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

For the week of October 20, 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)

Appointed to Eternal Life

[The Lord said,] “I have made you a light to the Gentiles, to bring salvation to the farthest corners of the earth.” When the Gentiles heard this, they were very glad and thanked the Lord for his message; and all who were appointed to eternal life became believers.

Acts 13:47-48

Prayer for the Week

Lord, show me those in my neighborhood, my circle of friends, and my family that you want me to pray for and build relationships with. They may be the very people you have appointed to eternal life. Equip me to be a light to those who don’t know you and to love them for Christ’s sake.

Notable Quote

Jesus wants us to see that neighbor next door or the people sitting next to us on a plane or in a classroom are not interruptions to our schedule. They are there by divine appointment. Jesus wants you to see their needs, their loneliness, their longings, and he wants to give us the courage to reach out to them.

Rebecca Manley Pippert

Reflection

When I read this verse, I am reminded that there are people all around us whom God is pursuing. It may be the teenager down the street, a lonely coworker, a weary single parent, or even someone standing next to you in line at the bank. The world is full of men and women who have been crying out to God in the quiet desperation of their hearts or in the darkness of a long night. God has been working in their lives and stirring a desire for him. He wants to use us to be a light to them and bring them the good news of hope in Jesus Christ. Ask that his Spirit would show you those in your neighborhood or workplace who need to be the recipients of your prayers. He will help you to build relationships with them and be a vessel through whom God can share his love.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Pray through this week’s topic, that the Lord will lead you to those people he places in your life, “to be a light to them and bring them the good news of hope in Jesus Christ””and be recipients of your prayers.”
- 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 and to be partners with God to reach those appointed to eternal life!
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s worship service, the music, Scripture, and Pastor Dave’s message*, “He is Not Here...He is Risen” (Matthew 28:1-10) as he continues with 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.
- Pray for the three week LIF@Etime video/discussion series on “The Reason for God,” that the topics covered will not only inspire good discussion, but provide a foundation to build relationships with those who have objections to the Christian faith. This week’s lesson: “Why does God allow suffering? Why is there so much evil in the world.” (Timothy Keller, host of the series, has a new book, *Walking with God through Suffering and Pain*.)

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

