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

For the week of June 16, 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](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=63044309096).

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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](http://www.evbapt.org/docs/steppingOut.pdf) )

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### Dealing with Our Doubts

[The boy’s father said,] “The evil spirit often makes him fall into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us. Do something if you can.” “What do you mean, ‘If I can’?” Jesus asked. “Anything is possible if a person believes.” The father instantly replied, “I do believe, but help me not to doubt.”

Mark 9:22-24

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#### Prayer for the Week

Lord, you know my deepest thoughts, all the places within my heart. When my faith is weak or I struggle with doubts about your care for me, enable me to turn to you and be honest about it. I believe in your power to accomplish anything, but grant me greater trust and faith in you.

#### Notable Quote

Every step toward Christ kills a doubt.  
Every thought, word, and deed for Him carries you away from discouragement.

*Theodore Ledyard Cuyler (1822-1909)*

#### Reflection

The desperate father had already asked Jesus’ disciples to cast the evil, destructive spirit out of his son, but they had failed. It seems the father wasn’t the only one in the story struggling with doubt! The disciples, the Pharisees, and the crowd were filled with doubt and unbelief. Since the disciples lacked the faith to heal the boy, the father turned to Jesus, who responded in compassion and inquired not only into the boy’s condition but also into the condition of the father’s heart. We need not be afraid to follow this humble man’s model and be honest with God about our doubts. But at the same time we can pray as he did, asking Jesus to strengthen our faith and help us when we struggle to believe. Then we will see, as the boy’s father in Mark’s account saw, that with the dynamic combination of belief and prayer, anything is possible.

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#### PRAYER PROMPTS

- Reflect on Cuyler’s quote, “Every step toward Christ kills a doubt.” Does that resonate with your experience? Pray that the Lord will lead you to people who are struggling with doubt and to be able to reach out to them with compassion and wisdom, telling stories of Jesus from the Bible, as well as your personal story of Jesus’ work in your life.
- Continue to pray for our “Stepping Out in Faith” initiative. Pray over the next steps...especially the Church Council meeting tomorrow night (postponed from last week), which will review the draft Church Plant Enabling Resolution and responses to the recent “Conversation with Council” focused on church governance.
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s worship service, the music, Scripture, sharing time, and Pastor Dave’s message “The Church: Beginning and Becoming (Part 2 of summer series)”\* from 1 Corinthians 12:12-13—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 today. 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

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*Touch Points* is e-mailed every Friday and normally posted on the website ([www.evbapt.org](http://www.evbapt.org)) by Saturday.

Printed copies are available in the lobby on Sunday.