your ear is open to the cry of your children and that you will act on our behalf. With that knowledge, we don't ever have to hesitate to cry out to you for your help and intervention in our lives. What a wonderful Father you are!

Notable Quote

Prayer is weakness leaning on omnipotence.

W. S. Bowden

Reflection

Jehoahaz, king of Israel, lived an evil life. He committed all the sins of Jeroboam and continued leading the nation into the sin of idolatry. So the Lord had turned the people of Israel over to be oppressed by the Arameans. But even though Jehoahaz had been a failure and disobedient to God as a king, when he sought the Lord's help, God heard. And seeing the terrible oppression Israel was living under, he intervened. He raised up a deliverer and savior (a foreshadowing of Christ), one who rescued them from tyranny, and Israel once again lived in safety and peace.

If God will do this for an evil king and an idolatrous nation when they call out to him, how much more will he hear and respond to prayers of his children, who are reconciled to him because of the sacrifice of our savior, Jesus.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Praise God that he rescues those who call on him, sometimes not because they cry out from pure hearts, but because they recognize their need for him in the midst of sinful behavior. As we approach the July 4 holiday, ask God to preserve the freedom of religion that we still enjoy and pray that he will preserve it while rescuing America from its many sins—starting with repentance within his church and then to revival throughout the land.
- Reflect on this week's worship service, the music, Scriptures, and Pastor Dave's sermon "Let My People Go...I Keep My Promise (Exodus 6:1-5).* 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: praise God that Joel Jupp has joined our staff and pray that God will use him as he partners with Pastor Dave in the area of worship. Continue in prayer for the efforts of Mark Albrecht and Converge MidAmerica to secure the right person to lead a church plant from our facilities, aimed at increasing evangelism in our area.

*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.