
Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of August 3, 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)

Draw Near

My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk to me." And my heart responds, "Lord, I am coming."

Psalm 27:8

Prayer for the Week

Lord, give me such a desire for you that I will run to you right away when you say, "Come." Help me to be willing to lay aside my to-do lists and to come into your presence and talk with you. Tune my ears to your voice, and make my heart sensitive to your nudgings.

Notable Quote

God often visits us, but most of the time we are not at home.

Danish proverb

Reflection

When the Lord calls us to draw near to his throne of grace, to pray or wait on him, how often we respond, *Lord, I'm busy. I have so much to do today. I don't have time for prayer.* When his Spirit whispers someone's name to our hearts and nudges us to intercede for that person or make a phone call, we think, *I'll do that later when I've got everything done or get caught up on my sleep.* Our intentions may be good, but then in the crush of tasks and activities, we forget prayer.

A life ruled by to-do lists and Day-Timers instead of by God's Spirit robs us of the intimacy with him that he wants us to experience. But when we respond, "Yes, Lord, I am coming!" to God's gentle whispers, we are open to the life-giving power of the Lord's Spirit and his grace, and help flows not only into our own life but also into the lives of others as we pray on their behalf.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Reflect on this week's worship service, the music, Scriptures, and Pastor Dave's sermon "The Church: Beginning and Becoming..."* (Revelation 3:1-6), part of his Summer Encore series, with a focus on the Holy Spirit. How does this week's Touch Points relate to the sermon and other elements of the service? Did the focus of drawing near to God help prepare you for the communion service? Pray for direction in the application of truths and practical lessons.
- Pray for the contacts made by Ginny Jupp during VBS, that they will yield fruitful discussions for spiritual development and the possibility of new families becoming part of Evangel.
- 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: for Joel Jupp as he returns from Asbury Seminary to resume his new role as Worship Assistant. 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.