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

For the week of November 3, 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)

The Lord Our Helper

The Lord is faithful in all he says; he is gracious in all he does.
The Lord helps the fallen and lifts up those bent beneath their loads.

Psalms 145:13-14

Prayer for the Week

Lord Jesus, thank you for lifting our burdens when we are bent beneath our loads. I look to you for help. Thank you for your faithfulness and for helping the fallen. Lift me up by your Spirit, I pray, so that I can praise your kindness and mercy with the psalmist.

Notable Quote

To pray is to let Jesus into our lives. He knocks and seeks admittance, not only in the solemn hours of secret prayer; he knocks in the midst of your daily work, your daily struggles, your daily “grind.” That is where you need him the most.

Ole Halleby (1879-1961)

Reflection

Have you ever felt bent beneath your load? Has life become a grind? Are you burdened with so many responsibilities and so much work that you can’t see any way to get it all done, and even if you did, a new pile of demands would be waiting for you tomorrow? Or perhaps you are bent beneath a load of worry for unsaved children or have fallen because the burdens you were carrying were so heavy. What good news it is that God takes delight in helping the fallen. He wants to lift us up we’re bent beneath our own personal load! Whatever burden you are carrying today, give it to God, and ask him to lift your heart and show you his faithfulness. Then you can join with the psalmist in proclaiming, “The Lord is kind and merciful He showers compassion on all his creation.” (Psalm 145:8-9)

PRAYER PROMPTS

- While the words this week may speak to you, how can you use them to help lift the burden of people you know, especially those who have not yet committed their lives to Christ?
- 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*, “Grasping the Great Commission” (Matthew 28:16-17) 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 LIF@Etime sessions on the book of 1 John that begin today, as Nimrod Tica leads the discussion on “Deep Joy.” (Coming sessions are Deep Walk, Deep Clean, Deep Desire, and Deep Truth). Pray that this series will contribute to our “Stepping Out in Faith” initiative by driving the connection between our personal spiritual development and our personal responsibility to the Great Commission.

**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.