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

For the week of March 10, 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 - #27

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 All Who Are Suffering

Father, I rejoice in You as the Father of deep empathies, who comforts and encourages us. I need this so often, and so do millions of others in Your family and outside. How little I really feel the wrenching sorrows and hopelessness of people as You do. Stir my heart, Lord. In new ways make me—and all Your children—channels of Your love and compassion, spending ourselves in both prayer and action for those who suffer.

Lord, help those who are suffering. Again and again meet their needs—physical, financial, emotional, spiritual. Through their pain or loss or trouble, make them aware of how much they need You. Then draw them to You as their Savior and Shepherd—and their Lord. Comfort them in their anguish, their pain, their depression, their despair. Deliver them.

I pray especially for Your people who are going through intense persecution, torture, imprisonment. Help them and their families lean hard on You, and give them supernatural strength. Protect them, encourage them, and uphold them. Provide for their every need. Make Your presence unspeakably real to them.

Give Your joy to those who suffer. Put a new song of praise in their mouth, so that many will hear what You’ve done and put their trust in You.

Amen

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion....comforts us in all our troubles.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NIV

As You Have Time

TARGETING TROUBLE. Pray for one or two areas of suffering that seem to be particularly intense or ongoing. Daily headlines can serve as a reminder. Some prompters on this long, dismaying list include: wars, atrocities, refugees, famines, terror and hate crimes, Satanism, poverty, drug addiction, abused wives and children, children and teens living on the streets.

Be encouraged to continue in this serious work of prayer by Charles Spurgeon’s words:

It is good that we are commanded to pray, or else in times of heaviness we might give it up. If God commands me, unfit as I may be, I will creep to the footstool of grace; and since He says, “Pray without ceasing,” though my words fail me and my heart itself will wander, yet I will stammer out the wishes of my hungering soul and say, “O God, at least teach me to pray and help me to prevail with You.”

ARROW PRAYERS. When Ruth hears of an urgent need, she prays when the news comes or as soon afterward as possible. Then as she goes about her day, she continues to release quick “arrow” prayers: “Lord, work! Work mightily!” Or, “Lord, meet their needs!” Or, “Lord, I’m believing You to answer.” These simple, urgent petitions strengthen her faith and keep her praying even if she’s extra busy.

In coming weeks: Pray for Presidents, Prime Ministers, and All in Authority; for World Events and Peace; against Satan and Praise for Victory in Christ

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 Nimrod Tica’s message “Are You Desperate for God’s Presence?” *
- 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 a potential candidate for Worship Arts Director, who will assist with the praise band next Sunday.

*A podcast of the sermon will be 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.