
Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of October 5, 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)

A Hunger for His Word

Your words are what sustain me. They bring me great joy and are my heart's delight,
for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty.

Jeremiah 15:16

Prayer for the Week

Lord, thank you for your holy and powerful Word! Build in me a deeper hunger for it and reliance on it day by day. Lead me as I consume your instructions, promises and testimonies. Through them you will sustain me, and they will be my joy and my heart's delight.

Notable Quote

One of the highest and noblest functions of man's mind is to listen to God's Word, and so to read His mind and think His thoughts after Him.

John R. W. Stott

Reflection

Depending on people's eating habits and the version of the Bible they are using, they might misunderstand the meaning of this verse. The *New International Version* translates the first sentence, "When your words came, I ate them." The Hebrew word translated "ate" means "to devour," "to eat up," or "to consume." God is instructing us in this verse to approach his Word with a hearty appetite . . . a burning hunger. His words, our manna, are there for us to feast on every day. But as with Jeremiah, we must choose each day to meditate on his instructions and promises, for it is only in reading and following God's Word that we find true joy. When we daily rely on the nutrition of God's words, we will say as the psalmist did, "The laws of the Lord . . . are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb" (Psalm 19:9-10). We will be sustained by his Word day by day and will experience joy. If you don't have this kind of hunger and dependence on God's Word, ask him to make this a reality in your life.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- How are your "eating habits" when it comes to God's Word? Can you praise God for a hearty appetite, or do you need to pray for the Spirit's leading you to develop such an appetite for the Word?
- Reflect on this week's worship service, the music, Scriptures, and Pastor Dave's sermon "Let My People Go—Into the Light"* (Exodus 10:21-29), as he continues his series on Exodus. Pray for direction in the application of truths and practical lessons.
- Thank the Lord for Evangel's long history of involvement with missions, particularly since many of the current and former missionaries we have supported have had a direct connection to Evangel. Pray that God will bless us and the missionaries we support as we begin a special focus on missions this week.
- 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. 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.