
Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of July 20, 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)

Opening Our Minds and Hearts

End the wickedness of the ungodly, but help all those who obey you. For you look deep within the mind and heart, O righteous God. God is my shield, saving those whose hearts are true and right...I will thank the Lord because he is just; I will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High.

Psalm 7:9-10, 17

Prayer for the Week

Father, I invite you into the innermost parts of my heart and mind. Look deep within me. Help me to make daily decisions to keep the door of my heart and mind open to you. Help me to embrace your entrance and searching and to welcome and delight in your presence in every area of my life.

Notable Quote

God knows us through and through. Not the most secret thought, which we most hide from ourselves, is hidden from him. As then we come to know ourselves through and through, we come to see ourselves more and more as God sees us, and then we catch some little glimpse of his designs with us, each check to our desires.

Edward Bouverie Pusey (1800-1882)

Reflection

Have you ever imagined someone looking deep within your mind and heart? The thought may actually be a little frightening. We don't typically open our minds and hearts to others. Often we imagine that the thoughts and memories buried there are hidden from everyone else. We determine that no one will ever know what is truly in our hearts or what we are thinking unless we choose to allow it. This kind of thinking is not completely accurate. The psalmist reveals the actual truth. The truth is that God not only looks into our hearts and minds, but he is already capable of this. Our willingness to volunteer for this access to our private thoughts and to the matters of our heart can help us to keep our hearts and minds pure and true and right. God looks deep within. Welcome this intimacy with him.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- How much have you opened your heart and mind to God? Are there areas you hide from yourself, hoping that God will also not see them? Pray this week for an open mind and heart. If you have done this, pray for opportunities to help others open their hearts and minds to God.
- Reflect on this week's worship service, the music, Scriptures, and Pastor Dave's sermon "By Faith, Noah..."* (Genesis 8:15-20), part of his Summer Encore series. Pray for direction in the application of truths and practical lessons.
- Pray for a follow-up to last week's VBS:
 - a. Praise the Lord for the record number who attended – as many as 62 on one day, about half-again as many as the 40 or so attending the last few years (which itself seemed good).
 - b. Praise the Lord for the staff—lead by Bridget Ecklund, with nearly twenty volunteer staff and youth helpers. Thank the Lord for their ability to deal with the surge in numbers from previous years, and even from the first day to the second—and pray especially for recovery from a very demanding week.
 - c. Pray for ongoing results—that the children will have been touched, inspired, and challenged by the stories, songs, Bible verses, and other activities—and that these will have an impact on their lives now and far into the future.
 - d. Thanks the Lord for connections made by Ginny Jupp and pray for successful follow-up with these families (primarily through the mother). Pray that some will be drawn to Evangel as a place to call their church home; that we would be blessed by the addition of families with children.

*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.