

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of November 1, 2015

When a Loved One is the Target of Hostile Speech

The current series of Touch Points is taken from “Time Out in Tough Times,” from the editors of Guide-posts (MIF Books, 2009). The reflections come from a variety of writers. The current focus is on loved ones. That focus will change several times as we work through selections from the book. The thought for this week was originally aimed at “a loved one who works in the financial world,” but it has been broadened to others who face an intense and often hostile environment.

READ: Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one. *Colossians 4:6*

REFLECT: My twenty-three-year old son Tim is a tender young man in the tough business of New York finance. As a junior analyst at a mutual fund company, he works sixteen-hour days fielding hundreds of phone calls from brokers, traders, and clients who are more volatile than the stock market. His new profession operates through open conflict, and he’s been yelled at, harangued, threatened, and hung up on. And yet, despite—or perhaps because of—his quiet nature, he has prospered. He has brought in new customers, shepherded sensitive negotiations to their successful conclusions while earning the respect of seasoned and senior associates.

“How do you do it?” I recently asked him, amazed that the gentle boy of memory could go one-on-one with hard-boiled, aggressive types.

“When somebody yells, I speak more softly,” he replied. “If people throw tantrums, I keep my cool. If they’re rude, I’m pointedly polite. They don’t know what to do with me. Eventually, they wind up listening.”

Linda Ching Sledge

PRAY: Lord, please let _____’s speech be seasoned with grace in a hostile environment.

DO: Don’t just tell a hostile person that you are praying for him/her. Do it right then and there.

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 “Caught Up Together—Part 1” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17)*. 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.”