
Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of November 16, 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)

Keep on Praying

Are any among you suffering? They should keep on praying about it. And those who have reason to be thankful should continually sing praises to the Lord.

James 5:13

Prayer for the Week

Lord, I want to be a faithful follower who doesn't stop praying because of delay, discouragement, or weariness. You won't delay one day or one moment longer than is needed for you to accomplish your purposes. Empower me to "keep on praying" until the answers come and to continually be thankful and bless your name.

Notable Quote

Prayer must often be "heaped up" until God sees that its measure is full. Then the answer comes. Just as each of ten thousand seeds is part of the final harvest, frequently repeated, persevering prayer is necessary to acquire a desired blessing. . . . Real faith can never be disappointed. It knows that to exercise its power, it must be gathered up, just like water, until the stream can come down in full force.

Andrew Murray

Reflection

This verse shares a key principle for effective intercession: "keep on praying" until the breakthrough comes.

The actual building of the dam usually takes many months, and then the water begins accumulating behind the dam. Drop by drop and day by day the water level rises, yet on the other side of the dam it's not apparent that anything is happening. Then when the water level finally reaches the right height, the sluice gates are opened wide. Water begins to turn the generators, and incredible power is released.

Whether we are suffering from physical illness, financial problems, or broken relationships, sometimes it looks as if things will never change. This verse encourages us to press on. Keep praying until you have accumulated a great mass of prayer. Gather others to intercede for you. The breakthrough may be just around the corner.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Thank God for those times when a great reservoir of prayer was needed until an answer came, and be willing to share your story with others. If you are still waiting for an answer in a tough situation, keep on praying—and ask others to join you until God opens the floodgates.
- Reflect on this week's worship service, the music, Scriptures, and Pastor Dave's sermon "Let My People Go: Tonight!" (Exodus 12:26-32, 42. Pray also for the actions and discussion during today's congregational meeting, that God will prepare and bless us as we seek his direction for 2015.
- 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 conclude 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.

*A podcast of the sermon, along with other materials, 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.