

**“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team**  
**For the week of September 6, 2015**

**When a Friend Feels Like Retreating**

*The current series of Touch Points is taken from “Time Out in Tough Times,” from the editors of Guideposts (MIF Books, 2009). The reflections come from a variety of writers.*

**READ:** For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

*Galatians 5:11*

**REFLECT:** Colorado drivers quickly learn the cardinal rule of winter driving: When sliding on ice, always steer into the direction of the skid. My instinctive reaction tells me to turn the wheel in the other direction. But I have to admit from experience that steering into the slide works.

I thought about this opposite solution the other day when I was feeling sad and discouraged. My instinctive reaction was to retreat within the protective solitude of my home. That's what I was doing when a friend phoned and asked me to fill in for her at the volunteer desk at the high school. It was the exact opposite of what I felt like doing, but for some reason I said, "Okay."

Several hours later I was driving home in a totally turned around mood. Doing something for someone else was the very opposite of what I felt like doing, but it steered me out of my bad mood.

*Carol Kuykendall*

**PRAY:** Lord Jesus, if anyone ever did the opposite of what he felt like doing, it's You when you went to the cross. Thank You for doing that for me.

**DO:** Share the “opposite principle” with a discouraged friend.

**ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS**

---

- Use the Pause to Pray as a guide to focus on other concerns through the week. *The full version used on Wednesday evenings is on the table in the lobby and on the website (see Archives).*
- Reflect on this week’s worship service, the music, Scriptures, and Pastor Dave’s message “Pay the Price, Show the Love” (1 Thessalonians 3:1-13). Pray that the Lord will lead you to ways to apply the lessons learned in your own walk with Christ, as you connect with different people this week.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to invite people to our services, and to become engaged in spiritual discovery with the people of Evangel in other ways as well. Ask the Lord to open doors of conversation, connection or compassion with others to enable that engagement this week.

*\* A podcast of the sermon and other materials will be posted on the website by Monday.*

*Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday, posted on the website ([www.evbapt.org](http://www.evbapt.org)), with printed copies available in the lobby. To be included in the weekly e-mail, use the Contact Us form on the website and request “add me to the Prayer Vigil list.”*