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

For the week of **October 6, 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)

Wonder-Working Power

[Herod] arrested Peter during the Passover celebration and imprisoned him, placing him under the guard of four squads of four soldiers each But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him.

Acts 12:3-5

Prayer for the Week

Lord, thank you for your wonder-working power! I once was locked in a prison of darkness to your truth and light. Thank you for shining the light of your truth into my heart and freeing me from sin. Please use me to share the truth about your great power with others who need to know true freedom in Christ.

Notable Quote

Prayer is the easiest and hardest of all things. . . . its results lie outside the range of human possibilities; they are limited only by the omnipotence of God.

E. M. Bounds (1835-1913)

Reflection

If any story in the New Testament shows the power of corporate prayer, the account of Peter’s dramatic release from prison does! While he was clamped down in chains and surrounded by guards to prevent his escape, the believers who were assembled at John Mark’s house prayed fervently and persistently for him. They didn’t expect, however, God’s miraculous deliverance to come so fast or in such an amazing way. In fact, so incredulous were they when he appeared to Rhoda at the door, that they thought it must be Peter’s angel and initially didn’t even let him in.

Do you know people who are held captive in a prison of their own making? a situation in your own life that needs fervent prayer? Let this story encourage your heart that the Lord is able to break chains, open closed doors, and deliver. And your prayers joined with those of other believers are the very conduits through which God releases his power.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Pray that the Holy Spirit will fill the lives of those who went forward (in body or spirit) three weeks ago, that He will fan into flame a desire to live righteous, obedient lives that will draw others to the love of Christ and result in changes that bring renewal to Evangel. Add to that the desire expressed in this week’s topic to pray fervently for those you know who need to be released from the chains of their own captivity. Consider your own part in corporate prayer, through the vehicle of these weekly Touch Points, in your small group, and by increasing the ranks of those who join in prayer on Wednesday evenings.
- 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. We had an encouraging report this week from Mark Albrecht, who has several people in mind and is working to line up a visit to Evangel by at least one. He is seeking the Lord’s direction to find the best person for the Wheaton area. In the meantime, 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. Let’s ask the Lord to fill both sides of the sanctuary with people who are eager to worship the wonder-working God and go out to tell others of His love, grace and power!
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s worship service, the music, Scripture, and Pastor Dave’s message*, “Crucified, Dead and Buried” (Matthew 27:57-61) as he returns to the final chapters of Matthew. Pray that the lessons awaiting us as we move toward the Great Commission will build on the lessons of the summer series on the church.

*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.