

“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team
For the week of December 20, 2015

Is There Room in Your Inn?

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.

In the book, this entry is titled “When There is No Room for God in Your Life.” We changed the title because the point of Scott Harrison’s reflection fits the circumstances of the birth of Christ, which we celebrate this week (Luke 2:7).

READ: Be still before God... *Zechariah 2:13 NIV*

REFLECT: When the youngest of our three children entered college, my wife Sally and I rattled around our empty house. We could spend a Saturday afternoon working around the house and hardly see each other.

When we went to Africa we lived in a thatched-roof hut barely ten feet in diameter. Movement always involved saying, “Excuse me” and “Can you get by?” We almost had to embrace so that the other could pass! In the mornings, we delayed meeting the chill of winter by staying under our quilt and joining in a time of prayer.

We grew very close. And Jesus was close, also, because life’s arena was so much smaller. I wasn’t running to the office, then the hospital, then a church meeting, barely aware of His Presence. He seemed to come to us in the stillness.

Why not try to shrink your world a bit? You’ll find more room for Him, and others.

Scott Harrison

PRAY: *Father, it seems like there is always either too much or too little of everything . . . space, responsibilities, time. Help us find more of You in every situation.*

DO: Shrink your life’s arena if it will press you close to God.

ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS

- Use the Pause to Pray as a guide to focus on other concerns through the week. An abbreviated version appears in the bulletin. The full version will return when our prayer time moves to Sunday mornings at 11:10 for the winter months beginning January 10.
- Reflect on this week’s worship service, the fourth Advent candle lighting, the music (with special guest Tony Payne leading), Scriptures, Pastor Dave’s sermon “For Unto Us . . . Unwrapping the Gift of Christmas, Part 3” (Luke 2:6-7).* 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—especially with a number of special Christmas events in the coming weeks—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.”