

# **“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team**

## **For the week of September 2, 2012**

Share with others on the Prayer Vigil throughout the week, during our Connections time on Sundays, or using our FaceBook group “First Watch Prayer Vigil.” [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=63044309096](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=63044309096) .

### **31 Prayers**

This week, we start an extended series of Touch Points based on the book “31 Days of Prayer” by Ruth and Warren Myers (Multnomah, 1997). Thanks to Bill and Debby France for suggesting this book. In future weeks, we’ll present a written prayer and suggestions in a feature called “As You Have Time.” The following is adapted for our weekly format.

#### **How to Use the Days of Prayer**

God yearns for all of us to pray—but not in exactly the same way. How we pray, how much and how often, will depend on who we are and what our daily life is like.

The best way to learn to pray is by praying. Begin by setting apart time at least one day each week—ten or fifteen minutes—to pray through each week’s entry.

Use the weekly entry in a way that suits the personality and circumstances God has given you. And tailor your praying to fit the current stage of your spiritual growth.

Each week you will find a written prayer along with other helps and motivations for prayer. Each is simply an invitation—to greater significance and fulfillment in God’s service.

#### **Preparing for Prayer**

As you approach each week’s topic, begin by quieting your heart before the Lord. Meditate on the verse or two of Scripture. Give the Holy Spirit a chance to distance your heart from the things of earth and fill it with peace and confidence in God. Then use the “Daily Prayer of Expectancy.”

#### **Praying and Interceding**

Pray through the written prayer that you will begin each week’s entry. Avoid rushing...pause often to intercede for those things on your heart. Adapt the written prayer and how you pray through it as the Lord leads each week.

#### **Using a Prayer Journal**

You are encouraged to record prayer requests in a prayer journal [a notebook or, using the model suggested by Paul Miller, a set of note cards]. Record answers as they come. As you review the answers, your faith will be strengthened and your heart will be filled with praise and joy.

### **Enriching Your Praying**

The “As You Have Time” section that will be part of each week’s entry can help you enrich and expand your praying. In this section you’ll discover:

- A wealth of insights about how to pray
- Ideas to help you use God’s Word in your prayers
- Inspiring quotations, poems, and lyrics
- Mentoring in such prayer-enhancing areas as knowing God better and loving others more

By using one prayer each a week in our Touch Points (rather than the daily approach of the book), you can go back several times during the week, focusing on different elements of the prayer or the material in “As You Have Time.”

#### **Daily Prayer of Expectancy**

*Keep a copy of this Touch Points handy as we go through the 31 prayers. As suggested in “Preparing for Prayer,” you can use this prayer, or the thoughts in it, each week.*

Father in heaven, great and powerful and full of love, I lift my heart in praise for the privilege of coming to You in prayer. Give me special grace as I join Your exalted Son in His ministry of prayer.

Search my heart, Lord, and show me if any sin is hindering Your work in my life. May I respond without delay whenever You make me conscious of sin. How grateful I am for Your total forgiveness the moment I confess my sin, turning back to You as my Lord!

And Father, teach me to pray. How much I yearn to know Your will and Your way. I thank Your Son lives within me. What a joy to know He is my teacher—that through Him I can learn to pray. I can learn to release Your boundless power for both my needs and the needs of many others, near and far. Teach me to pray.

Day by day may Your Spirit work in me, motivating me to abide in Christ and pray in faith, moving Your mighty hand to fulfill Your purposes. Keep reminding me that You are able to do infinitely more than I would ever dare to ask or imagine, by Your mighty power at work within me.

To You be the glory both now and forever.

Amen

### **PRAYER PROMPTS**

- Pray that this focus on prayer in coming months will help strengthen your own prayer life. Intercede specifically for others. Pray that the evidence of the Holy Spirit’s work will shine like a bright light to the entire Evangel family.
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s service, the music, Scripture, and Pastor Dave’s sermon, “The Greatness of God’s Good News,” from Acts 16:30-34.\*

\*Materials from the sermon (podcast, plus pdf versions of sermon outline and PowerPoint notes) are available on the website by Monday

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

Printed copies are available in the lobby on Sunday.