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

### For the week of September 1, 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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### **Plans That Never Fail**

Then Israel arrived in Egypt; Jacob lived as a foreigner in the land of Ham. And the Lord multiplied the people of Israel until they became too mighty for their enemies. Then he turned the Egyptians against the Israelites, and they plotted against the Lord’s servants.

*Psalm 105:23-25*

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#### **Prayer for the Week**

Father, I thank you for the assurance that your plans never fail. When everything around seems hopeless, remind me of your plan for the Israelites in captivity in Egypt. Help me to see things from your eternal perspective and to hold on to the reality that in spite of the way things look, you are in control. Indeed, you are still on the throne!

#### **Notable Quote**

God is never in a panic. Nothing can be done that he is not absolutely master of, and no one in earth or heaven can shut a door he has opened, nor open a door he has shut. God alters the inevitable when we get in touch with him.

*Oswald Chambers (1874-1917)*

#### **Reflection**

When the Egyptians enslaved the Israelites and treated them cruelly, gave the order to slaughter their infant boys, and in every way made their lives miserable, everything seemed hopeless. But God was still in control and had a plan to bring his people out of Egypt with joy. Corrie ten Boom said about her own imprisonment in a Nazi concentration camp that no matter how bad things are on earth, “there is never panic in heaven! You can only hold on to that reality through faith because it seemed then and often seems now, as if the devil is the victor. But God is faithful, and his plans never fail. He knows the future. He knows the way.” Whatever you are facing today, you can praise God that he doesn’t have problems, only plans. And just as he has a master plan for his people’s exodus out of Egypt to the Promised Land, he has a plan for you, and he will not fail to accomplish it!

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#### **PRAYER PROMPTS**

- Are you feeling hopeless about something in your life, or do you know of someone in that position? Pray this week that God will reveal his plan and give the assurance that he is never in a panic, but always in control.
- 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!
- Pray for the September 11 meeting several from Evangel will have with Mark Albrecht, church planting director for our region of Converge MidAmerica. Pray for a unity of purpose and understanding that will prosper Evangel and ensure success for the church plant in ways that demonstrate the lesson of this week, that God’s plans never fail.
- 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 eleventh part of this series, this week looking at the letter to the church at Pergamum in Revelation 2.\* Reflect on the letter that Jesus would write to the church in America today—or specifically to Evangel. What would he say and how should we respond? (Use this as food for thought for the next “Conversation with Council” on September 29.)

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

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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.

