

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of October 4, 2015

When a Friend Needs Friends

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: He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 147:3

REFLECT: I longed to get to know the men and women my husband Gene and I met with on Sunday mornings for a Bible study. Our leader announced that those wishing to do so could share a brief testimony about how they came to know and experience God. It took five Sundays.

Underneath the proper clothes and smiling faces were some terribly wounded people. Tears became commonplace, but there was laughter, too, and impromptu hugs as the room seemed to fill with God’s unconditional love. People spoke, haltingly but truthfully, about addictions, deception, violation of marriage vows, unforgiveness, promiscuity, violence and abuse, divorce, worry and depression, broken hearts, loneliness, lust and uncontrollable anger.

When the last person had finished, we sat unmoving in total silence, now bonded together by our fierce struggles and amazing survivals. Every one of us, limping badly emotionally and spiritually, had finally run, many of us literally for our lives, into the open arms of Christ the Healer.

Marion Bond West

PRAY: Father, would You draw people who need healing to Your open arms?

DO: Invite hurting people to church or to a support group with you.

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 “Practiced Love, Productive Lives” (1 Thessalonians 4:9-12). 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.
- Particularly in light of this week’s reflection and challenge to action, 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.”