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

For the week of July 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](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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### A Heart of Praise

As for me, I will always proclaim what God has done; I will sing praises to the God of Israel.

Psalm 75:9

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#### Prayer for the Week

Oh, Lord, how I praise the wonders of your works! May I be found faithful in proclaiming through a heart of praise all that you are and have done in my life. You are so many things to me—you are my everything! Thank you for the privilege of receiving a heart that is able to praise you every single day of my life.

#### Notable Quote

The heart must have in it the grace of prayer to sing the praises of God.

*E. M. Bounds (1835-1913)*

#### Reflection

Often when we thank God, we are responding to what he does, how he is answering our prayers and working out his plan in our lives. When we worship, on the other hand, we are adoring, honoring, and embracing God simply for who he is. Worship is the overflow of hearts that are thankful and full of wonder. We worship God when we lift our hearts and voices in grateful acknowledgement of how he has revealed himself in our lives: our faithful and trustworthy provider, protector, redeemer, refuge, comforter, healer, sustainer, source of strength, helper, father, and friend. On and on the list goes. With praise-filled hearts we can proclaim all that God is and has done in our lives. Nothing delights the heart of our Father more than songs of praise from the lips of his children. It’s what we were created for, and it deepens our dependence on him. What an awesome God we serve! Express to the Lord your desire to worship him with all your heart, soul, and mind. Spend time in his presence meditating on all God has done and who he is to you.

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#### PRAYER PROMPTS

- How has the “grace of prayer” allowed you to sing praises to God? Are there stories you could share with others who are still on the journey of discovery toward faith in Christ?
- 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, and the message by guest speaker Jamie Sipsma\*, “The Old Thing, the New Thing, and the Thing In Between.”
- Praise God for a successful week of VBS, with 32-36 children attending each day, at least 10 student helpers, and another dozen or so leaders and volunteer staff. Kudos to Bridgette Ecklund, who took on the task of directing VBS this year (as a part-time staff member) and did an excellent job. Praise God, also, for the missions project, which generated more than \$1,000 for Global Compassion Network (Dennis and Julie Anderson) to use for the kitchen at the orphanage in Haiti! Pray that God will use the lessons of the week to produce good results in all those who participated, as well as the families represented.

*\*A podcast of the sermon will be posted on the website by Monday*

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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.