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

For the week of March 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 .

31 Prayers - #26

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 God’s Blessing on Our Missionaries

Dear Lord, Your eyes are searching the whole earth to strengthen those who are fully committed to You. May Your missionaries be fully committed today, and give them strength equal to the work you have assigned them. Enable them to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. I pray this especially for those laboring in Satan’s strongholds where his power has scarcely been challenged. And I want to include in these requests some missionaries I know:

May they cultivate a strong and fresh grasp on Your Word—the sword of Your Spirit. Increasingly make them men and women of prayer. Protect them from getting swamped by demands that crowd out time alone with You.

May they rejoice in Your sufficiency and rely on You for wisdom and peace. Grant love and harmony in how they related to their partners and children, to other missionaries, and to the people they work among. You know their personal trials today—loneliness, homesickness, the need for patience, official red tape, struggles in language learning, on and on. Give them grace to trust You as their refuge and strength, as their sun and shield, as the best Person in their lives.

Put Your full blessing on their evangelism, their discipling, their church responsibilities—and on those with other gifts and callings. In the name of Jesus, the mighty Victor, defeat Satan’s attempts to blind people to the gospel and prevent the growth of believers.

Amen

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8 NIV

As You Have Time

“HE DID NOT STAGGER...” As you intercede, count on God’s faithfulness to His promises. Be like Abraham, who the Bible says “did not stagger” (lose confidence; flounder in confusion, doubt, or uncertainty) even though God’s plan seemed humanly impossible. Instead, Abraham was absolutely convinced that God was able to do anything He promised.

Read 1 Kings 8:56; Romans 4:20-21; and Hebrews 11:8-19, and start your collection of prayer promises.

ORDINARY STRAINS, EXTRAORDINARY SITUATIONS. Many difficulties your missionaries face don’t differ from those you face in your family, church, work, health, finances, or emotional struggles. But added stress comes through dealing with these difficulties in a foreign land and culture. These pressures are often greatest for wives and single women, who need to grapple more with the nitty-gritty of daily living. Identify with missionaries as ordinary people, not as spiritual giants unaffected by trials. Then you’ll know better how to pray.

Your prayers sustain overseas Christian workers. A newsletter from friends working in a difficult country put it well: “We ran out of emotional energy and felt we just couldn’t handle any more. If people back home stop praying, we’re not going to make it.”

In coming weeks: Pray for all Who are Suffering; for Presidents, Prime Ministers, and All in Authority; for World Events and Peace.

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

PRAYER PROMPTS

- 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 and to meet our most urgent needs.
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday, the music, Scripture, and Pastor Dave’s message from Matthew 26, “Overcoming Spiritual Failure (Part 2).”
- Pray for Evangel as we face significant challenges *and* opportunities. Pray specifically in three areas: RELATE (partner with a congregation looking for a place to worship), REORGANIZE (streamline our administrative structure, and RECRUIT. Praise the Lord that Bridgette Ecklund will direct VBS (July 15-19) and pray that God will clearly lead as the Board of Worship follows up on an interview with a potential candidate for Worship Arts Director last week.

*A podcast of the sermon, along with pdf files of the PowerPoint notes and sermon outline are posted on the website 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.