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

For the week of February 3, 2013

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 - #22

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 Pastors

Father, how much I praise You for our Lord Jesus, the good Shepherd who knows His sheep and laid down His life for us. Thank You for the gracious way He ministers to our needs day by day. And for the millions of pastors You have raised up throughout the world to help Him in His shepherding.

I plead with You for my pastor and other ministers, priests, and spiritual caregivers in our area. Empower them day by day to shepherd Your flock under their care. May they “set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity.”

Give them grace in the trials and temptations so many of them face: few words of appreciation, much criticism, excessive demands on their time, the difficulty of saying no, sexual temptations, financial stresses and temptations, fear of man, trying to please everyone, the danger of feeling they’re always right, and self-dependence, to name a few.

Motivate them to press on to know You better, spending much time in Your Word and in prayer. May they teach not human wisdom but Your wisdom. May they rely on You and Your sufficiency rather than their own.

Grant them wisdom in the complexities of their work in equipping their people to use their gifts and carry their share of the ministry. In all things may they seek Your glory and not their own.

And, Lord, do these same things for the multitude of pastors in Your worldwide church—and for other leaders and teachers in each of Your churches, including mine. Amen

Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you.

1 Samuel 12:23

#### As You Have Time

**SPECIAL NEEDS OF PASTORS AND THEIR SPOUSES.** For those pastors who have families, ask the Lord to enable them to fulfill their God-given roles as husbands and fathers, taking time to love and bless their wives and children as well as their flock. And pray for their children. It’s not easy to be a “preacher’s kid (Titus 2:3-5; Ephesians 5:25-31; 6:4; Colossians 3:18-22).

Pastor’s wives also face challenging circumstances and many impossible expectations. Pray for them!

*Lord, thank You for our pastor’s wife and her highly important role. May she enjoy a rich personal walk with You day by day; may she let You meet here deepest needs. Keep her looking to You for strength and wisdom, including wisdom in what she says and repeats. Help her be faithful in prayer for her husband, especially for the specific needs she knows better than anyone else. I ask the same, Lord, for other pastor’s wives, nearby and around the world, such as \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.*

Easy-to-remember times to pray regularly for pastors are on Saturday as you think about the coming Lord’s Day and on your way to church.

**In coming weeks:** Pray for God’s Power on All Who Serve the Lord—Lay and Full-Time; for More Workers in God’s Harvest; for Worldwide Missions

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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

- Pray this week’s prayer specifically with Pastor Dave and Jennie in mind.
- Pray that the Lord will lead three new families or individuals to us by Easter and three more by Memorial Day—people with a love for the Lord along with the gifts and passion to use them in His service at Evangel.
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s service, the music, Scripture, and Pastor Dave’s sermon/communion meditation\*, “Reforming the Remembrance” (Matthew 26:26-29).
- Pray for Evangel as we face significant challenges in this new ministry year. Praise the Lord that Bridgette Ecklund will be filling the position of director for VBS (July 15-19). Pray that God will lead to us as quickly as possible the part-time Worship Arts Director we have sought since last summer.

\*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)) by Saturday.

Printed copies are available in the lobby on Sunday.

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