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

For the week of September 22, 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)

Prayer for an Outpouring

On the day of Pentecost, seven weeks after Jesus’ resurrection, the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm in the skies above them, and it filled the house where they were meeting.

Acts 2:1-2

Prayer for the Week

Lord, grant us the same unity and fervency in prayer that your followers had in the upper room. We long to see your kingdom expand, your Spirit poured out in power, and the accomplishment of your will and purpose in our time. Give us hearts that take an active role in “laying the tracks” for your Spirit’s work in our generation.

Notable Quote

Never has there been an outpouring of the Divine Spirit from God, without a previous outpouring of the human spirit toward God.

A. T. Pierson (1837-1911)

Reflection

It had been seven long weeks of persevering prayer since Jesus had told the apostles to remain in Jerusalem until the Father sent the promised Holy Spirit. The uproar in the city concerning Jesus was increasing, and the pressures were mounting for Christ’s followers—even their lives were in jeopardy. Yet they didn’t frantically run around Jerusalem seeking help. They didn’t start a new building program or hire a church-growth consultant in an attempt to increase their numbers. Instead, they stayed continually in the upstairs room in unified, wholehearted, fervent prayer. It was the plan and purpose of God to pour out his Spirit, but the believers’ prayers were the preparation for Pentecost. Through their prayers, God laid the tracks for the demonstration of the Spirit’s power that was to come. Down through history we can see the same pattern being repeated: prayer is the preparation for every powerful movement of God’s Spirit.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Praise God for the evidence of the work of the Spirit in the response during the worship service last Sunday. Pray for the follow-up this week and beyond. Take part in private and corporate prayer, remembering that “prayer is the preparation for every powerful movement of God’s Spirit.” There are numerous opportunities for prayer at Evangel, including small groups, the Wednesday evening prayer hour, Coffeekbreak classes, Thursday morning men’s breakfast, and the monthly Men’s Connection. Pray for the demonstration of the Spirit’s power in your own life and the ministry of Evangel in the days ahead.
- 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.
- 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 part 14 of this series, this week looking at the letter to the church at Philadelphia in Revelation 3.* Reflect on the letter that Jesus would write to the church in America today and—as Pastor Dave suggested, write a letter to Evangel before our next “Conversation with Council” on October 6 (note the delay of one week because of a video on the seven churches next Sunday, Sept. 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

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.