

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

### **For the week of October 27, 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) .

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.evapt.org/docs/steppingOut.pdf](http://www.evapt.org/docs/steppingOut.pdf) )

### ***The Power of Praise***

Around midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly, there was a great earthquake, and the prison was shaken to its foundations. All the doors flew open, and the chains of every prisoner fell off!

*Acts 16:25-26*

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

Lord, I praise you for your mighty power at work in our lives. I magnify your name, for there is none like you! When I look at my circumstances and am tempted to “throw in the towel” and give up, remind me of the example of Paul and Silas and how you intervened for them. Then put words of praise in my mouth. You are my hope in the midst of trouble.

#### **Notable Quote**

Your praise and thanksgiving can help form a highway—a smooth, level road—on which the Lord can ride forth unhindered to deliver and bless.

*Ruth Myers*

#### **Reflection**

Paul and Silas’ praise lifted their eyes from their dire circumstances in a filthy prison to the God who was able to deliver them. They had been stripped and beaten and then thrown into the inner prison with their feet fastened into stocks. It would have been natural for these two disciples to be fearful or to just give up. But instead, they prayed and sang hymns to God! The other prisoners heard their praise—the throne of God heard their worship. The Lord delivered them with a mighty earthquake that rocked the prison to its core, causing the doors to open and the prisoner’s chains to fall off.

Are you shaken by your own circumstances? Is your inclination to be fearful or to give up? Start praising God and sing hymns and choruses to him. Our praise not only helps to lift our fear and depression; it also ushers in God’s powerful intervention on our behalf.

#### **PRAYER PROMPTS**

- Have you found the power of praise? If so, tell others about it...other believers who need encouragement, as well as non-believers who need to see the power of God in your life as a way of being drawn to him.
- 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. Prayer for Mark Albrecht of Converge Mid-America as he seeks 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, especially as the calendar winds down! But not impossible for God! 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\*, “Tell People... the Truth” (Matthew 28:11-15) as he continues with the final chapters of Matthew. Pray that the reality of the Resurrection and the “battle plan” of the Great Commission will build on the lessons of the summer series on the church.
- Pray for the final LIF@Etime video/discussion on “The Reason for God,” that the topic covered will not only inspire good discussion, but provide a foundation to build relationships with those who have objections to or questions about the Christian faith. This week’s lesson: “How can God be full of love and wrath at the same time? How can God send good people to Hell?”

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