
Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of July 27, 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)

Christ in You

This is the secret: Christ lives in you, and this is your assurance that you will share in his glory.

Colossians 1:27

Prayer for the Week

Dear God, as I walk through this day, may I be aware of the fact that Jesus is actually living in me by his Spirit. I don't begin to understand how that can be, but help me to realize that your presence in me is a reality and my only life and hope. In that knowledge, grant me the freedom to enjoy this time together with you.

Notable Quote

True peace is found by man in the depths of his own heart, the dwelling place of God.

Johann Tauler (ca. 1300-1361)

Reflection

Here is the heart of Christianity, which distinguishes it from every other religion in the world. It is not simply some universal spirit of goodness dwelling in humanity that we must strive to realize. Nor is it a set of rules and regulations that will bring us into union with our creator. The only hope and assurance we have of that eternal life, that object of the human quest, is what God himself has given us in Christ.

If we have accepted the gift of our Maker, forgiveness of sin and new life through Jesus Christ, we can begin to live each day in intimate fellowship with him. That goal is no longer unattainable or hindered by our human weakness. It is an accomplished reality. Because of Christ, God's dwelling place is not somewhere on the other side of the cosmos. He inhabits the spirits of those who have been "born of God," and continually calls to us, "Come unto me."

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Reflect on this week's worship service, the music, Scriptures, and Pastor Dave's sermon "Follow Me: Like This..."* (Matthew 9:9-17), part of his Summer Encore series. How does this week's Touch Points relate to the sermon? Pray for direction in the application of truths and practical lessons.
- Pray for continued follow-up to this year's VBS:
 - a. Pray for ongoing results—that the children will have been touched, inspired, and challenged by the stories, songs, Bible verses, and other activities—and that these will have an impact on their lives now and far into the future.
 - b. Thanks the Lord for connections made by Ginny Jupp and pray for successful follow-up with these families (primarily through the mother). Pray that some will be drawn to Evangel as a place to call their church home; that we would be blessed by the addition of families with children.
- 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. Remember Joel as he finishes his time at Asbury Seminary for residency work in his doctoral program, and looks forward to returning to his family and to Evangel next Sunday. 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.