
Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of August 10, 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)

Seeing Clearly

Everyone knows that you are obedient to the Lord. This makes me very happy. I want you to see clearly what is right and to stay innocent of any wrong.

Romans 16:19

Prayer for the Week

Dear Father, how I long to travel life's road seeing clearly and living innocent of wrong. Help me to depend completely on the light of your Son, Jesus, who helps me see the path you have for me and through the truth of your Word leads me gently on it.

Notable Quote

God wants us to feel that our way through life is rough and perplexing, so that we may learn thankfully to lean on him. Therefore, he takes steps to drive us out of self-confidence to trust in himself.

J. I. Packer

Reflection

Imagine driving down a winding mountain road through thick fog without your headlights on. As you inch forward, you strain to see the road through the gloom in hopes of not making a wrong move and careening off the mountain. It's a frightening picture, isn't it? Yet we sometimes travel the road of life in the same way, moving forward with our own agenda and relationships but without the light of God's Word and prayer to guide us. In Paul's final words to the Romans in this chapter, he advises them to stay away from false teachers and smooth-talking people, to steer clear of evil, and to follow the truth. How can they do this! The same way we do today: by asking God to help us see clearly what is right and by being obedient to the Lord. The good news is that we aren't left to accomplish such a daunting task on our own. Jesus Christ, as the One who lights up the world at large also lights our own personal paths as well. He gave us his Word to help us live "innocent of any wrong" and gives us his Spirit to lead us into all truth.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Packer's quote presents a view of God that many people cannot accept. Prayerfully reflect on this week's topic and relate your own experience to it, thanking God if you have experienced the trust Packer says is the outcome, or praying that God will lead you to that level of trust.
- Reflect on this week's worship service, the music, Scriptures, and Pastor Dave's sermon "The Church: Becoming..."* (Revelation 3:14-22), part of his Summer Encore series, with a focus on a faith that is noticed in life and noted in eternity. 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.