
Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of September 21, 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)

Morning Joy

As for me, I will sing about your power. I will shout with joy each morning because of your unfailing love. For you have been my refuge, a place of safety in the day of distress.

Psalm 59:16

Prayer for the Week

Lord, "morning by morning new mercies I see." I want to begin today to sing about your power and to bless your name each morning. Thank you for being my place of safety in the day of distress. I praise you for this new day. May I rest in your powerful arms today and sing of your mercies once again tomorrow.

Notable Quote

You don't learn to praise in a day, especially since you may have been complaining for years! New habits take time to develop, but you can begin today, and practice tomorrow, and the next day, until it becomes part of you.

Erwin W. Lutzer

Reflection

David always seemed to find something to sing about. No matter how perilous his situation, no matter how many enemies were chasing him, he had a song of praise for this King. He lived with an awareness that it was God who saved him in his day of distress when his life was threatened. It was God—and God alone—who kept him safe. He knew his place of refuge was in the powerful arms of God. That is why he wanted to sing.

How fitting and marvelous it is for us to greet each new day with a song in our hearts because of God's unfailing love in our lives, because each day is a gift from him. We can remember the things he has gotten us through and his promised presence for every day of our life. Realizing anew God's grace and love stirs such emotion in our spirits that songs of praise may seem to burst forth and lead us to rest in the powerful arms of God in times of distress. What a way to start the day—joyfully resting in the mighty arms of God!

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Take time each day this week to "shout with joy each morning because of your unfailing love." Combine this with the challenge from Dr. Jim Wilhoit in LIF@E Time last Sunday to develop habits of expressing gratitude and savoring things, in this case the reality of the unfailing love of God.
- Reflect on this week's worship service, the music, Scriptures, and Pastor Dave's sermon "Let My People Go—For I Answer Prayer"* (Exodus 8:1-15), as he continues his series on Exodus. 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 Leader 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.