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## Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of May 11, 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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### A Happy Heart

For the poor, every day brings trouble; for the happy heart, life is a continual feast.

Proverbs 15:15

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#### Prayer for the Week

Father, help me to have a happy heart. Remove the anxiety that sometimes weighs my heart down. Keep my heart from growing proud. Instead, give me a pure heart—a heart that is pleasing to you. Help me to hide your Word in my heart so that I can walk in your ways and enjoy a life that is a continual feast.

#### Notable Quote

When I think of God, my heart is so full of joy that the notes leap and dance as that leave my pen; and since God has given me a cheerful heart, I serve him with a cheerful spirit.

*Franz Joseph Haydn*

#### Reflection

A person's heart is a major concern of the Lord. God's Word tells us that he doesn't look at the things people look at. We look at outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart; that is, our "thoughts and intentions" (1 Samuel 16:7). A happy, or cheerful, heart makes life "a continual feast." How do we obtain—and maintain—this happy heart? There are many clues throughout the book of Proverbs. We should not let our hearts be anxious or proud because anxiety and pride are deterrents to a cheerful heart (Proverbs 12:25; 16:5). Instead, God calls us to have pure hearts and to keep them on the right path (Proverbs 22:11; 23:19). These are positive steps to achieving a happy heart because when we are being obedient to God's Word and experiencing his smile of approval, our hearts will be lighter, even in difficult times. The Bible gives us many other instructions about how to have "healthy" hearts, but a good place to start is to embrace the truth of Proverbs 15:15 and ask God to show us how to develop hearts that are happy, no matter what challenges we are facing.

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#### PRAYER PROMPTS

- Thank the Lord for those you can name who have a happy heart, that they can be examples to others, then think of those whose hearts may be feeding on a diet of anxiety, pride, or depression that keeps them from experiencing the "continual feast" God offers the happy heart.
- Reflect on this week's worship service, the music, Scriptures, and Pastor Dave's sermon "Let My People Go...Says the God of Wonders" (Exodus 3:16-4:9). \* 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 especially this week for follow-up to last week's Assessment Center and the one person who is a potential candidate to be the church planter we seek. Continue to pray for new people to join us—and praise the Lord for the evidence of that, with new women in Coffeebreak, recent visitors on Sunday, and the Lord's work among the growing number who make use of our facilities: our own Saturday morning basketball ministry; First Russian Baptist Church; EDGE; DCFS training (on hiatus for the time being); and the potential connection with Karen Church, a congregation of people from Myanmar (Burma).

\*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.

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Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday and normally posted on the website ([www.evbapt.org](http://www.evbapt.org)) by Saturday.

Printed copies are available in the lobby on Sunday.