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

For the week of April 21, 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.

This series—aimed to support our “Stepping Out in Faith—for the Sake of the Gospel” initiative—is based on *The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible* by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale House, 2003). We will focus on specific topics that most clearly support this initiative, focusing on ones that relate to the theme of witness and outreach.

The Workers Are Few

Wherever [Jesus] went, he healed people of every sort of disease and illness. He felt great pity for the crowds that came, because their problems were so great and they didn’t know where to go for help. They were like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, **“The harvest is so great, but the workers are so few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send out more workers for his fields.”**

Matthew 9:35-38

Prayer for the Week

Lord, I am so grateful that you heal every disease and illness that afflicts people. I pray that you will send laborers who will bring your healing and transforming power to the lives of people who don’t know you. And while I am praying for workers, **please make me willing by your Spirit to join you in the harvest fields.** You and you alone are Lord of the harvest. Let your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven!

Notable Quote

There is no royal road to becoming a worker for God. The only way is to let God in His mighty providence in one way or another get [your] life out to sea in **reckless abandon to God.**

Oswald Chambers (1874-1917)

Reflection

Jesus saw the people not just as a whole massive group but as individuals suffering from pain, sickness, and grief. And while he felt deep compassion and healed them of every kind of disease and illness, he also enlisted his disciples to pray for more workers, for the harvest was ready, the kingdom was at hand, and the workers were few.

People are no different today. Many around us are lost and lonely. Their problems are great, and they don’t know where to get real help and restoration for their broken lives. **So the Lord of the harvest is imploring us to join him in the great commission by praying for laborers who will be his hands and feet on this earth, those who will bring lost sheep home to the shepherd.**

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s worship service, the music, Scripture, and Pastor Dave’s message “Pilate Before Jesus”* from John 18. Pray for the leading of the Spirit in applying the lessons learned to your own life and as a witness to others.
- Pray for the ministry of Vacation Bible School outlined by Bridgette Ecklund in the Ministry Moment on Sunday. Pray specifically for enough volunteers and for God’s blessing on Bridgette as she lead’s this year’s program.
- Pray for Evangel as we face significant challenges *and* opportunities. Pray specifically as we seek the Lord’s will for a clear vision for the days ahead as we pursue the possibility of the major ministry initiative mentioned above. Please join us on Wednesday evenings to help produce a growing chorus of praise and intercession. Our first objective, as we look toward developing a plan by June, is to ask the Lord to confirm the idea of parenting a church start in our facilities, the most effective way to “bring the lost sheep home to the shepherd.” (There is a link on the homepage of our website to the one-page overview, “Stepping Out in Faith—for the Sake of the Gospel,” or ask Pastor Dave or moderator Stu Johnson for a copy of this and several related resource documents).

*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.