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

For the week of August 18, 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)

Boundless Love

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it.

John 3:16-17

Prayer for the Week

Father, thank you for loving me beyond what I could ever image. It amazes me that you would love me—even when I didn’t love you—and would send your Son to pay the ultimate price so that I could know you and experience eternal life. Let your love flow through me so that even more people may experience your boundless love.

Notable Quote

God’s love is measureless. It is more: it is boundless. It has no bounds because it is not a thing but a facet of the essential nature of God. His love is something he is, and because he is infinite, that love can enfold the whole created world in itself and have room for ten thousand times ten thousand worlds beside.

A. W. Tozer (1897-1963)

Reflection

It is a marvelous and profound truth that although God loves the whole world generally, he also loves us personally and individually so much that Christ died for each of us as if there were only one of us. Because of his love for us, he poured out his life on the cross while we were still sinners. He didn’t wait for us to get our lives all cleaned up and fixed up first—we couldn’t have anyway. Instead, he demonstrated his grace in saving us even though we didn’t deserve it. That would be amazing enough, yet this gift of love isn’t for just a few. It’s not just for me or a select group of people, for those in particular families, denominations, or nationalities—but for those from every tribe and tongue, people, group, and nation. We can hardly conceive of such a limitless, boundless love! But we can rejoice in the truth of John 3:16—everyone who believes in Jesus Christ will not perish but will have eternal life.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Praise God for the truth of John 3:16 in your life, but more than that, focus this week on those who have not accepted Christ as savior. Pray each day this week for specific individuals you know who have yet to hear or accept that truth, that they will begin to understand God’s boundless love—and pray for opportunities to share this exciting truth with them.
- 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 Pastor Dave’s message on “The Church: Beginning and Becoming” as he continues with the eighth part of his summer series, this week looking at the letters to the churches of Asia from Revelation 2 and 3. *

**A podcast of the sermon will be posted on the website by Monday, along with pdf’s of the sermon outline and PowerPoint notes*

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.