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

For the week of May 26, 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 relate to faith, witness and outreach. “The driving force behind this proposal is to increase our evangelistic witness and the impact on our neighborhood and community.” (From the overview document, available at www.evbapt.org/docs/steppingOut.pdf)

His Purpose, Not Mine

The messenger was John the Baptist. He lived in the wilderness and was preaching that people should be baptized to show that they had turned from their sins and turned to God to be forgiven.

Mark 1:4

Prayer for the Week

Lord, thank you for the ministry you have entrusted to me. If others praise me, help me to remember that my one purpose should be that your gospel is proclaimed and you are exalted. In everything I do, may I be a stepping-stone instead of a stumbling block so that others may come to know you as Savior and Lord.

Notable Quote

Our method of proclaiming salvation is this: to point out to every heart the loving Lamb, who died for us, and although he was the Son of God, offered himself for our sins.

Count Nikolaus von Zinzendorf (1700-1760)

Reflection

John the Baptist’s camel-hair cloak should not be confused with the luxurious, woven garments found in up-scale stores today. His was most likely a tanned, hairy hide held together with a leather belt. He did not preach in the comfort of a temple but baptized in the stark setting of the wilderness. He was well known for his not-so-gentle speeches. His diet was meager, consisting of locusts and wild honey. Though these facts alone set John apart from other religious men, it was his single-minded dedication to his calling that etched his name in history. John never forgot his purpose. When John’s disciples left to follow Jesus, his loyal friends complained bitterly, yet John assured them that this was exactly what he hoped would happen. He wanted to decrease so that Christ could increase. His whole mission in life was to point the way to Jesus. When God gives us a particular ministry, it is easy to assume ownership. We birth it. We pray over it. Yet our calling was never ours in the first place. Just like John the Baptist’s, our purpose is to point others to Christ, not to ourselves.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Pray for the application of this week’s Touch Points (and similar themes from last week’s service) to people who cross your path this week.
- Continue to pray for our “Stepping Out in Faith” initiative. The results of your prayers for the Church Council meeting with Gary Rohrmayer of our MidAmerica district were evident. Pray over the next steps...our “Conversation with Council” session on June 2, where we’ll focus on restructuring (church governance) and hope to present a resolution to express our desire to work with the MidAmerica district to parent a church plant in our facilities. The resolution will be voted on by the end of June so everyone has a chance to read it and prayer over its implications.
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s worship service, the music, Scripture, sharing time, and Pastor Dave’s message “Miracles at Calvary”* from Matthew 27—and ways the Lord can help you apply them this week.
- Pray for the ministry of Vacation Bible School, directed this year by Bridgette Ecklund. Pray as organizational efforts proceed, including the meeting with volunteers on June 9. Begin to pray also for the children who will come and for their families as well; first that there will be kingdom impact, secondly that some would be attracted to Evangel.
- Pray that more individuals will visit Evangel (several have come recently because they saw our sign) and pray that more will decide to return after their initial visit. Be ready to extend an invitation yourself as we seek the Lord’s blessing to be kingdom builders!

*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.