

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of September 27, 2015

When a Friend is Physically Handicapped

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. This week we continue the focus on friends. That focus will change over time as we work our way through selections from the book.

READ: We also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

Romans 8:23

REFLECT: Our newspaper ran a picture of what a six-year-old boy’s idea of heaven was like. The child suffered a handicap that kept him indoors, where he sat at the window and watched children playing. He longed to join them.

In childish lines, the picture showed a park crammed with swings, slides and merry-go-rounds. A stick figure that represented the child himself played on everything in the park.

It seems to me that the little boy had grasped the great truth Paul talked about in Romans 8:23 (TLB): “We groan to be released from pain and suffering. We . . . wait anxiously for that day when God will give us our full rights as his children, including the new bodies he has promised us—bodies that will never be sick again and will never die.”

Someday all Christians will be released from frustrations and limitations that hold us down in this life!

Shari Smith

PRAY: I pray, Father, that You would heal _____ in body, mind and spirit.

DO: Help your friend stay positive through prayer, conversation and/or passing along this story.

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 “A Call for Purity, A Course to Purity” (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8). 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), 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.”