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

For the week of July 7, 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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### Mission Possible

Late in the afternoon the twelve disciples came to him and said, “Send the crowds away to the nearby villages and farms, so they can find food and lodging for the night. There is nothing to eat here in this deserted place.” But Jesus said, “You feed them.” “Impossible!” they protested. “We have only five loaves of bread and two fish. Or are you expecting us to go and buy enough food for this whole crowd?”

Luke 9:12-13

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#### Prayer for the Week

Dear Lord, this task (or situation) looks impossible. Yet you said that with you, nothing is impossible if we believe. Strengthen my trust in your ability and your resources. I want to be your vessel and be used by you. I give you myself—my heart, my time, my gifts—and ask you to multiply them for your purposes. May you be glorified in my life.

#### Notable Quote

God calls us to live a life we cannot live, so that we must depend on him for supernatural ability. We are called to do the impossible, to live beyond our natural ability.

*Erwin W. Lutzer (b. 1941)*

#### Reflection

After a time of ministry, the disciples wanted to have Jesus all to themselves and enjoy some rest and relaxation away from the crowds. But the multitudes found out where the Messiah was and flocked to him. If that weren’t enough frustration, now Jesus was asking the disciples to do something that looked impossible—feed more than five thousand men plus hundreds of women and children with what were ridiculously meager resources. The disciples, having been given the instruction “You feed them,” could have been the vehicle for the miracle had they obeyed in faith. Instead they watched as Jesus took the food, asked God to bless it, and then broke and distributed it to the multitudes. What seemingly impossible task is God asking you to do? What do you not have enough resources for? Does parenting an unruly toddler—or teen—look like “mission impossible”? Do job demands seem more than you can handle? Are financial needs insurmountable? Give all you have to Jesus. Ask him to multiply your resources, time, and skills, and listen for his instruction. Then be ready to experience his amazing power in your life.

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#### PRAYER PROMPTS

- Pray for the “impossible task” in your own life.
- Continue to pray for our “Stepping Out in Faith” initiative: for the identification of a church planter, for unity and commitment as we seek to bring success to this evangelistic effort by growing ourselves. Take seriously Bill France’s challenge to pray that God will lead 25 adults and 50 children to Evangel by year’s end—a seemingly impossible task. It has already started. Pray that more individuals will visit Evangel and 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!
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s worship service, the music, Scripture, Pastor Dave’s message from Acts 2\* in his series on the church, specifically his request for prayer for preaching at Evangel.
- Pray for the ministry of Vacation Bible School, directed this year by Bridgette Ecklund. Pray as organizational efforts proceed. Pray 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 (as part of the 25/50 challenge).

*\*A podcast of the sermon will be posted on the website by Monday, as well as PDFs of the sermon notes and PowerPoint.*

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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.