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

For the week of March 24, 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 - #29

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 World Events and Peace

Father, what awful things take place in our fallen world, where people and nations rebel against You and Your good purposes. On every hand I hear of abuse, terrorism, atrocities, massacres, oppressive regimes, corrupt political systems, and wars constantly raging throughout the world.

I lift these to You, Lord, for You are the King of the nations, exalted above all the peoples. I praise Your great and awesome name, for You nullify the counsel of the nations. You frustrate the plans of the peoples. The nations roar like the roaring of many waters, but in Your time You will rebuke them. You act, and who can reverse it? And You are able to give me wisdom as I pray for world events.

May the distressing situations around the world serve to deepen and refine all who love You and call on You. In special ways protect them. Bring deliverance in times of danger, turning aside the schemes of evil people. And use the traumatic events to turn thousands, even millions, to Christ, as You’ve been doing in many countries.

I plead with You that, again and again, leaders will make wise decisions and justice will rule. May negotiations between nations and warring factions result in fair treaties that will restore peace.

Most of all, hasten the day when the government of the whole world will be on Christ’s shoulders, bringing peace that will never end.

Amen

He determines the course of world events.

Daniel 2:21, NLT

As You Have Time

GOD’S POINT OF VIEW. To pray more effectively, ask God “that you may see things, as it were, from his point of view” (Colossians 1:9, Phillips). Take time to absorb Scriptures that help you see world and personal events as God sees them.

Our God is the Supreme Ruler—the blessed, behind-the-scenes Controller of all things (1 Timothy 6:15, Phillips). Why does this loving and all-powerful God allow the traumatic events we’ve been praying about? The Bible does not spell out all of His reasons—“How could man ever understand his reasons for action, or explain his methods of working?” (Romans 11:33, Phillips). But it does give insights into how He uses troubles and disasters for good (“Man’s extremity is God’s opportunity”). And it shows that He looks to us, through prayer, to cause Him to achieve His good and eternal results.

Consider these Scriptures on God’s rule:

“All governments have been placed in power by God....He decides who will rise and who will fall....The Lord shatters the plans of the nations and thwarts all their schemes. But the Lord’s plans stand firm forever; his intentions can never be shaken...When the earth quakes and its people live in turmoil, I am the One who keeps its foundations firm.” (Romans 13:1; Psalm 75:7; 33:10-11; 75:3, NLT)

In coming weeks: Pray against Satan and Praise for Victory in Christ’ that God’s People Will Realize Their Worldwide Calling (final topic).

If you have suggestions for the type of material that would be helpful to you once we are done with this series, please contact Stu Johnson. The next series will begin April 14.

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

- This week’s theme is especially appropriate following President Obama’s trip to Israel. Pray especially for God’s hand on the Middle East. Remember, too, those countries where the missionaries we support serve, as well as the people (and churches represented) as Gil Zinke teaches over the next weeks in Papua New Guinea, Japan, Hanoi, and Saigon.
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday, the music, Scripture, and Pastor Dave’s message “Jesus on Trial (Part 1)” from John 18 * --particularly as we enter Holy Week.
- 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 (Worship Arts Director, VBS staff, and the efforts of each of us to witness to others, invite them to the kingdom and Evangel)

**A podcast of the sermon will be posted on the website by Monday, along with pdf versions of the PowerPoint notes and sermon outline*

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.