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

### For the week of *December 8, 2013 – the second Sunday of Advent*

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) .

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

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### *Spreading the Gospel*

Dear brothers and sisters, I ask you to pray for us. Pray first that the Lord’s message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes, just as when it came to you.

*2 Thessalonians 3:1*

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#### Prayer for the Week

Lord, show me the “Pauls” I need to be faithful to support in prayer as they spread your truth throughout our city, our nation, and the world. Strengthen the hearts of those who preach the gospel. Equip them in every way to do your will, and may your name and message be honored whenever they go.

#### Notable Quote

It is in the paths of intercessory prayer that we enter the richest fields of spiritual growth and gather priceless riches. To pray for others is of divine appointment, and it represents the highest form of Christian service.

*E. M. Bounds (1835-1913)*

#### Reflection

The apostle Paul was a great communicator with exemplary credentials. But as great a communicator of the gospel as he was, he did not believe that he could spread God’s Word in his own strength. He knew he desperately needed the power of the Holy Spirit, which is released through prayer and through the intercession of others, to accomplish what God had called him to do.

Today there is still a great need to pray for the spread of the gospel! There are millions of people who are living in darkness and have not heard the good news of salvation through Jesus. There are unreached people groups who do not have the Bible in their native languages. And there are evangelists, pastors, and missionaries all around the world with a passion to spread God’s Word who need to be upheld in intercession. When we are faithful to pray, those people will be empowered, the Lord’s message will spread and his name will be honored.

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#### PRAYER PROMPTS

- As you go through the Advent season, when it has now become so politically incorrect to even mention “Christmas,” pray for the spread of the Gospel—despite so many efforts to remove Christmas, Christianity and the Gospel from public life. Identify specific individuals or groups for whom you can intercede. Do so in the reality of E. M. Bounds statements, “to pray for others is of divine appointment.” Encourage others to join in this “highest form of Christian service.”
- Thank the Lord for the “Pauls” you know, including our own Pastor Dave, and pray for effectiveness in honoring God through truthful presentation of the gospel, that God’s “name and message will be honored...”
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s worship service, the music, Scripture, and Pastor Dave’s message\*, “What Child Is This?” (John 1:1,14) as he continues with the second of this year’s Advent series. Pray for opportunities to apply the lessons of this series (and other elements of the service) from week to 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 appointed to eternal life!

*A podcast of the sermon, plus pdf documents of the sermon outline and PowerPoint notes are posted on the website, normally by Monday.*

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*Touch Points* is e-mailed every Friday and normally posted on the website ([www.evbapt.org](http://www.evbapt.org)) by Saturday.

Printed copies are available in the lobby on Sunday.