
Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of September 7, 2014

Touch Points returns after a two week break while Jodie and I moved from our home of more than forty years near the Wheaton College campus to a townhouse in Dartmouth Village in Wheaton, not far from Evangel. Now, with *The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible* unpacked, my office set up, and internet service finally restored, I look forward to providing these reflections, and pray that at least some of them will resonate with the circumstances in your life. —*Stu Johnson, editor*

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)

Beware of Being Surprised

I am not surprised! Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light.

2 Corinthians 11:14

Prayer for the Week

How precious and perfect are your Word and your ways, O Lord. I pray that my relationship with you through the shed blood of Christ will be strong and that your Word will grow deep in in my heart. Then the enemy's deceptions will not take me by surprise. I will recognize him for who he is, the father of lies.

Notable Quote

The devil never sleeps, and your flesh is very much alive. Prepare yourself for battle. Surrounding you are enemies that never rest.

Thomas a Kempis

Reflection

"Surprise!" Usually we use this expression in the context of something exciting and wondrous or in the unveiling of something amazing. Yet [this week's] Scripture verse used the word *surprised* to mean, "I am not . . . overwhelmed, puzzled, or shocked." Paul was clearly stating his inability to be caught off guard by Satan and his deceptive ways of twisting and tainting the truth. "An angel of light" refers to the fact that Satan can appear disguised as a messenger of truth, but there is no truth in him. Just as bank employees learn to detect counterfeit bills by painstakingly poring over authentic ones, we learn to perceive the enemy by acquainting ourselves deeply with the ways of our Father. So beware of being surprised! Be alert and on guard. Arm yourself with God's Word, and learn his ways so that in the day or hour when you are a target for Satan's deception, you will not fall for his trickery but will instead see and know the truth.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Pray for a relationship with God that is so authentic that you will not be surprised by the counterfeit of Satan posing as an angel of light. Pray this for the Evangel family, as well as individuals you know who may be struggling with Satan as counterfeit.
- Reflect on this week's worship service, the music, Scriptures, and Pastor Dave's sermon "Let My People Go—Or Be Overcome*" (Exodus 7:14-25), as he continues the series on Exodus by looking at the first of the ten plagues. 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. Pray for Joel Jupp as he develops his new role as Worship Assistant in partnership with Pastor Dave. 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.