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

For the week of June 2, 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)

Seed Sowers

The farmer I talked about is the one who brings God’s message to others.

Mark 4:14

Prayer for the Week

God, I can scatter seeds in my job, my neighborhood, my family, and plant seeds of hope in people I encounter every day. Help me to sing as I plant and be confident that many of those seeds will take root in soil that will someday produce a harvest.

Notable Quote

Plant a word of love heart-deep in a person’s life. Nurture it with a smile and a prayer, and watch what happens.

Max Lucado (b. 1955)

Reflection

In west Africa people customarily sing as they work in the fields. They lift their voices as they plant in anticipation of the harvest. Perhaps this is how the farmer in the parable appeared as he walked through the field. As he tossed seed, it fell in various types of soil—some hard, some weedy, some shallow, and some good and fertile. Not once did Jesus describe the farmer as anxious; rather, he portrayed the sower as faithfully carrying out his job.

Sometimes we treat evangelism as a heavy burden. Instead of cheerfully scattering seed everywhere, we become soil testers, trying to determine whether or not the seed will flourish even *before* we plant. We hove over the tender shoots, trying to thwart weeds. When a seed doesn’t produce the desired fruit, we may declare ourselves failures as farmers. But God has called us to plant the message of the gospel in whatever field he places us. It is the Lord of the harvest who nourishes the tiny seeds and causes them to grow. You may never see the bushels of souls that result from seeds you planted, but you can sing as you sow and anticipate a harvest of thirty, sixty, and even a hundredfold.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Pray that the Lord will make you an enthusiastic, “singing” sower, and expectantly watch as the Lord carries out the harvest.
- Continue to pray for our “Stepping Out in Faith” initiative. Pray over the next steps...today’s “Conversation with Council” that will focus on restructuring (church governance) and the possible presentation of a draft resolution to express our desire to work with our MidAmerica district to parent a church plant in our facilities. The resolution will be refined and voted on by the end of June, so everyone will have 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 “Thank You for the Cross”* 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 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 seed sowing 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.