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

For the week of *December 1, 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)

Christ Living in Me

I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. So I live my life in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

Prayer for the Week

Oh, Lord, thank you for loving me and giving yourself for me. Thank you for your desire to live through me and enable me to live for you. May the truth of your Word give me the vision to trust you with all that I am so that all you are may dwell in me.

Notable Quote

Feed on Christ, and then go and live your life. And it is Christ in you that lives your life, that helps the poor, that tells the truth, that fights the battle, and that wins the crown.

Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Reflection

Have you known the frustration of trying to put your selfish nature to death? It’s about as easy as putting out a fire with gasoline! In ourselves we cannot destroy the old ways any more than we can make ourselves righteous. And therein lies the key: only the living presence of the Holy Spirit *in* us can accomplish these things. Our lives in our earthly bodies must be captured by the revelation of God’s unconditional love for us, demonstrated in the life, sacrifice, and resurrection of Jesus. This love is not merely a future hope. It is a present reality—now! Just as light displaces darkness, Christ in us will displace what needs to die as we focus our attentions on him. He will use our circumstances to bring us to the point where we are teachable and ready to truly learn to put our trust in him. That is the time when we can begin to fight our selfish nature—through the power of Christ living in us.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- As we begin Advent today, praise God for the incarnation . . . his coming to earth to live among us in human form as Jesus Christ. Think of several specific ways that you need to have the light of Christ replace the darkness of selfishness (even if you have been a Christ-follower for a long time), so that as Christ lives in you this Christmas season, people will see Christ living in you!
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s worship service, the music, Scripture, and Jamie Sipsma’s sermon “Cling to What is Good.” Pray for opportunities to apply those lessons each day this week.
- 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—a seemingly impossible task! But not impossible for God! In fact, we have seen several new faces, including a recent growth in Coffeekbreak that has not occurred in some time. 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 who need to see the light of Christ!

A podcast of the sermon, plus pdf documents of any other material, will be posted on the website by Monday.

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.