

**“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team**  
**For the week of January 17, 2016**

**When You Encounter Prejudice**

*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.*

**Tomorrow is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, a day that honors a man with a powerful dream and non-violent approach to social change. This week’s reflection addresses the issue of prejudice, which continues to plague our society.**

**READ:** Now the Lord said to Abram...I will bless those who bless you...and all the families of the earth shall be blessed. *Genesis 12:1-3*

**REFLECT:** When Keith and I arrived at the monastery for a visit one year, Mother Hildegard met us at the gate and said, “I have to warn you. My mother is visiting, and she’s always been very prejudiced against Jews.”

Keith and I looked at each other and shrugged, “Look, we can’t be other than we are,” I said to her. “We’ll deal with it.”

During the week of our stay, we acted no differently than usual. We tease each other a lot, so we laugh a lot. We were friendly toward the other guests, helped them, answered their questions, worked alongside them.

We left before Mother Hildegard’s mother did. When I called later to find out how things were going, she said, “Well, you’ll never guess what! Since you’ve been gone, my mother’s been moping around, and when I asked her what was wrong, she said, ‘I miss my little Jewish couple!’”

*Rhoda Blecker*

**PRAY:** *Lord, no matter what our differences are, let us bless You be loving each other.*

**DO:** Open your heart and reach out to someone who is different from you.

**ADDITIONAL PRAYER PROMPTS**

- Use the Pause to Pray as a guide to focus on other concerns through the week—it will be used in our weekly prayer time, which moves to Sundays at 11:15am for the winter months, starting this week. Copies can also be found in the lobby and in the Archive section on the website (evbapt.org).
- Reflect on this week’s worship service; the music, scripture, and Pastor Dave’s sermon “Awaiting the Son—His Day is Coming” (1 Thessalonians 5:1-2)\*—that it will encourage your 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.
- 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.”*