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## Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of October 12, 2014

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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](http://www.evbapt.org/docs/steppingOut.pdf) )

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### Spiritual Lessons

Always be joyful. Keep on praying. No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. Do not stifle the Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-19

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#### Prayer for the Week

Lord, help me to understand that you are truly causing all things to work together for my good this very day. I want to be obedient to what your Word asks of me. I cannot do this on my own. But in your Spirit's power, I can do what you tell me to do. May you be my joy, and enable me to be aware of your presence with me continually in Jesus.

#### Notable Quote

Pray and never faint, is the motto Christ gives us for praying. It is the test of our faith, and the more severe the trial and the longer the waiting, the more glorious the results.

*E. M. Bounds*

#### Reflection

When spiritual directives such as Paul gives us here confront us—always be joyful, always be thankful no matter what happens—our natural response is, "That's impossible!" We tend to feel inadequate and unable to please God. How can we rejoice in tragedy, pray when we are otherwise occupied, or be thankful in times of adversity? The key is in Paul's next words: "Do not stifle the Holy Spirit."

The purpose of our existence is not simply to be "good" people. God has laid hold of and redeemed us for the purpose of forming us into his likeness as we walk through the experiences of this life with him. We are to become a dwelling place for his Spirit. Our challenge is learning to let him do the impossible through us! He is using everything in our lives to teach us that apart from him we can do nothing but through his Spirit we can do all things, even rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in everything.

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### PRAYER PROMPTS

- How do measure up to this week's thoughts? Can you praise God for the ability to live in joy despite your circumstances or do you need to ask forgiveness and guidance because you stifle the Holy Spirit?
- Reflect on this week's worship service, the music, Scriptures, and Troy Cady's sermon "re:creation."\* Pray for direction in the application of truths and practical lessons from both the worship and Troy's presentation in LIF@E Time.
- 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 continue our 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.

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\*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.