

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

**When You Are Feeling Down**

*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.*

**Doris Haase reminds us that the splendor of our magnificent Father is reason to lift us from those times when we feel low, whether it’s a letdown after the holidays or the valleys that await us in the year ahead.**

**READ:** To the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent... *Psalm 30:12*

**REFLECT:** It was late one Saturday before I found time to do laundry, and I was hurrying down the steps, tired and weary. Somehow I tripped. Clothes scattered and I found myself on my knees. There I blinked up at the most magnificent crimson sunset I had ever seen! My breath caught, and I forgot my awkward moment.

“Oh, Father,” I whispered, “How lovely! Thank You.”

After a moment I picked myself up and continued toward the laundry room, but somehow the world around me looked different. An unexpected picture flashed into my mind. I could see my grandmother bending over her old washboard, tediously scrubbing clothes against its rough surface. *I’m so lucky*, I thought as I put my clothes into the automatic washer. *Thank You, God*. That day I learned a sure remedy for sadness: Look for just one thing to be grateful for, and thank God for it.

*Doris Haase*

**PRAY:** *Magnificent Father, thank You for the displays of Your splendor all around us.*

**DO:** Practice replacing every trace of sadness with gratitude, for what God does and for Who He is.

**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 music, Scriptures, Pastor Dave’s sermon “For Unto Us . . . Unwrapping the Gift of Christmas, Part 4” (Luke 2:8-14).\* 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.
- Pray for the work of our Planning Group (Church Council and a number of additional people) as they explore options for Evangel’s future. Pray specifically for a number of important meetings in January with potential church partners. More details will be shared with the congregation when it is appropriate to do so.

\* 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](http://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.”*