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

For the week of **December 23, 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) .

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### 31 Prayers - #16

From *31 Days of Prayer* by Ruth and Warren Myers (Multnomah, 1997) – each week, use the prayer and “As You Have Time” features to reflect on the focus for the week.

#### Pray for Grace to be Diligent in Prayer

It’s a pleasure, Lord, to come into Your presence, and be still before You, and rest in Your love. How good it is to worship You and commune with You. And what strength and refreshment come from warm fellowship with You!

But don’t let me forget that prayer is more than this. Give me grace to work diligently in prayer for others. And as You lead, to wrestle earnestly in prayer on their behalf. Put special burdens on my heart, and enable me to pour out my heart for You to fulfill Your purposes.

Father, Your great desire is for all Your children to be both mature and effective. Do this for me, and for those in my church. Do it for fellow believers throughout our area. And our country. Do it for all believers!

Thank You for Your Spirit and the power He gives me to serve You—and others—through prayer. Thank You for the way praise refreshes and strengthens me to work hard in prayer, and the way it stimulates my faith and helps assure answers.

Greatly use those who are seeking to rally Your people to pray. Raise up many who will pray faithfully, pleading with You to work mightily in all the world.

Amen

Epaphras, who is one of you...is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.

Colossians 4:12, NIV

#### As You Have Time

OUR UNLIMITED GOD. “He did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith’ (Matthew 13:58). Beware above everything else in your praying, of limiting God, not only by unbelief but also by fancying that you know what He can do. Expect unexpected things, ‘abundantly above all we ask or think’ (Ephesians 3:20). Each time you intercede, be quiet first and worship God in His glory. Meditate on what He can do. Then expect great things!”—Andrew Murray

PRAY BIG AND BROADLY. Thanks the Lord often that He is able to do far beyond your highest prayers and thoughts.

You are coming to a King,  
Large petitions with you bring,  
For His grace and power are such,  
None can ever ask too much.

*Author unknown*

We have personally profited from Andrew Murray’s emphasis on praying for groups of people—even “all believers” and “all people.” Paul wrote, “Be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere...I urge you...to pray for all people” (Ephesians 6:18, 1 Timothy 2:1, NLT). We’ve found it refreshing to do more of this broad praying while now neglecting pointed prayers for specific people.

In coming weeks: Pray for God’s Purifying Work; Love in the Church; the World’s Peoples Who are Still in Darkness

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#### The Prayer of Expectancy

Remember to use this each week. It is included in the version posted on the [Prayer Vigil](#) page of the website or in the Touch Points for September 9 when we began this series

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#### PRAYER PROMPTS

- With a two-week break and declining attendance over the past few weeks (for good reasons that kept some of the regulars away)...pray that the Lord will bless our Wednesday evening prayer hour with renewed commitment, growth in numbers, and growing evidence of His answers to our intercession. If you have not attended, consider doing so, even if you can only make it once or twice a month. There have been wonderful times of prayer and evidence of God’s favor. So, even when you’d rather stay out of the cold, come join the warmth of the fellowship (and the fireplace) in the Fireside Room—Wednesday at 7:00 pm, beginning again January 9.
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s service, the choir’s music, the Christmas hymns, Scripture, and Pastor Dave’s message, “Life Support” (Luke 1:26-45).
- Pray for the practical demonstration of the Christmas message through this week....individually, in our families, among the Evangel family and especially among those who need to claim the hope and salvation offered by Jesus in their own hearts.

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