

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

For the week of October 11, 2015

When a Friend Needs Prayer

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: Be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you

1 Peter 3:15

REFLECT: I recognized Irene’s voice as soon as I picked up the phone. She sounded discouraged. “Papa is sick,” she said. Her father, now in his eighties, had been admitted to the hospital.

“I’m so scared,” she continued, beginning to cry. I could feel her grief, her fear. She was already missing him. Somehow she knew: Her father would not make it.

I just listened. Irene had come to me for help, but all I could do was pray, and since Irene wasn’t one of my Christian friends, I didn’t feel comfortable praying with her. Perhaps she’d be embarrassed or offended.

But as I listened to her sobbing, I seemed to hear a deeper cry: *Pray for me! I called you because I knew you would pray.* Her need penetrated my foolish pride, and somehow I found myself praying aloud into the phone. Within minutes, she brightened.

“Thank you so much,” she said. “I feel much better.” And I did too.

Robin White Goode

PRAY: *Father, help me always follow Your leading rather than being led by my preconceived opinions.*

DO: Take a chance. Offer to pray for a friend in need you think wouldn’t want prayer.

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 “It’s Off to Work We Go” (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12). 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.
- 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.”