
Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of July 13, 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 a call to daily prayer for Vacation Bible School, with its theme
"Weird Animals...Where Jesus' Love is One-of-a-Kind"

A Familiar Voice

The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need. He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.

Psalm 23:1-3

Prayer for the Week

It is comforting to know that I am not alone in the journey called life. God, I thank you that you are ever vigilant, watching over me, meeting with me in the morning, and abiding with me through the night. May I always respond to your voice and stay close to you. I gladly follow you as you call my name!

Notable Quote

Lord, help me to remember that nothing is going to happen today that you and I cannot handle.

Unknown

Reflection

In the eastern tradition, a shepherd walks at the head of the flock. This is much different from the western tradition of driving the sheep from behind. The shepherd calls the flock out of the pen in the early morning to quench their thirst. He then guides them to green pastures, taking them around the rocky places where they might stumble. He assists the tiny and fragile sheep by lifting them with the crook of his staff. He runs his hand over the sheep as they enter the pen, counting them and ensuring that they have returned from the pasture unharmed. Then the shepherd settles in for the night to watch for predators. How awesome that Jesus is our shepherd. He will lead us to living water and guide us along the right path even when the way is rocky. He carries us when we stumble and watches over us during the dark nights of our lives, making us feel secure. All that he asks is that we respond to his voice and follow him.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Reflect on this week's worship service, the music, Scriptures, and Pastor Dave's sermon "I Will Follow You"* (Matthew 8:18-22). Pray for direction in the application of truths and practical lessons.
- Pray for VBS each day this week. In general:
 - Ask God's blessing on Bridgette Ecklund as she directs VBS, intern Tori Albarracin as she assists, along with a good number of adult and youth volunteers who will "shepherd" groups of children, lead in Bible teaching, supervise crafts and games, provide snacks, and help in other ways.
 - Pray for a good number of children (the last few years there have been about 40-45). See the next bullet more for a daily focus.
 - Praise God for Ginny Jupp's desire to connect with parents, and pray that he will enable her to not only meet, but exceed, her goal of being able to invite three for follow-up conversations. Pray that those conversations will serve the spiritual needs of individuals/families while also providing an invitation for families with young children to become part of the Evangel family.
 - Pray for a successful effort in raising money to help Haitian children through Global Compassion Network.
- Each day, pray for God's blessing on the children, their parents, and the VBS staff, as they focus on:
 - "Even When You're Left Out...Jesus Loves You" (Monday)
 - "Even Though You're Different...Jesus Loves You" (Tuesday)
 - "Even When You Don't Understand...Jesus Loves You" (Wednesday)
 - "Even When You Do Wrong...Jesus Loves You" (Thursday)
 - "Even When You Are Afraid...Jesus Loves You" (Friday)

*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.